



The House System

Description

The purpose of the House System at Faith Christian Academy is to transform the culture of the secondary by providing a Christ-centered community where Christian virtue is practiced and community relationships among students and with faculty are fostered/developed/cultivated/encouraged in accordance with Philippians 2:2-8

“...being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

The Houses

Each House is comprised of 25-35 students from 6th – 12th grade. More Houses may be added, as needed, to accommodate a growing student population.

House Identities

(Reference to “House members” denotes students belonging to a/each House.)

- Emblems, mottos, colors, and/or crests of each House are based on the historical meaning of each item and chosen by a majority vote in each House.
- All identifying elements have been submitted to the Governors for approval.
- Each House motto will be either an English or a Latin phrase which captures the spirit of the House.
- Symbols, banners, and articles of spirit-wear may be developed using these identifying elements.
- House members have chosen three permanent virtues from the following that they want their House to embody: **exercitium** (proficiency, skill, training, practice), **fides** (faith, loyalty, honesty, trust), **fortitudo** (strength, courage, valor), **generositas** (generosity, charity), **humanitas** (kindness, courtesy), **ingenuitas** (nobility of character, candor, modesty), **militia** (courage, bravery; military spirit, difficult work), **pietas** (piety, loyalty, responsibility, sense of duty).

House of Bedivere:

Three permanent virtues to focus on: *fides, militia, ingenuitas*
House colors: dark blue, deep red, gold

House of Gawain:

Three permanent virtues to focus on: *fortitudo, humanitas, pietas*
House colors: navy, forest green, white

House of Lamorak:

Three permanent virtues to focus on: *fides, fortitudo, humanitas*
House colors: purple, gold, white

House of Percival:

Three permanent virtues to focus on: *fides, humanitas, exercitium*
House colors: maroon, silver

House Membership

Each House is comprised of both students and faculty. Students are members taking various roles to help serve the House. Faculty members are non-voting members and serve only to support and encourage the leadership as they grow in leadership abilities.

Governor and Governess (Governors)

- a. A Governor and Governess will oversee the House System.
- b. The Governor will specifically disciple the young men leaders while the Governess will do the same for the young women.
- c. The Governors will oversee the general organization, function, and activity of the House System as described below.

Faculty Leadership

- a. Each secondary faculty member will be assigned to a House, each House having at least one male and one female faculty member.
- b. There will be two full time faculty members assign to each House, called "House Parents."
- c. Faculty members will act in a "hands-off" advisory/support capacity for the students in leadership of their House.

Student Leadership

- a. Each House will be led by a President, a Tournament Leader, a Service Leader and a Steward.
- b. Student leaders must be in 9th-12th grade and in good academic and disciplinary standing with teachers and administrators.
- c. House leaders are expected to serve more than one year, however, concessions will be made should resignations or removals be necessary.

Members

- a. All remaining students in the secondary school will be assigned membership in one of the Houses.
- b. All sixth-grade students will be assigned a House and given the title of Squire during their first year.
- c. New members (primarily new 6th graders) will be inducted into each House at a yearly event taking place at the beginning of the school year.
- d. Students who are new to the school will be inducted into a House at the yearly House event.
- e. Students shall be assigned to Houses by the Governors with input as needed from faculty members who have a good knowledge of the students.
- f. Siblings may be assigned to different Houses if that is determined best.

Reassignment

- a. Students will remain in the same House for the duration of their secondary education.
- b. If such continuation proves to be disadvantageous to the mission or balance of the House System, reassignment of student/s to new Houses may be necessary. In such case, the Governors will meet to reevaluate the membership of each House and students may be asked to switch Houses.
- c. Reassignments will come under consideration either at the end of the school year or before the beginning of each new school year.

House Governance

Houses shall be governed by student leaders with oversight by the House Governor and Governess.

Governor and Governess (Governors)

- a. FCA will employ Governors to oversee the Houses.
- b. Governors will send out yearly leadership applications to students in grades 9-12 and receive responses via email.
 - Applications should be made available to students by April each school year.

