

Ivywood Classical Academy House System Info Sheet and FAQs

The ICA House System is designed to become an integral part of our culture by providing students various enrichment programs and learning opportunities to build character, team-building skills, and leadership potential. Students are equally divided into 4 “Houses” which represent one of four characteristics of the ICA mascot, the eagle. Each House functions independently, led by a House Luminary (teacher sponsor) and elected student leaders. Throughout the year, each House can earn points by planning and executing school-wide events, engaging in various learning opportunities, and showing positive behaviors across campus. Houses also compete against each other in challenge activities like athletic contests, academic success, artistic endeavors, team spirit, and attendance. Each year, the top performing House will be crowned “House Champions.”

Goals of the ICA House System:

1. To provide an important cultural layer in our Upper School. Having students and faculty get to know one another over several years provides a stability of relationship and benefits those who take a while to connect with others.
2. As it grows, the House System will instill a sense of citizenship and ownership unique to ICA, as it gives students new opportunities to lead, serve, and compete. A House System provides more formal and informal opportunities for leadership, as well as space for a healthy leadership culture to develop.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- *How will my student be assigned to a House?*

Students are randomly assigned to their Houses at an annual “Sorting Ceremony.” It is a lottery-style drawing, with no preference given for any particular student or situation.

- *Will my student be in the same House for their entire ICA career?*

Yes.

- *Will all of my children be in the same House?*

Yes. It is a familial House System, which means that all immediate family members will be in the same House. Once older siblings are assigned their House, younger siblings will know their own future Houses. The system is also generational, meaning that your student’s children will also be in the same House if they attend ICA.

- *What are the names of the Houses?*



Excelsitās means flight, loftiness, ascendancy. It represents the great height to which an eagle can fly. Eagles fly into a storm and use the wind to carry them higher. Excelsitās is Excellence.

House motto: *Perveniet ad altitudinem.*/ Reach for the stars.



Aegis means protection, guardianship, leadership. It represents the care and nurture an eagle provides to its young. Aegis is Humility.
House motto: *Praesīs ut prōsīs ne ut imperēs.*/ Lead in order to serve, not to rule.



Vīso means sight, seeing, view. It represents the far-sighted vision an eagle has to see hope, and achieve a better world. Vīso is Wonder.
House motto: *Ex fidē bonā.*/ Act with good faith.



Tēnaciṭās means tenacity. It represents an eagle's fearlessness in facing challenges head-on. Tēnaciṭās is Courage.
House motto: *Sapere audē.*/ Dare to be wise.



The fifth House is the Administration House, named Ēducātiō, which means to bring up a child academically and virtuously. Our mission at Ivywood is to teach and equip scholars to become moral and intellectual leaders in a self-governing society. To inspire wonder. This House equips our staff and teachers to lead our scholars according to this mission.

- *Is the House System optional?*

No, the House System is not optional. All incoming Upper School students* are sorted randomly into one of the four Houses. We desire that all students will experience a new depth of relationship, community, and opportunity through the House system. However, involvement beyond being a House member is not required.

*For the 2023-2024 Inaugural House System Roll-Out, only 9th grade was placed into Houses. This membership will grow over time to include the entire ICA Upper School, grades 7-12.

- *How are House Leaders chosen?*

Elections for House leaders are held shortly after the annual Sorting Ceremony each year. Any House member is encouraged to consider running for a position of leadership within their House. Descriptions of available positions and their requirements are distributed to students directly.