

Information, Hand Signal, and Cheer: [https://youtu.be/4O1K4c8\\_kAQ](https://youtu.be/4O1K4c8_kAQ)

Cheer Only: <https://youtu.be/ucmtVMi-nLg>



# Amistad

Title:

**House of Friendship**

Power:

**Kindness of Heart, Strength of a True Warrior**

Heritage:

**Spain**

Language:

**Spanish**

Symbolic Animal:

**The Immortal Peacock**

First Student Leader:

**Raymond Warmesley**

First Staff Leader:

**Rhonda Lokey**

Championships Won:

**2016, 2017, 2018**



**HOUSE HISTORY** Amistad is the House that originates from Spain. A group of individuals that are quiet but powerful, they are known most for their kindness of heart. This is why, in the language of their ancestry, their name means "friendship."

Incoming members are often a mix of extremes — our students can be extremely intelligent, creative, friendly, and competitive; Amistad is a very diverse group! The House takes great inspiration from its symbolic animal, the peacock, and the leaders always remind the members of this saying: "Once the peacock finds its feathers, it discovers who it really is." The encouragement is for each student to find his or her own feathers and discover their brilliance. While students may enter timidly, they learn to become brave as they find their true selves.

In the early days of the House Championships, Altruismo, Isibindi, and

Rêveur had all won multiple championships, but Amistad had not won any. The leaders rallied the students together, and the House won three consecutive championships and became one of the most powerful Houses. This legend is now passed down to remind Amistad to always be a House of perseverance.

**TRADITIONS** As the House of Friendship, Amistad has a tradition of welcoming all of the students to school on the first day — with notes or tokens of appreciation left on lockers — regardless of another student's House. Amistad has also adopted Valentine's Day as its holiday celebration (perfect for the red House). Students bring cakes and cupcakes to share with the entire school. And a secret tradition of the House is for each student leader to write his/her own words of wisdom in a notebook by the end of the year to pass on to the next leader. This special notebook is for House leaders' eyes only.

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Amistad

## Our House Crest

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The most important visual representation of each House is its House Crest. This is a specially designed Coat of Arms filled with

symbols that speak to the values of the House. The crests should never be changed or altered. Preserving them builds House heritage!

### Crossed Arms (The Keys)

The crossed arms symbolize the keys to unlock the gateway to friendship.

### The Castle

Anchoring the center of the shield, the castle represents our foundation of power and protection through comradery.

### Friendship

The name "Amistad" is Spanish for "friendship." We are the House of Friendship!



### The Peacock

The peacock is our symbolic animal — a creature representing the heart's desire to love and protect a friend. The peacock has a preserving spirit that never quits and never dies, just like us!

### The Knight

The Knight is the symbol of the protector. While the peacock sits quietly on top, the knight shows that a fierceness lies within.

### Red

Amistad is the red house, because red is the color that embodies the kindness of heart.

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## Amistad's Hand Signals

House hand signals are used in meetings or gatherings, to rally around the House, encourage and support one another, or just for fun to show pride and spirit.

The House of Amistad has two hand signals. The first is **The Heart**. To make this, we cup our hands together, joining the fingertips at the top and the thumbs at the bottom — to create a heart shape.

The second is **The Crossed Keys**. To make this, we make a fist with each hand, and cross our arms to make an "X" over the chest — left arm over the right — which symbolizes the crossed keys of friendship from our crest.



**THE HEART**



**THE CROSSED KEYS**