Middle School
House System

Madison-Ridgeland Academy



2025

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Mission Statement



Therefore if you have any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. - Philippians 2:1-4

The MRA Middle School House System serves to further the mission of Madison-Ridgeland Academy by providing Middle School students with opportunities for mentorship, teaching principles of servant leadership, and fostering community in order to build Christ-like fellowship and enhance school spirit.

What is the House System?

MRA's Middle School students participate in a form of student government known as the House System. Each year, all rising sixth-grade students and students new to MRA are sorted into one of eight distinct houses and remain in the same house all three years of Middle School. Each house is based on our core values and founded on Biblical principles. Despite the similarity in structure, houses are encouraged to each develop their own distinct identity.

This unique student government system creates opportunities for additional mentoring, inter-grade friendships, and a host of opportunities to reinforce unity and service within our student body. A designated faculty head and one male and one female 8th Grade student lead each of the houses. The house system assists in establishing character before popularity, wisdom beyond scholarship, service before self, and active engagement over passive participation as a way of life.

The houses take part in forming school culture. Each house is assigned a set of responsibilities for events throughout the school year. Houses also take part in regular house bonding activities. The house system is designed to help build smaller communities within the larger school community so that all may belong to something meaningful; and all may grow in faith, friendship, and service.

Students in the houses enjoy a series of friendly competitions. Points are awarded to students for academic success, participation in school events and programs, good character, acts of selfless service, and various house competitions throughout the year. The house that is in first position at the end of each quarter receives an award, and the leading house for the year is awarded the House Cup trophy for display in the school.
Through the houses, friendships are strengthened, faith is challenged, and school is more fun!

House System Structure

The House System will consist of eight houses in the 6th - 8th Grades. The houses consist of approximately 40 students each. Each of the Houses is named after essential values and character traits encouraged within the MRA Middle School and the Christian faith.

The House System has both a Faculty and Staff structure for supervision, administration, and mentoring purposes, as well as a student structure to foster leadership development and peer mentoring.

Faculty and Staff

The House System is overseen by the MRA Middle School Administrative Team, who is responsible for ensuring the system's mentorship opportunities, co-curriculars, and day-to-day operations are functioning as intended.

Additional faculty will help oversee:
- ❖ The random sorting of students
- ❖ Keeping historical documents
- ❖ Establishing budgets
- ❖ The effective leadership, mentorship, and supervision of a House within the House System.

Students

The House System is led by a council of student leaders, or "House Leaders," elected within each house. Each house will elect one male and one female captain from the 8th grade. Collectively, these 16 captains shall be known as "The House Leadership Council."

The House Leadership Council will be responsible for the following:
- ❖ House Leaders are in charge of running their respective houses.
- ❖ Enroll and participate in the House Leadership Council Elective class.
- ❖ Attend House Leadership Council meetings when scheduled.
- ❖ Help lead all houses in spiritual development.
- ❖ Provide mentorship for all students within their house, especially the younger students.
- ❖ Help organize meetings and activities for their house.
- ❖ Represent their house at designated school events and activities.

The Houses

Creation

The Middle School House System at Madison-Ridgeland Academy was inspired by a research team's visits to multiple schools, where they gathered ideas to create a unique and meaningful program. Each house is named for one of the five Patriot Values, plus Mind, Body, and Spirit reflecting the school's commitment to holistic growth. Every house has its own distinct identity, including a color, mascot, symbol, motto, and Bible verse, fostering unity and pride among members. This system not only builds camaraderie but also reinforces character development, teamwork, and school spirit, aligning with the academy's mission to nurture students academically, socially, and spiritually.





Leaders

The entirety of the house system is overseen by the Director of Houses. Each house in the middle school system is led by a faculty Head of House who serves as the main advisor, supported by at least two additional faculty members. This team guides and mentors students within the house. Additionally, each house is represented by two student leaders: a head boy and a head girl. These leaders are 8th-grade students elected by their peers within their house, ensuring that student voices are an integral part of house activities and decisions. This leadership structure promotes accountability, collaboration, and a sense of ownership among both faculty and students in fostering a positive house culture.

