



Ron Clark's "House System"- New at Park

As part of our efforts to support our Tiger Cubs in all areas of their lives - academic, social-emotional, and at home - Park has chosen a behavior management system that mirrors aspects of educational leader Ron Clark's "House System" but is customized with our own procedures, rules, and traditions that are appropriate for our school. The rollout to this system was discussed for input with many stakeholders, including members of the Parent Teacher Organization and Local School Council.

You may have heard your child refer to the "PARK" acronym, which stands for the characteristics Perseverance, Accountability, Respectfulness, and Kindness. For the past two months, each of these areas has been a focus of character development with lessons and activities. The purpose of learning these traits is to create a culture of belonging with a goal of students becoming intrinsically motivated and taking ownership of their actions. The House system is an all-inclusive program where all students have the opportunity to be acknowledged during House meetings; versus spotlighting one "student of the month."

This week, students in grades K-4 will spin a wheel to determine their house designation. PreK students will receive the same house as their teacher. This house will be their house for the rest of their time at Park. Students will receive a free house shirt this year.

- CHARACTER BUILDING

The House System builds character with a reward system that goes beyond something like earning a piece of candy for doing something good. Instead, each student's achievements add to a collective group, making the reward communal and social. Students come to realize the behavioral and academic traits that are valued by their peers and strive to demonstrate these in support of the group effort to earn points and to be recognized in a positive way by both adults and students. This leads to building intrinsic motivation as students strive to do what is celebrated and recognized in positive ways by their peers.

- COMMUNITY BUILDING

School-wide community is built through support and interaction across grade groups/levels in support of behavioral and academic growth. Community is built through

healthy competition, role modeling, establishing House traditions and mentorships. Every student feels a sense of belonging to a group outside of the classroom. Throughout the year each student's personal accomplishments are rewarded with points that collectively build over the year. Individual students earn points for behavior and academic success.

Competition Among Houses

- The House system is meant to promote a sense of healthy and constructive competition. This is modeled by celebrating wins, learning from mistakes, and accepting loss gracefully. Students learn how to be team players, contribute their efforts toward a group and learn that those who work hard and have grit are often the ones rewarded. Playful competition is meant to also build a culture of excitement and pride in each House.

Acknowledgement of House with the most points

- At the end of each month, the House with the most points will have their House flag flown on the flagpole
- Extra House wheel spins
- Highlighted on Tiger TV news and website
- House colors displayed throughout the building
- House banner raised in the lunchroom

The House Point System

Any adult in the building can award points; custodial staff, lunchroom staff, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, central office staff, office staff, teachers and paraprofessionals. Students quickly learn that all eyes are always watching and that there are consistent expectations across the school building to include on the bus and in the lunchroom.

Individual students earn points based on behavior and academic gains and success. Points may be awarded to a House for various competitions throughout the year.

At the end of the year, the House with the most points wins the House Championship and the "bragging rights;" the honor and glory of being the top point earning House.

Point Distribution- Quick Guide

Standard Points

1 point:

- Lunchroom manners
- Going above and beyond (helping a classmate without being asked, helping when there is a need, Picking up trash without being asked, etc.)
- Getting a difficult question correct
- Class participation and effort
- Asking questions when something is not understood
- Explaining something to a classmate who needs help

- Being an exemplary leader and role model for others such as being the first to cheer on a classmate, help a classmate or younger student, refraining from joining in on something that is inappropriate, etc.
- Speaking when spoken to such as saying “good morning”
- Responding in a respectful manner such as saying “sir” and “m’am”
- Returning requested items or forms
- Participating on House Spirit Days by wearing House t-shirt or House colors

Above and Beyond Points

2-5 points

- Winning a class competition
- Befriending a new student or one who may be having a hard day
- Cleaning up the classroom without being asked
- Perfect score on major tests or project rubrics
- Improving behavior
- Academic growth
- Growth in IXL, Reflex Math, class assessments, reading fluency passages, DRC Beacon testlets (3rd and 4th only), etc. as determined by each grade level

Ultra Points

10 Points

- No tardies or early checkouts for the nine weeks
- Meeting the 40 Book Challenge
- A/B Honor Roll

15 points

- No behavior referrals for the nine weeks
- Growth on Guided Reading level and Fastbridge screeners, etc.
- All A Honor Roll

New Students

New students will spin the HOUSE wheel during Music class.

The Wheel

The “wheel” allows each student to spin into a House. The wheel also will be used throughout the year as a fun way to earn points. For example, at House meetings, the wheel can be used to spin for extra points. One child is chosen to spin from each house, and these students spin the wheel while all their house members cheer them on.

There are noted spaces on the wheel for the chance to spin for additional points. If the student lands on one of these, that is the number of points given to the house and the turn is over. But there are also several spaces with an arrow on them next to the point value. If students land

on one of these spaces, they can choose to take the points and end their turn, or they can choose to spin again to take a chance on the next inner ring level.

There are three levels of rings on the wheel so the more arrows students land on and take, the further in they can go toward the center. If a student manages to land on and take arrows all the way to the very center, the student may choose to spin once more for a chance to win 100 points.

*On Fridays, the wheel is used to spotlight one student from each HOUSE to spin for extra points.



House Leaders and Meetings

Each house will select a fourth grader as the “House Leader” from fourth grade. Each House also will have at least two teacher representatives; one from K-2 and one from 3-4. In addition to House Leaders, an “executive board” also will be chosen to work alongside each House Leader. For example, this year each House has a leader and two students serving on the executive board. This leadership structure can change or be decided by the students. This core group of people will work together to build House spirit, plan events, build traditions, collaborate, etc.

At the end of the year, new House leaders are announced from rising fourth grade students at the House Championship Celebration. Being chosen as House Leader is based on input from teachers, classmates, and student willingness to take on this responsibility.

The House meetings are a work in progress; however, they are an integral part of keeping the interest and momentum going for the House system. Ideally the House meetings need to take place on a regular basis. This is a part of the House system that many factors need to be taken into account in planning this to work for Park and the large number of students in each House.

House meetings are led by the House leaders. Faculty and staff are present to supervise and help moderate. House meetings designed to recognize top point earners, celebrate successes, practice House chants, etc.

Spirit Days

Spirit days are planned for every other Friday. Faculty, staff and students are to wear their House shirts along with any other attire that is the House color.