

# The LCHS House System

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22 January 2010

**Description:** The LCHS House System is a student organizational structure designed to manage LCHS students through the establishment of vertical divisions to achieve specific academic and student-life objectives. The system supplants the traditional horizontal groupings of school class, age and grade level by creating smaller integrated communities of students within the school.

The LCHS House System also provides a framework for student governance allowing greater opportunity for development of meaningful leadership.

**Purposes:**

1. To increase institutional and peer-to-peer support for each student.
2. To ensure individual care for each student with at least two adults who will monitor and support the academic, social, moral and behavioral growth of each LCHS student.
3. To multiply occasions to build strong, healthy student relationships.
4. To develop leadership skills in every student.
5. To enhance recruitment of new students.
6. To maintain relationships with LCHS graduates.

**Organization:** LCHS students from all grades are divided into three separate groups called “Houses.” Each House contains approximately 25 students beginning 2010, sixty students by 2012. Each house is overseen by a “House Dean.”

Eventually as the LCHS student population grows, each House will be divided further into “Mentor Groups” consisting of approximately 20 students. Each Mentor Group is staffed by a faculty/staff member. These groups remain together throughout the students’ high-school experience.

**Unique Outcomes for LCHS:**

1. Enhanced school-family spirit spanning freshman through senior class divisions.
2. More robust opportunities for all LCHS seniors to be trained as leaders through hands-on service gaining meaningful valuable leadership experience.
3. More robust leadership opportunities for LCHS underclassmen.
4. Stronger interpersonal relationship skills for each LCHS student.
5. More focused support internalizing LCHS character development.

### **House System Terminology:**

**House Captains** – Students in each House chosen by their housemates to lead, convene and organize the House representing it at all school-wide student- governance meetings.

**House Dean** – A faculty member chosen to oversee the effective development of a House.

**House Director** – The faculty member who directs the day-to-day operations of the House System.

**House** – A group of approximately 25 students, freshmen through seniors.

**House names** – To be stated in Latin:

*Domus Scientiae* (House of Knowledge)

*Domus Virtutis* (House of Virtue)

*Domus Prudentiae* (House of Common Sense)

**Mentor** – A faculty member assigned to oversee the effective development of a Mentor Group.

**Mentor Group** – A multidivisional group of approximately 20 students within each House (similar in operation to “homerooms”).

**School Captains** – Upper classmen (seniors only beginning 2012) who have been chosen by the school to help lead all the Houses.

**House Activities:** Each House will be expected to organize various House events such as cookouts, service projects, teambuilding activities, outings (Putt Putt, bowling, etc.), tournaments, donuts, etc. Additionally, each House will develop its own traditions, customs, symbols and crests, a website, and historical awareness of the House’s name and its significance to LCS/LCHS history.

Each House will be expected to organize various school-wide events such as social activities (dances, proms, etc.), competitions, guest lectures, spirit rallies and service projects.

**House Competitions:** Each year the Houses compete for the Neenan (David & Sharon) Cup Award. This award is given to the House that accumulates the most points in various diverse competitions that accentuate academic, athletic, leadership, character and school-spirit excellence.

Each quarter, Houses earn points by placing the most students on the Honor Roll, achieving best attendance, least school detentions, best dressed and other extraordinary achievements. Points can also be earned by student attendance at athletic events, house song competitions and other incentive opportunities offered by the LCHS administration.

The goal of the Neenan Cup is to promote healthy competition that boosts spirit and encourages student participation and interaction.

**House Assignments:** Students are placed into each House by the Headmaster. Placements are made with an intention to balance talents, skills and personalities in a way that best strengthens the positive characteristics, qualities and interpersonal strength of each House. Attention will be paid to such individual strengths as aptitude, geography, confidence, athletic abilities, demonstrated leadership and any other appropriate qualities of distinction. Siblings will be placed in the same House.

**Recruitment:** In the early years of LCHS, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Liberty Common School will be assigned to an LCHS House. These students will be identified with each House though their involvement will be only at arm's length. LCS students will not participate in regular meetings or serve in House leadership positions. They will not participate in most LCHS activities. However, school administrators the House Director, House Deans and Mentors will identify appropriate activities and strategies, through the House system, to ease LCS's upper-grade students toward a smooth high-school transition and eventual LCHS enrollment.

**Alumni Relations:** Each House will work with the LCHS administration to maintain contact and long-term relationships with LCHS graduates. A graduate's House will be his primary point of LCHS contact.

**Implementation:**

1. Beginning January of 2010 upon approval by the Liberty Board of Directors, three Houses will be named and formed. A House Director will be identified for the remainder of the 2010 school year as will be three House Deans. House Deans will act as Mentors for the 2010/2011 school year.
2. Immediately, the House Director will apportion each student who has indicated an intention to attend LCHS to a House. Actual appointment will be officially conferred by the Headmaster. This should be done in a significant and ceremonial fashion, further enhanced and developed over time. Subsequent incoming freshmen and sophomores will be assigned to a House by the LCHS administration upon commitment to attend the school – again, with as much fanfare as possible.
3. House Deans will supervise the initial organization of the Houses first by conducting an election of House Captains from among the members of each House.

4. As soon as possible, Houses will compete in designing a LCHS crest, justifying a mascot, composing a school motto and selecting other symbols.
5. In February 26, 2010, the House Director will supervise the election of two LCHS School Captains who will be incoming LCHS sophomores in August 2010. Though organizational activities will take place upon election an official inauguration will take place later in the year at a time and in a manner to be determined by the House Director.
6. Accommodating House activities and organizational time will be built into the daily class schedule for the 2010/2011 school year.
7. Liberty Common School 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be assigned to Houses approximately December 2010.

**Items To Be Resolved Prior To Implementation:**

1. Mapping out time for Houses and School Captains to organize in the remaining 2009/2010 school year must be accomplished.

\*Plan approved by the Liberty BOD on 01.21.10