House of Respect

Reverentia

In Reverentia house we focus on respecting God, self, fellow man, and country. We want our Griffins to take pride in everything they do, love others, and build up disciples.

John 13:34-35

Scripture

John 13:34-35 highlights the commandment to love others as Jesus loves us, emphasizing that love is the defining mark of His disciples. For Reverentia, this scripture serves as a foundation for showing respect and care for God, oneself, and others, fostering unity and compassion within the house and community.



Mascot & Symbol

The Griffin, a mythical creature combining the lion's strength and the eagle's vision, symbolizes courage, wisdom, and leadership. The laurel wreath, associated with victory and honor, complements the griffin by representing respect and achievement. Together, these symbols inspire members of Reverentia to embody strength and respect in their actions.

Always Ready

Motto & Spiritual Emphasis

The motto "Always Ready" encourages members to remain prepared to show respect and serve others with humility and grace. The spiritual emphasis on respect for God, self, others, and country challenges students to live with purpose, reflecting their faith in all aspects of their lives while fostering a spirit of honor. The accompanying hand motion is a closed fist over your heart.

First House Leaders

Sims Wiggins and Faver Ridgway

First Head of House

Kandice Rowe

Overall House Point Total

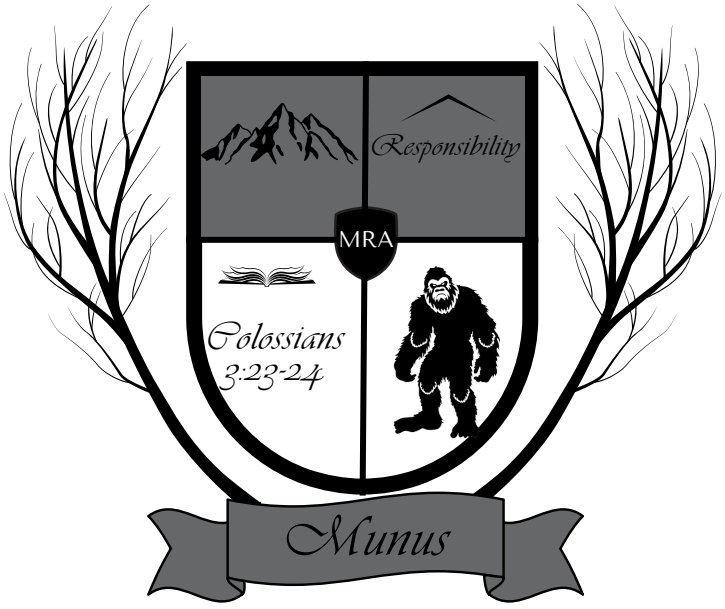
number

Championships Won

House of Responsibility

Munus

In Munus house we know that God gave everyone a purpose on this earth, and it is our responsibility to live that out. While we can't achieve perfection, everything we do, we try to the best of our ability. We are ROCK STEADY and know that in the chaos of the storm, we are a beacon of calm and rock steady through Christ Jesus.



Colossians 3:23-24

Scripture

Colossians 3:23-24 encourages diligent and sincere work as a service to God rather than people. It reminds members of Munus that responsibility is an act of faith, and through their efforts, they honor God and receive His reward, reinforcing the importance of purpose and accountability in all they do.



Mascot & Symbol

The Yeti represents strength, resilience, and the ability to navigate challenges in harsh conditions. The mountain symbolizes stability and the journey of growth, reflecting the importance of responsibility in reaching higher goals. Together, these symbols inspire the house to tackle obstacles steadfastly and uphold their duties with courage.

Rock Steady

Motto & Spiritual Emphasis

The motto "Rock Steady" highlights the importance of unwavering responsibility and dependability. The spiritual emphasis on self-responsibility reminds members to take charge of their actions and decisions. This approach cultivates maturity and prepares them to honor God in their commitments, standing firm in their faith and duties. The accompanying hand motion is two fists one over the other.

