

House System Handbook



**Bluegrass Christian
Academy**

BCA Houses



House
of
Sapientia
Colors

House *of* Sapientia



House
of
Virtus
Colors

House *of* Virtus

Purpose



Origins

The house system had its beginnings in early academic institutions. In the beginning of the Middle Ages, students who desired an education would gather in a city where a Master Teacher was living. With this Master, they would share a house and devote themselves to study. The Master not only taught these students their academics but also disciplined them in their Christian walk, mentoring and discipling them. These gatherings of students were the foundations of the great universities of Europe. Today, the term “house” refers simply to groupings of pupils. House at BCA is intended to model the core attributes and benefits from days of old.

Mission

The purpose of the house system at BCA is to support the classical model of education through proper, Christ-honoring social interaction. The house system is designed for student edification, encouragement and unity while providing students with opportunities to engage with one another as a community, in the bonds of fellowship, through acts of service, academic and athletic competitions, and various additional extracurricular activities throughout the year. The desired goals of the BCA house system are intended to foster mentoring relationships across grade levels while spurring one another on in the love of Christ—all to bring Him glory.

Goals

- To foster an edifying and encouraging culture amongst students and staff
 - To foster a love of learning and academic excellence
 - To foster a heart for service within our school and community
 - To foster multi-grade level student mentorship and fellowship
 - To foster virtue development and God honoring accountability between students
 - To foster responsibility and acknowledgement of both leading well and following well
- **Our ultimate goal is to honor Christ and bring Him glory in all house related events, discussions, and activities**

1 Thessalonians 5:11 — 1 Corinthians 10:31

House Administration



The house system at BCA is divided into two houses, Sapientia (Wisdom) and Virtus (Virtue)-- each house will have a faculty representative serving as House Master, with both houses falling under the guidance and direction of the House Coordinator. The House Coordinator, as well as the House Masters, will comprise the House Administration Team.

House Coordinator

The House Coordinator will be responsible for the following:

- 1) Provide a vision/goal for all house events and activities for the year
- 2) Provide guidance to each house through house leadership meetings
- 3) Provide a schedule of events as well as rules and expectations that each house will abide by throughout each competition, event, or service project
- 4) Provide communication to school administration and BCA families of house goals, plans, and activities
- 5) Keep a master list of house points earned by each house collectively and each house member individually

House Masters

Note: The role of House Master has not yet been implemented into our BCA House System. Implementation will be announced at a later date.

Each house is to be organized around teachers who serve as Masters for their house. Their responsibilities include supervising house activities, encouraging House officers to complete their duties, and modeling a Christian walk before the students. The House Master makes sure house members use Gravitas time wisely to work on house projects, preparations for upcoming competitions, prayer, or other scheduled activities. Masters should encourage older students to edify and teach the younger students and urge the younger students to imitate the right attitudes and behaviors they see in the older students.

House Masters will be responsible for the following:

- 1) Serve as a mentor for house leadership by providing guidance for house meetings
- 2) Attend house leadership meetings
- 3) Act as a final authority within the house whenever there is a dispute
- 4) Assist the House Coordinator in monitoring house points
- 5) Assist the House Coordinator with House communication to pertinent groups, as needed
- 5) Inform the House Coordinator of any issues or concerns arising from house meetings

House Student Leadership



Students interested in House leadership will be required to complete a written application and undergo an interview led by the House Administration team. The House Administration Team will appoint two House Captains and one House Steward to serve each house for the academic year. House Leadership will be chosen based on observations of leadership ability, positive examples set before other students (being worthy of imitation), and the student application and interview responses.

House Captains

The House Captains are the spiritual leaders of the house and should see to it that house members are encouraged to honor the Lord in all things. The House Captains are the official representatives for the house and may be called upon to serve as spokesperson for their house at any time. The Captains must take initiative to make sure members of the house are aware of their right to be heard in meetings and that the house as a whole is unified and moving forward with positive goals. House Captains should seek to serve as Captain with humility, faithfulness, and cheerfulness.

House Captain responsibilities include the following:

- 1) Set a godly example in attitude and action, leading by example.
- 2) Cast vision for the house and communicate that vision effectively to the house.
- 3) Act as a liaison between House Master, House Coordinator, and House members.
- 4) Work closely with the House Master and House Coordinator by attending house leadership meetings.
- 5) Call house meetings to order and lead house members through the meeting with guidance and direction from the House Steward.
- 6) Serve as the primary point of contact for all house members regarding all things that pertain to house business.
- 7) Oversee and ensure that each house member is actively involved in events and competitions throughout the year, even directly assigning house members to specific roles/functions with help and direction from the House Master or Coordinator.
- 8) Perform any other tasks or requests made to you by the House Master or House Coordinator.

House Student Leadership



Students interested in House leadership will be required to complete a written application and undergo an interview led by the House Administration team. The House Administration Team will appoint two House Captains and one House Steward to serve each house for the academic year. House Leadership will be chosen based on observations of leadership ability, positive examples set before other students (being worthy of imitation), and the student application and interview responses.

