



Les Maisons @ ÉPK

1) Ethos:

- a) The purpose of each house is yet another way to support, guide and enhance the academic, social, spiritual and personal success of each student during their time at ÉPK. House leaders (staff) will build strong partnerships with students in these small family units. The family unit is further reinforced by the fact that all families are placed into the same House.
- b) The house system is fully intended to be a long term initiative and all committee discussions surrounding its creation have taken this into account for implementation, management and sustainability.

2) Benefits of the House System

- a) Sense of Belonging
- b) Creation of family and different ways to organize events
- c) Relationship building focus - and connecting students with staff who they don't usually see.
- d) Natural Cross-Grade mentorship and support
- e) Friendly Competition where ultimately our entire school community benefits
- f) Increased motivation for Lavez les pieds, Parlez Français, spirit days....
- g) All founded in the type of school we want: one filled with: Hope, Love, Peace, Joy
- h) Each student will be a valued member of the family unit
- i) Student Centered focus
- j) Supports the vast majority of our students who already want to learn and grow in a safe and caring environment
- k) Equal opportunity and encouragement to achieve a student's full potential
- l) Building of interpersonal skills with groups of students of all ages
- m) Peer support and the development of greater friendships
- n) Promotion of student responsibility, team skills, leadership skills and cooperation
- o) Creative and new ways to celebrate school spirit, washing the feet of others, living our Gospel values and celebrating French language and culture
- p) Encourages French speaking across grades and within grades

3) Les Maisons

- a) Each student will be placed into one of the four houses:
 - i) Maison de coeur,
 - ii) Maison de paix,
 - iii) Maison d'espoir,
 - iv) Maison de joie.
- v) Staff and students will remain in the same house for the duration of their time at ÉPK. There will be no switching of houses.
- b) Students from the same family will be in the same house
- c) All staff (teachers and support staff) will be assigned a house.
- d) At the beginning of each year, all new students will be assigned a house.



e) Houses will be approximately 70-80 students, from Kindergarten to Grade 4.

4) Les Points

a) Point system developed is one that is fair, administratively simple and results are easy to track for monthly and annual tallies.

b) Points will be awarded for participation in events and activities such as:

- i) Spirit days
- ii) Extracurricular activities (intramurals, leadership, music ministry)
- iii) Lavez les pieds
- iv) Parlez Français
- v) Volunteering or being an ambassador for ÉPK
- vi) Mini friendly competitions such as: garbageless lunches, Rainbow lunches,
- vii) Academic focuses such as DEAR time, achieving reading goals,
- viii) Special events such as Sports day, Faith Day, Jump Rope for heart
- ix) Suitable future events

c) Counting of Points

- i) Each classroom as well as the library, main office, music room and chapel will have a container for each house. There will also be one additional container per room filled with tokens.
- ii) When a student does something that warrants a point, they will be given a token to place in their maison's container.
- iii) At the end of each week, the tokens will be counted up and added to a co-built spreadsheet. Students in the class will assist in the counting, and teachers will enter the totals into the document.

5) La maison du mois et l'année

- i) Each month la maison with the most accumulated points will receive (example) an extra-long recess for leur maison
- ii) At the end of the year, the winning team will receive a house trophy and will help to decide the celebration activity the whole school will participate in.

6) Future Goals

- i) Providing opportunities for les maisons to select or design:
 - (1) Patron Saint
 - (2) Spirit Animal
 - (3) House colour
 - (4) Cheer
 - (5) Motto
 - (6) Crest or logo
 - (7) And other opportunities as years go by to form, strengthen, and/or better define the house bond that exists.