First House Leaders

Stella Fuller and Correy Elder

First Head of House

Samuel Smylie

Overall House Point Total

number

Championships Won

1

House of Honor

Dignitas

In Dignitas House we want people to know that the members of our house are honorable and known for doing the right thing even when it’s unseen. Being worthy means you have value and Dignitas Dragons see everyone as valuable, important, and worthy to God. We walk with our heads high knowing we have that worth in Christ and shine our light so others know their own worth in Him.

Romans 12:10

Scripture

Romans 12:10 emphasizes love and honor within relationships, urging individuals to treat others with affection and respect. The verse challenges members of Dignitas to embody brotherly love and excel in showing honor to others, aligning with the house's focus on integrity and fairness.



Mascot & Symbol

The Dragon symbolizes strength, courage, and protection, representing the virtues of Dignitas. The sword further reinforces themes of honor, justice, and the defense of integrity. Together, these symbols inspire members to uphold their spiritual values with bravery and conviction.

Walk worthy

Motto & Spiritual Emphasis

The motto, "Walk Worthy," calls members to live with honor and integrity in their daily lives. The spiritual emphasis on honesty, fairness, and integrity challenges students to strive for moral excellence, reflecting their faith in actions and interactions. The accompanying hand-motion is “honor” in American Sign Language.

First House Leaders

Samantha Cochran and Sullivan Hirn

First Head of House

Courtney Warren

Overall House Point Total

number

Championships Won

number

House of Compassion

Eleos

In Eleos house we focus on empathy and understanding. In middle school, learning compassion can be a struggle and we focus on showing the love of Christ to those around us.



Lamentations
3: 22-33

Scripture

Lamentations 3:22-23 reflects the unending love and mercy of God, renewed daily in His faithfulness. For Eleos, this scripture inspires members to mirror God's compassion by showing kindness and grace to others, demonstrating His love through acts of service and a heart committed to enduring care for those in need.



Mascot & Symbol

The Pegasus symbolizes freedom, strength, and the uplifting power of compassion. The olive branch, a timeless emblem of peace and reconciliation, represents harmony and selfless service. Together, these symbols inspire members of Eleos to rise above challenges and extend compassion that brings peace and hope to their communities.

Love
Endures

Motto & Spiritual Emphasis

The motto "Love Endures" emphasizes the lasting impact of compassion shown through service. The spiritual emphasis encourages members to cultivate a heart of empathy, reflecting God's merciful nature. By prioritizing care for others, Eleos inspires a legacy of enduring love and kindness in all interactions and relationships. The accompanying hand motion is making a heart with hands and pulling it to the chest.

First House Leaders

Reeves Lutz and Tyler Triplett

First Head of House

Ashley Garavelli

Overall House Point Total

number

Championships Won

number

House of Excellence

Virtus

In Virtus house the Bible talks about God creating something new. We go from our old self to our new self once we accept Jesus as Christ. We are the House of Excellence.

Philippians 4:8

Scripture

Philippians 4:8 encourages Believers to focus on virtues such as truth, honor, justice, and purity. For Virtus, this scripture emphasizes striving for excellence by maintaining a positive and Godly mindset, encouraging members to align their thoughts and actions with values that reflect their faith and bring praise to God.



Mascot & Symbol

The phoenix, a legendary bird that rises from its ashes, symbolizes renewal, resilience, and triumph. The flames represent passion and transformation, reminding members of Virtus to pursue excellence with perseverance and energy. Together, these symbols inspire the house to rise above challenges and embody a commitment to continuous improvement.

Rise Up

Motto & Spiritual Emphasis

The motto, "Rise Up," reflects the house's drive to overcome adversity and achieve greatness. The spiritual emphasis on excellence in mind, body, and spirit challenges members to give their best in all areas of life, fostering growth, determination, and a pursuit of Godly character in every endeavor. The accompanying hand motion is an index finger pointing to the sky.

