

As you might have heard by now, we are introducing the concept of “houses” into the high school this school year, in the long, storied tradition of British academia and Scottish clans. Although the word has been leaking out for several days, we officially introduced this exciting new concept to our students this afternoon.

Our Student Government Association leaders and I have developed the concept over the summer, with input and approval from administrative leadership, members of the faculty, and the Board of Trustees.

The “house” concept is a largely British model of grouping students across grades 9-12 in an effort to build **community**, improve **school spirit**, facilitate **mentoring** by upperclassmen, and establish meaningful **traditions**. At CPA, it is part of a systematic approach to **positively reinforcing the characteristics** we want to see cultivated in our students.

In developing the blueprint for CPA houses, we have consulted with other schools (including Christian schools) from throughout the region that have implemented this with great success. We have dialogued with Mr. Richard Anderson, Mrs. Anne Purdy, Mrs. Rhonda Smith, and the Board, and all of the feedback has been affirming. In particular, science teacher Mr. John Barlow is very familiar with houses from his English upbringing and has been indispensable in helping us to formulate the approach.

Because houses have been popularized in recent years in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series, some have asked whether we are introducing a “Harry Potter theme” at CPA. The answer is no. While houses play a central role in the stories and are familiar to many of our students because of that, they were around long before Rowling wrote about them. We are drawing not on Harry Potter but on the rich, centuries-old tradition of houses as a means to foster a positive, enriching school community.

Our four houses are named after four Scottish clans (befitting the Presbyterian heritage in Scotland). Each high-school student has been assigned to one of the four houses. We have grouped siblings together and have assigned members of the same house hallway lockers near each other.

The Four Houses of CPA High School (name/color/motto):

Barclay (yellow). Motto: *Aut agree aut mori* (Action or death)

MacKinnon (red). Motto: *Audentes fortuna juvat* (Fortune favors the bold)

Sutherland (blue). Motto: *Sans Peur* (Without Fear)

Wallace (black). Motto: *Pro liberate* (For Freedom)

As the school year unfolds, each house will engage in activities together and in healthy competition with the other houses, leading to the presentation of a very special new honor to one house: the Anderson Cup, in honor of our headmaster. We will share more details about specific activities as the year progresses (and we hope you’ll hear about many of them from your child).

If you have any questions, please let me know.

As always, thank you for allowing CPA to partner with you in the critical work of equipping students to know God, to walk closely with Him, and to give Him the glory due His name.

Sincerely,
Nathaniel H. Morrow
Assistant Headmaster and High School Principal

