**Corrales International School: House System**

Students attending Corrales International School are assigned to one of six Houses in the CIS House System. The CIS House system is designed to connect students within and across K-12 grade levels. Houses offer students, parents, and teachers the opportunity to work together. Teachers, parents, and students work together in their respective House assignments to establish connections that transcend grade levels and provide students leadership opportunities. Houses will participate in school wide activities that engage students in meaningful, positive relationships, and build a sense of community.

Through the House activities, students are provided opportunities for growth through leadership, mentoring, competition, and social interaction.  The House structure strengthens friendships among students and provides a platform for a more fun and enriching school environment.  Although competitive in nature, the House System builds team spirit and common bonds between the students.  There are many opportunities for students to build one another up with encouragement as they achieve points together. Students learn to support one another and to lend help when someone on their team is struggling, no matter their age or ability level.

In short, the House System is intended to:

* Develop a sense of belonging & community
* Develop leadership skills and character through participation & involvement
* Encourage academic achievement and daily attendance.

**HOW WILL THE HOUSE SYSTEM WORK?**

**STUDENT ASSIGNMENT**

The majority of the students in grades 7-12 are assigned randomly. Students in grades K-6 are assigned based first on legacy status. Legacy status means that students are assigned to the same House as their older siblings. Legacy status facilitates parent participation in just one House. Students without older siblings are assigned randomly. Approximately 40 to 45 students will be assigned to each House.

**COMMUNICATION**

**Parent Role:** Participate in all House meetings and take on leadership role in leading events, activities and competitions. Volunteer to lead our students! Read the weekly newsletter(backpack express/house newsletter) and check the CIS calendar on our cis.org website. Stay connected!

**Teacher Role:** Faculty will meet on a weekly basis (Wednesdays) to discuss instruction, student needs, and assessment to ensure students are reaching their academic goals. A student improvement plan will be developed for every student not achieving at grade level or whose behavior is affecting learning and the learning of others.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Each House is led and managed by a Head of House supported by House Captains. The number and duties of the House Captains is up to each House. The House Captains are responsible for organizing community service opportunities, social events, and fund raising activities for the House.

**Head of House (parent) -** presides at House meetings, works with faculty of the house, and reports directly to the School Advisory Committee. This individual is a voting member of the SAC or attends the SAC with the voting member of the house. Also collaborates with Activities Captain to organize events and ensure House member participation.

**Assistant Captain (parent/faculty)** - presides at the meetings in the absence of the head of House and ensures that all committees are working together. Also collaborates with Activities Captain to organize events and ensure House member participation.

**Activities Captain** (student and parent) – Is responsible for organizing all events (including forming committees) to ensure participation and success.

**House Historian** **(student and parent)** - performs the function of a secretary, keeping minutes of all House meetings and is familiar with all the basic House procedures and keeps a record of all the important activities of the House.

**House Treasurer (parent) -** is responsible for the safekeeping of any House funds. All House funds must be reported and delivered to CIS Business Manager within 24 hours of fundraising. This person also keeps and protects all House “relics”: any items such as banners, trophy, crests, gavels, etc.

**House Monitors** **(1 parent and 1 faculty)** – These individuals establish a phone tree among the House families and ensure that information is shared accurately. A log is also maintained to monitor parent and student participation in House activities.

House Leadership also encourages House representation at athletic and fine arts events. Each House is assigned on a rotating basis the responsibility of organizing, overseeing, and hosting one of the following activities: Harvest Dance (October/November), Thanksgiving Luncheon, Winter Ball (January), Sweet Heart Dance (February), Spring Fling Dance (April), PROM (May for 10th – 12th graders) and one guest speaker for the monthly school assembly.

**POINT SYSTEM**

Students who actively participate and contribute to the success of their House win House points and rewards. The winning House at the end of the school year receives the School House trophy, engraved with the House name, as well as individual certificates for students in various categories in each House.

Throughout the school year a running total of the House points will be displayed on the bulletin board in main hallway. Once earned, points will **not** be deducted. Students who are dismissed from an activity/sport for poor behavior cannot receive points from that activity for their House.

Points can be awarded for participation, excellence, good sportsmanship, service, acts of kindness, creativity, leadership, accuracy, speed, and many other student goals.

House points toward earning the School House trophy will accumulate from the following activities/behaviors:

**House Point Value System**

Academics

* Overall grade point average of all students in House

A=10.0, B= 8.0, C=6.0, D=4.0

* Honors 1 point per grading period for each student with a grade point average of a 3.0
* High Honors 2 points per grading period for each student with a grade point average of a 4.0 or higher.

Attendance

* Average attendance for all students in House:

1st = 10, 2nd = 8, 3rd = 6, 4th = 4, 5th = 2, 6th = 1

* 3 points per grading period for each student with no absences or tardies or early dismissals
* 1 points per term for students absent no more than 2 times per grading period and has no unexcused tardies or early dismissals

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** plan and strategize inventive new ways to work as a team to impact our local and global community

### Get involved. Go to <http://www.gysd.org/causes>

### Global Youth Service Day and choose two projects (max) for the year.

### [Health](http://www.gysd.org/health)

### heart_icon.jpg [Environment](http://www.gysd.org/environment)plant_icon.jpg [Community Building](http://www.gysd.org/community_building)house_icon.jpg [Hunger](http://www.gysd.org/hunger)food_icon.jpg

### [Education](http://www.gysd.org/education)read_icon.jpg [Human Rights](http://www.gysd.org/humanrights) world_icon.jpg

### **20 points per project with presentation**

**OUR BUILDING FUNDRAISER**

Each house will be responsible for organizing at least one fundraiser to contribute to the purchase of our building.

25 points to the House that raises the most funds

15 points to the House that has the most participation from our community

20 points to the House that has the most participation within their House

15 points for the House that has the most innovative fundraiser

**FAMILY FIELD DAY**

Parents, students, and faculty participate in an annual family field day.  Parents students and all family members that can attend participate in athletic competitions including a 50 yard dash, 3-legged race, tug-of-war, sack race, football throw, javelin throw (swimming pool noodle), basketball shoot, stepping stones (where students are paired up and use carpet squares as stepping stones go the length of the race), relay races, egg and spoon races and pie eating contest! House points are awarded to the winning teams for all track and field events.

Earn points by showing:

Full participation: 1 points per participant

First Place House 25 points

Second Place House 20 points

Third Place House 15 points

Fourth Place House 10 points

**ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS 5 PTS PER FAMILY:**

Meet and Greet

Meet the Teacher

International Day

IB Parent Nights

PTA Meetings

Science Night

Science Fair

Math. Night

Literacy Night (Meet the Author)

6th Grade Exhibition Project Presentation

10th Grade Personal Project Presentation

**The above are examples and we will be putting together a more comprehensive calendar of events very shortly.**

WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

1. Attend the scheduled House meeting your family is assigned to on September 17
2. Volunteer
3. Vote for your House Leadership Team
4. Work with the team to develop a logo using the CIS APPLE or Panther to create your House Shirt.
5. Work with the team to develop a Banner for your House to be displayed in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) the entire year. Note that the House with the Most Points every week will be hung in a place of Honor in the Middle of the MPR.

Please keep in mind that the House system is for all of us to build a sense of community. It gives us all of us an opportunity to take leadership roles in moving our school forward in our journey to a better education for our students.