First House Leaders

Lucy Mason and Parker Perry

First Head of House

Ben Haindel

Overall House Point Total

number

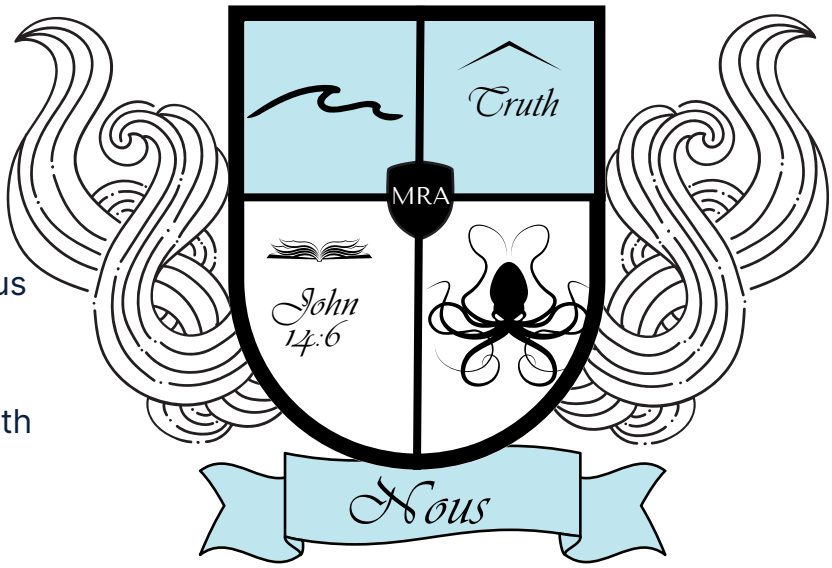
Championships Won

number

House of Truth

Nous

“Nous” is the Greek word for “mind.” Jesus said He is the Way, the Truth, and the Light. Riding the wave symbolizes resilience. The Kraken symbolizes strength and depth. We know that even if we look different on the outside, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.



John 14:6

Scripture

John 14:6 declares Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, emphasizing that truth is found in Him alone. For Nous, this scripture reflects their mission to affirm and teach Biblical truths, encouraging members to anchor their lives in Christ and live according to His guidance and example.

Mascot & Symbol

The kraken, a powerful sea creature, symbolizes strength, mystery, and the depth of truth. The flowing water represents life, cleansing, and the constant pursuit of wisdom. Together, these symbols inspire members of Nous to explore and uphold Biblical truths with resilience, boldness, and a steady commitment to faith.

Ride the Wave

Motto & Spiritual Emphasis

The motto "Ride the Wave" signifies the adaptability and perseverance required to navigate life’s challenges while staying rooted in biblical truth. The spiritual emphasis on affirming and teaching biblical truths calls members of Nous to lead with conviction and inspire others to seek truth through God’s Word. The accompanying hand motion is the right hand moving like a wave.

First House Leaders

Ella McQueen and Ashton Walker

First Head of House

Mallory Gnemi

Overall House Point Total

number

Championships Won

number

House of Service

Somat

In Somat house we know that putting others before ourselves is a priority. Mark 10:45 reminds us that we are servants for Christ. We are courageous when we put someone else's needs before our own.

Mark 10:45

Scripture

Mark 10:45 emphasizes Jesus' mission to serve others selflessly, even giving His life as a ransom for many. For Somat, this scripture serves as a reminder that true greatness is found in humility and service, inspiring members to follow Christ's example by leading through acts of love and sacrifice.



Mascot & Symbol

The Stag represents strength, leadership, and grace, embodying the qualities of a servant leader. The helping hand symbolizes support, care, and selfless service to others. Together, these symbols inspire members of Somat to lead with dignity and purpose, always ready to uplift and assist those in need.

Service Before Self

Motto & Spiritual Emphasis

The motto "Service before Self" reflects the heart of servant leadership, prioritizing the needs of others above personal desires. The spiritual emphasis on inspiring servant leaders encourages members to embody Christ's example, using their gifts to impact the world through acts of kindness, humility, and dedication to service. The accompanying hand motion is a hand giving, then pointing to oneself.