- The application for House Leadership includes questions pertaining to faith, vision for the secondary, perceived needs of the secondary, or ideas for bettering the school community, or the House System.
- Each student applicant should request recommendations from at least two faculty or administration members.
 - i. Faculty or administration must give a written response concerning the applicant to the Governors within a week of the student's request.
 - ii. If the faculty or administration member does not feel the student would be a good candidate for a House office, s/he should be honest with the student and not write the recommendation.
- Governors will interview potential applicants from the group submitted.
- Governors are responsible for making appointments for leadership positions in each House from student applicants. The secondary and middle school principals, the Headmaster, and possibly other faculty members who might know the applicants well may help make decisions of leadership as needed.
- House leaders should be chosen by the end of the school year in order that discipleship and leadership training begin over the summer.
 - i. Governors should meet with new House leadership no less than three times throughout the summer.
- c. Governors will preside over meetings of House Leaders.
- d. Governors are responsible for officially inaugurating leaders into their position.
- e. Governors will discipline House Leaders as Christian leaders and help them grow and develop in leadership through regular meetings with House Leadership.
 - Discipleship of student leaders includes imparting an understanding of the vision and purpose of the House System; instruction in prayer and praying the scriptures; preparing short devotions; organization of meetings and events; effective and professional communication; guidance on peer relations and discipleship; and, generally helping leaders reach their potential in the roles they have been given.
- f. Governors will help faculty understand the role faculty will play as a House member.
- g. Decisions about the Houses will be the responsibility of the Governors in conjunction with the secondary and middle school principal. The Headmaster always has the right and privilege to participate in or veto decisions.
- h. The Governors will oversee:
 - The accumulation of House points
 - Approval for service projects, tournaments, or other House ideas
 - The structure of tournaments
 - Delegation of responsibilities that support the Houses' plans and projects
- i. Governors will be responsible for the yearly retreat and delegating responsibilities for it.
- j. Governors will communicate with the secondary faculty regularly about House matters that may be pertinent.

House Leadership (Student)

Each House is governed by a President, Tournament Leader, Service Leader, and Steward. House Leaders are selected by the Governors through an application process. Each House Leader oversees the area for which s/he has been chosen.

All House Leadership will:

- a. Strive to be godly examples for their peers and servant leaders as Jesus was.
- b. Joyfully adhere to school policies.
- c. Speak what is true, kind, and necessary.
- d. Spend time outside of regular school hours in leadership responsibilities.
- e. Attend House meetings and regular meetings with the Governor.

- f. Approach their responsibilities prayerfully and with humility.
- g. Support the other House Leaders in whatever ways possible.
- h. Attend House events or ensure another leader will take his/her place at an event.
- i. Disciple (encourage, help, include) the sixth-grade students assigned to him/her.
- j. Communicate with their House via email, phone, and in meetings.
- k. Attend the yearly retreat.

President of the House

The role of the President is to develop/encourage the virtues of leadership and oversight. In support of these goals, The President will:

- a. Prepare brief devotions or exhortations for his/her House.
- b. Be responsible for establishing, cultivating, and preserving a cultural identity for his/her House by:
 - Knowing the House- members, encouraging them in godly conduct, and protecting each from criticism or exclusion.
 - Supporting the goals and activities of each House Leader (their own House and others).
 - Holding leaders accountable for their responsibilities.
 - Casting vision and enthusiasm for House activities.
 - Re-articulating the vision of the House System.
 - Establishing and continuing traditions of the House.
 - Planning, organizing, and leading one planning meeting each week.
 - Planning and organizing House meetings.
 - Sending out a weekly email to inform House member of upcoming information for the week.
- c. Chronic failure of the President to perform any of the above responsibilities will result in a five-point deduction from the House.

Tournament Leader

The role of the Tournament Leader is to develop/encourage the virtues of good sportsmanship and unity. In support of these goals, The Tournament Leader will:

- a. Seek- help from the President and Governor as needed.
- b. Be responsible for establishing, cultivating, and preserving cultural identity for his/her House by:
 - Being an example of good sportsmanship.
 - Encouraging House members' participation in tournament events.
 - Making sure everyone has an opportunity to participate.
 - Protecting House members from criticism or exclusion.
 - Organizing game/tournament events that promote unity and good sportsmanship.
 - Delegating responsibilities for events including equipment management, set up, clean up, and other general needs of planned events.
 - Ensuring support for other Houses as they participate in tournament/ game events.
 - Maintaining records of wins and losses, and placement/ranking in elimination tournaments.

Service Leader

The role of the Service Leader includes developing/encouraging the virtues of unity, love, and service. The Service Leader will find opportunities to practice these virtues by first serving others at school and then moving out into the community or world. Service will be focused on cleaning and a variety of projects both within the school community and outside of it, including *Cleaning* (emphasis on growing community and shaping character by expressing gratitude for God's blessings); and *Projects* (emphasis on growing community and shaping character by serving fellow community members and by sharing the gospel with non-Christians and meeting the needs of people, places, and institutions outside of FCA).

In support of these goals, the Service Leader will:

- a. Seek help from the President and Governor as needed.

- b. Be responsible for establishing, cultivating, and preserving cultural identity of his/her House through service to the FCA community and the outside community by:
 - Promoting and providing help for various FCA programs, events, and activities which may include: Protocol, sport events, school fundraisers, elementary special event days (Field Day, Feast Days, etc.), theatrical productions, fine art events, facility needs, tutorial needs, etc.
 - Overseeing the beauty and general tidiness (or cleanliness) of the portion of the building assigned to each House.
 - Looking outward to those in need within the school and community.
 - Finding ways to impact the lives of others through meaningful, Christ- centered service.