House Steward

The House Administration Team will appoint one House Steward to serve under the House Master. The House Steward will be chosen based on observations of the student's organizational and administrative skills. Additionally, as this is a leadership role within the house, students will be observed based on their spiritual walks and ability to be a positive example to other students. The House Steward will be responsible for aiding the captains in moving all meetings along in an orderly fashion. The House Steward will be the sole keeper of the house binder and all organizational documents within.

House Steward responsibilities include the following:

- 1) Set a godly example in attitude and action, leading by example and being considered worthy of imitation.
- 2) Call house meetings to order and oversee the attendance and note taking of each meeting.
- 3) Ensure that all assigned duties are performed each week in a timely manner. If one of the other officers is absent, ensure that their task is completed.
- 4) Oversee and ensure that each house member is actively involved in events and competitions throughout the year, even directly assigning house members to specific roles/functions with help and direction from House Administration.
- 5) Ensure that order is kept during each house meeting and advise the House Captains concerning agenda and time constraints.

House Student Leadership



Housemates

Housemates are students dedicated to leading our House Apprenticeship program (see House Apprentice below). Housemates will be required to complete an application and will be appointed by House Administration.

Housemate responsibilities include the following:

- 1) Partner with assigned House Apprentice for all House related events and activities.
- 2) Set a godly example in attitude and action, leading by example and being considered worthy of imitation.
- 3) Organize and plan House Apprentice Days designed to welcome and fold incoming House members into each House family for a seamless transition.
- 4) Communicate the vision of each House effectively to their assigned house apprentice.
- 5) Act as a liaison between assigned House apprentice, House members, and the House Administration team.
- 6) Share observed strengths of House Apprentice with House members in preparation for Lion's and Cub's Week.

House Apprentice

Incoming sixth grade students will serve as an House Apprentice for the first academic year of their involvement in House. Students will be assigned a Housemate to partner with in all House related events, projects, and activities. Housemates will lead each House Apprentice into the “ways of House” throughout the academic year.

House Apprentices will not be able to attend House Hour on Mondays and Wednesdays, per our academic schedule. Therefore, House apprentices will be unable to participate in routine events and competitions scheduled during our bi-weekly House Hour—this includes Parvi Agones competitions, Magni Agones competitions, event planning sessions, virtue discussions, etc.

House Apprentices will be invited to participate with their assigned House during reading buddy, chapel, and ROAR activities held weekly. Apprentices will also be invited to compete in all Lion's Week events.

House Apprentices may contribute points for their House through the year by way of:

- Academic Points
- Lion Tickets (Awarded by way of Academic Excellence, Virtue, or Service)

House Function



House Assignments

Incoming sixth grade students and new enrollees will be assigned to a house by the House Administration Team. The House Administration Team will evaluate each incoming house member upon the following criteria when determining to which house a student will be assigned. The House Administration Team will assign house members with a goal of keeping houses as balanced as possible.

Criteria Considered for House Placement:

- Student character and virtuous traits
- Academic performance
- School involvement
- Leadership potential
- Athletic abilities
- (Additional criteria as seen fit)

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Students who are in the same family will (usually) be placed in the same house.
- Students assigned to a house will remain in that house throughout their time at BCA.
- The House Administration Team reserves the right to reassign student placement should an exception arise.

House Points

The house system allows for spirited comradery and healthy competition to exist within the student life of BCA. Each house will compete/participate in various activities that will focus on academic excellence, virtue development, service involvement, school spirit and participation throughout the year. Through these events, students will earn points which will be used to determine the winner of the BCA House Cup for the year.

House points will also be used to award house pins to individual house members in the following categories: virtue, service, academics, and participation. Points may be referenced for the Lady of Virtue and Gentleman of Honor pin awards, as well.

The opportunities to earn points and the number of points awarded will be determined by the House Administration Team before the beginning of each school year. Point opportunities include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- I) Virtue Points
- II) Service Points
- III) Academic Points
- IV) Participation Points
- V) Challenge/Competition Points

House Points



Virtue Points

Any administrator, teacher, staff, or board member who observes a house member displaying a virtuous act can award the member with a Lion Ticket designated for virtue (V). The ticket must be returned to the House Coordinator for point administration. **Two house points** will be awarded for each Lion Ticket designated by way of virtue.

Service Points

Any administrator, faculty/staff member, or board member who observes a house member displaying an unprompted act of service toward another can award the member with a Lion Ticket designated for service (S). The ticket must be returned to the House Coordinator for point administration. **Two house points** will be awarded for each Lion Ticket designated by way of service.

Academic Points

House members earn points based upon their overall quarterly academic performance at BCA. These points are based upon cumulative GPA at the end of each quarter. Points will be awarded using the following scale:

GPA	Points Awarded
4.0	20
3.5-3.99	15
3.0-3.49	10
2.0-2.99	5

In addition, teachers or administration may award **one house point** for exceptional performance within the classroom—above standard performance on an assignment, test or project; quality insight or thoughtful questions, etc. Students will be awarded a Lion Ticket designated for Academic Excellence (AE). The ticket must be returned to the House Coordinator for point administration. One house point will be awarded for each Lion Ticket designated by way of academics.