First House Leaders

Mary Larkin Patton and Mason Hierlmeier

First Head of House

Josh Gilreath

Overall House Point Total

number

Championships Won

number

House of Faith

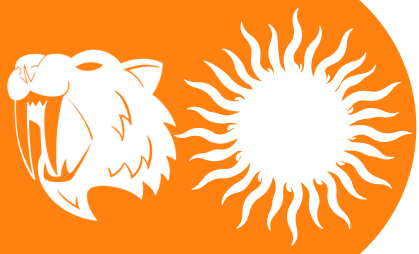
Pneuma

In Pneuma we focus on challenging our students to think about things only God can accomplish. In this house, we know that when we are leaders like Christ, our job is to empower others to take leadership. As a house, we want to pray about how we can see God move in our school.

Matthew 17:20

Scripture

Matthew 17:20 highlights the power of faith, even as small as a mustard seed, to overcome obstacles and achieve the impossible. For Pneuma, this scripture inspires members to trust in God's strength and grow in their faith, knowing that through Him, they can accomplish remarkable things.



Mascot & Symbol

The saber tooth tiger represents fierce determination, unwavering focus, and the ability to overcome challenges. The blazing sun symbolizes light, guidance, and the energy of unwavering faith. Together, these symbols encourage members of Pneuma to stand firm in their beliefs, navigate difficulties with determination, and illuminate their paths with the power of faith.

Faith That Moves

Motto & Spiritual Emphasis

The motto, "Faith that Moves," emphasizes faith's ability to transform and achieve the extraordinary. The spiritual emphasis on sowing seeds of faith inspires Pneuma members to grow spiritually and influence others positively, fostering a community rooted in belief and trust in God's promises and power. The accompanying hand motion is creating a mountain with your hands and then laying arm over arm.

First House Leaders

Katelyn Ensminger and Taylor Strain

First Head of House

Steve Potter

Overall House Point Total

number

Championships Won

number

Chants & **Spirit**

All House Chant

Who's gonna
Who's gonna
Who's gonna win?
We're gonna
We're gonna
We're gonna win!
Who's gonna win?
We're gonna win!
Who are we?
MRA!
Patriot Pride! X3

Director of Houses leads the chant while all houses participate in the response portion.

House Chants and Motions

Each house has its own unique chants and hand motions that reflect the theme and identity of the house. These spirited traditions were thoughtfully created by the original house leaders in 2024 to inspire pride and unity.

New house members learn these chants and motions shortly after the initial sorting, ensuring that all students can participate in celebrating their house's values and energy. Whether during competitions, meetings, or school events, these chants and motions bring each house to life, fostering camaraderie and a vibrant sense of belonging.

Spirit Wear and Merchandise

Students will have the opportunity to support their houses on competition days by dressing in their appropriate house colors. During a regular school day, students can show their house spirit by wearing items purchased in the Merch store. Each house has various items with their house crest, including socks, outwear, and water bottles. When in regular uniform, students may wear their house outerwear (crewneck sweatshirts and pullovers) with uniform tops and bottoms. T-shirts are only permitted on spirit and competition days.

House **Events**

Sorting

When students enter 6th grade, they are randomly sorted into one of the houses. They will remain in this house throughout their middle school journey, creating lasting connections with peers and mentors while building a sense of pride and loyalty. Each house elects its own student leaders to represent and guide their members.

Meetings

House meetings occur every Wednesday during chapel time, separated by gender. In these gatherings, house leaders guide discussions based on the chapel lesson, encouraging meaningful reflection and spiritual growth. These meetings strengthen relationships within the house while reinforcing shared values.

Competitions

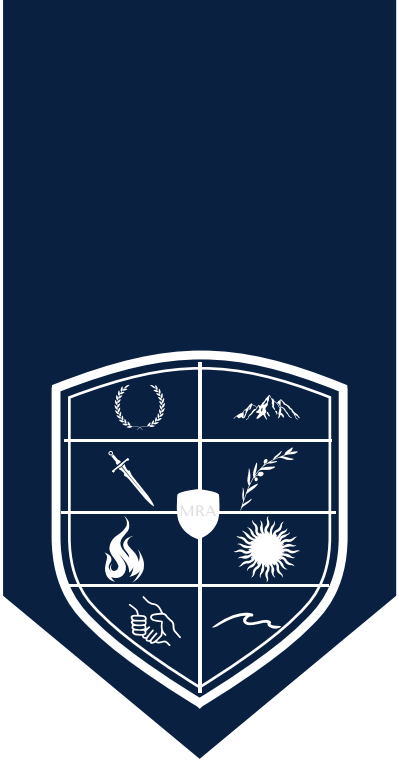
After the initial Sorting Ceremony, House Competitions occur at least once per month. These competitions cover many categories including athletics, academics, and opportunities for community service and collections.