Steward

The role of the steward is to develop/encourage careful, responsible management of whatever is entrusted to him. In support of this goal, The Steward will:

- a. Seek to help the other House Leaders or the Governors in any capacity necessary by:
 - Offering assistance.
 - Seeing what needs to be done and taking responsibility for it.
 - Helping House members find their place in the community, service, and tournament activities, along with any other House events.

House Meetings

House meetings may include the entire House populace (all of secondary), meetings of individual Houses, or House Leadership meetings.

Purpose

The purpose of House meetings may include:

- a. Fellowship or discipleship (eating together, praying, worshiping, devotions, etc.).
- b. Exhortation, edification, reproof, correction.
- c. Discussion concerning the work of the House (Service and Tournament).
- d. Communication within each House or across Houses.
- e. Relationship-building activities between students and faculty.

Structure

House meetings of the entire populace or for House Leaders are led by the Governors.

House meetings for House members will be led by the President of the House and will be flexibly structured as follows:

- a. The President will open (or arranges for someone to open) in prayer.
- b. The President or Governor (if in attendance) will offer a brief, pertinent devotion.
- c. The President or Governor will preside over the meeting, keeping it on task, on time, and on target.
- d. The President will summarize the meeting with the plan of action and will close- the meeting in prayer.
- e. The President will report anything that needs to be reported to the Governors.

Mentorship

Because one of the primary reasons for House is unity, students from all grades (6th-12th) interact and socialize respectfully and sincerely (not in duty and obligation). All upper-school students are encouraged to include and help younger students as examples of those who love God, love others, and serve their fellow man. House Leaders will be paired with 6th grade students of like gender for the year. The purpose and goal of the mentor relationship is to help 6th graders transition well into the secondary and grow in their relationship with God and others. Mentors should initiate meaningful encounters with their mentee/s regularly during the first semester (about once a week) for lunch, ordering games, or service. The relationship should grow and continue during the second semester with more freedom and flexibility in the number of times they meet.

The essential characteristics between mentors and mentees are:

- a. Spiritual – mentors help guide their mentees into a stronger, more mature and more worshipful relationship with Christ.
- b. Practical – mentors provide mentees with insight and advice that, if heeded, will help them be successful students. Mentees may also provide informal tutoring as time allows.
- c. Affirmation – through the relationship that is formed, mentors help mentees find their place as valued members of the House and school community.

Excalibur

All activities of the House, whether those planned and carried out through Tournament, or those of Service, as well as other things deemed point-worthy by the Governors, are tied to the accumulation of points.

- a. The House with the most points earned by a designated date in May will win the much sought-after Sword, Excalibur.
- b. The only time points will be deducted from a House is when a House leader fails to carry out his responsibilities.
- c. Points are maintained publicly on a board kept by the Governors.
- d. All Houses begin with zero until the Opening Ceremonies at the House Retreat.

Addition of Points

Governors will determine the appropriate value of points for such things as:

- Winning games and tournaments.
- Individual House members' participation in Tournament and Service events.
- Cleaning and tidying of the Houses' designated area.
- Cleanliness of lockers (to be checked regularly).

a. Tournament

Houses compete against each other in intramural sports as follows:

Seeding Round: emphasizes growing community and shaping character through participation of all House members.

Elimination Round: emphasizes growing community and shaping character by committing to maximal effort.

35 points are awarded for 1st place.

30 points are awarded for 2nd place.

25 points are awarded for 3rd place (also given for highest seed in semi-final game).

20 points are awarded for 4th place.

- 1st and 2nd places are determined by the championship game.
- 3rd and 4th place are determined by the consolation game.

10 points are awarded to the two Houses who win the championship cheering competition. The competition is scored on:

- Level and constancy of noise.
- House participation.
- Cheer creativity.
- Board/Poster creativity.

b. Service

Service projects are intended to develop virtues by first serving those around us and then moving out into the community or world. Points will be awarded for such things as:

- Locker Inspections:
House Governor inspects five random lockers from each house every Monday.
Houses are awarded 1 point for lockers that pass inspection and 0 points for lockers that fail.
- Standard of evaluation:
 - Organization/disorganization of contents.
 - Appropriate/inappropriate contents.
 - Tidy/loose items.
- Area of Inspection:
Areas inside the school building and surrounding it will be maintained to reflect the appreciation for the facilities that God has given us.
- One point is awarded for every hour of service per student
Hours and points are rounded to the nearest quarter:
15 minutes = .25 points.
30 minutes = .50 points.
45 minutes = .75 points.
- Fundraising Drives (examples):
Shoe: 1 point is awarded per two pairs of shoes brought in.
Jacket: 1 point is awarded per jacket brought in.
Canned Food: 1 point is awarded per five items of food brought in.