House Points



Participation Points

House members earn points by participating in various school events, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Potential points via participation will be announced prior to any event or activity in which they may be earned and will be recorded on the monthly house calendar.

Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Participation in school-wide events such as Book Character Day
- Participation in school-wide extracurriculars such as archery, volleyball, or cross-country
- Participation in individual Lion's Week competitions

Challenge Points

Houses will compete in various academic, athletic, and team-building competitions throughout the year. These competitions are listed on the house schedule and the monthly house calendars.

Parvi Agones — thirty points are awarded to the winning house in each challenge. Up to fifteen points may be added or deducted from either the winning or losing house based upon members' display of Christ-honoring competition and spirit.

Magni Agones — seventy-five points are awarded to the winning house in each challenge. Up to twenty-five points may be added or deducted from either the winning or losing house based upon members' display of Christ-honoring competition and spirit.

Lion's Week — students may compete in individual events for a chance to earn points for their house. Each event within Lion's Week will have the following point structure:

Position	Points Awarded
1st Place	40
2nd Place	25
3rd Place	10

House Points



House Point Chart

Category	Points Earned
Lion Ticket - Virtue	2
Lion Ticket - Service	2
Lion Ticket - Academic Excellence	1
Quarterly GPA - 4.0	20
Quarterly GPA - 3.5-3.99	15
Quarterly GPA - 3.0-3.49	10
Quarterly GPA - 2.0-2.99	5
Parvi Agones	30
Magni Agones	75
Lion's Week - 1st Place	40
Lion's Week - 2nd Place	25
Lion's Week - 3rd Place	10
Participate in BCA Extracurricular	20
Participate in School Event	5
Participate in Lion's Week Event	5

• Special Point Opportunities—

- Teachers, staff, and administration at BCA may award points to individual House members or to the house as a whole for special events in addition to those mentioned in this handbook.
- Teachers may choose to incorporate special point opportunities into their classes, if they desire.
- The House Administration Team maintains the right to award or deduct points at any time.

House Charges



“Xenia” is an ancient Greek concept of hospitality. In short, it’s the culture of being welcoming and friendly. At a deeper level, there's an air of protection involved – protecting a specific assignment, charge, responsibility or role. It is this idea of xenia in which each House has been entrusted with a specific charge and set of responsibilities to steward within our school. Each House has a designated “xenosphere”. This grants each House the opportunity to serve our school in a hospitable way, protecting what they’ve been granted to steward.

Each house will create virtual objectives for the year that satisfy the responsibilities and expectations of each given xenosphere, or charge, as described below.

House of Sapientia

Sapientia has the namesake of “wisdom”. The House of Sapientia has been charged with stewarding a hospitable, friendly, and God-honoring student culture here at BCA. May our Sapientia students exercise wisdom as they plan special events for “House Cubs” such as ROAR days, Cubs Week, and others.

Responsibilities Include (but are not limited to):

- Reading Buddies
- ROAR
- Family Fellowship Days
- Cub’s Week

House of Virtus

Virtus has the namesake of “virtue”. The House of Virtus has been charged with stewarding and leading our school by way of service and prayer. May our Virtus students exercise virtue as they plan the service opportunities for our school (both outwardly and inwardly), and as they build up and edify our school through prayer–focused prayer for our students, staff, and families.

Responsibilities Include (but are not limited to):

- Prayer (staff, students, families, community partners)
- Service Projects
- Family Service Days
- Chapel

House Events



Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies are designed for intentional intergradelevel fellowship and mentorship. House students will be assigned to a younger classroom in which they will serve our younger student body (pre-K through 5th grade) by reading aloud to their assigned reading buddies. Reading Buddy time may be utilized for alternative activities, per teacher discretion, as well.

Reading Buddies are Tuesdays from 2:30 - 2:50.

ROAR

ROAR is a student created, student planned event held twice a month. House students serve our younger student body (K through 5th grade) by organizing a special activity, game, challenge, or craft to lead with our younger students. ROAR events are entirely designed and implemented by our House students. House Administration will merely supervise, advocate, and help when needed.

ROAR is held Fridays from 2:15 - 3:00. Please see the House calendar for specific dates.





























Magni Agones

Magni Agones challenges are our large-scale house competitions worth the highest number of points. These are themed to meet the diverse strengths of students throughout the school year (ex. Latin, art, strategy, athletics, etc.) Magni Agones competitions may take multiple days for students to plan, strategize, and implement. As such, there are only four magni agones competitions scheduled for the year (two per semester).

Parvi Agones

Parvi Agones challenges are our smaller-scale house competitions. These challenges are random and cover a wide array of creative fun. These challenges do not require intense planning or strategizing from the students and, as such, will be completed during House Hour the scheduled event day.

Lion Ticket Master Copy

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