The House earning the most points each quarter will be given a special award. The House earning the most points at the end of the year will be awarded the coveted MRA House Cup Trophy!

Some examples of competitions include but are not limited to:

- The Great Beat Battle
- Christmas Caroling Competition
- Dance Battle
- Quiz Bowl
- Survivor
- Reading Tournament
- Penny Wars

Point **System**



The MRA Middle School House System is supported by a point system to create a fun and healthy competitive spirit among the Houses. Points are collected throughout the year by each student, counting toward their overall House score, to help determine the champions at the end of the year.

Points must be earned, not given. Houses will earn points for a variety of activities listed here:

- Attending Special Events

Students who attend a specified event (Plays, Performances, Sporting Events, etc.) will receive points for their house. Not every event is eligible for points--these will be announced well ahead of time.

- Academic Performance

Students will earn points for their house for the first three quarters based on their quarter GPA. Students recognized for the A Honor Roll and A/B Honor Roll will earn points for their house. Students who improve their GPA by at least .5 from one quarter to the next will earn points for their house.

- Athletic & Fine Arts Participation

Students who participate in MRA Middle School sports and/or fine arts will earn points for their house. For athletics, the points will be awarded as follows: Fall Sports for 1st quarter; Winter Sports for 2nd quarter; Spring Sports for 3rd quarter. For fine arts, participation in the fall musical and other fine arts activities will earn points for their house.

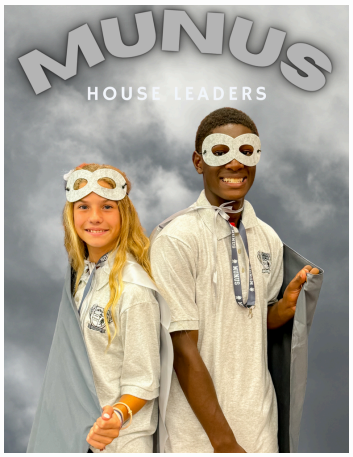
- Positive Behavior

Students can earn bonus points throughout the year for displaying a consistent positive attitude, demonstrating school spirit, performing acts of kindness or service, and being a good role model for their peers.

Meet Our
House Leaders



Sims Wiggins
Faver Ridgway



Stella Fuller
Correy Elder



Sullivan Hirn
Samantha Cochran



Lucy Mason
Parker Perry



Taylor Strain
Katelyn Ensminger



Reeves Lutz
Tyler Triplett



Ella McQueen
Ashton Walker



Mary Larkin Patton
Mason Hierlmeier



At Madison-Ridgeland Academy, our house system is composed of eight distinct houses, each with its own unique identity, motto, Bible verse, and spiritual emphasis. While these differences highlight the diversity of values and strengths within our school, the core focus of our house system is unity—we are one family.

Each house—Reverentia, Munus, Dignitas, Eleos, Virtus, Nous, Somat, and Pneuma—represents a different aspect of character and faith, such as honor, compassion, or responsibility. These themes encourage leadership, teamwork, and spiritual growth. While the houses celebrate their individual identities, they all work together to support the shared mission of building a Christ-centered community where every student feels valued and connected.

Students are sorted into their houses upon entering middle school and remain there throughout their middle school years, fostering lasting relationships with peers and mentors. Weekly house meetings following chapel provide time for reflection and spiritual connection, reminding students of their shared faith and mission.

Competitions—ranging from academics to athletics—encourage healthy rivalry and collaboration, while point earned for achievements and awards reinforce shared values. Unique chants and hand motions, created by the original house leaders in 2024, further unite members by building school spirit and pride.

Ultimately, the house system at Madison-Ridgeland Academy is about more than belonging to a group. It's about understanding that we are all part of one family, striving together to reflect Christ's love and unity in everything we do.

Contact Information :

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