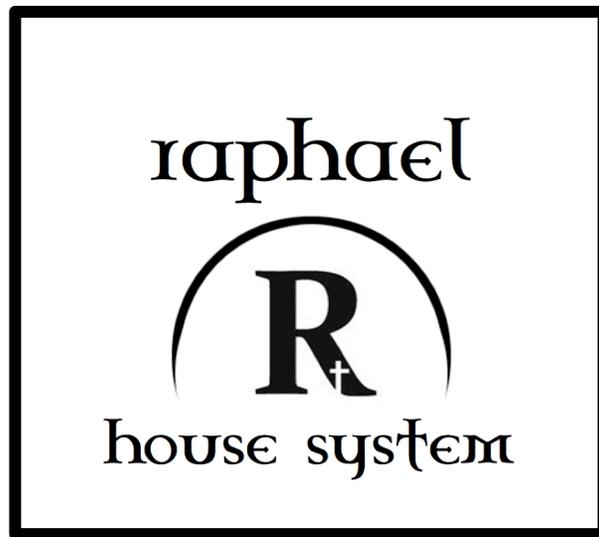


House Charter

2017 - 2018



St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic School

Table of Contents

House System Overview	1
Patron Saints	1
House Colors	3
House Meetings	3
Sorting of 5th Grade Students	3
House Captains	4
House Point Sheets	4
House Shirts.....	5
House Awards	5
Monthly Meeting Awards.....	5
End of Year House Awards	5

House System Overview

Middle school students at St. Raphael the Archangel School are assigned to homerooms that include 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. These homerooms are called “houses”. The members of each house remain in the same house throughout middle school, becoming a family with the same classmates, the same house mentor, and the same patron saint. The overarching “house” is the school itself, Raphael House, whose motto is *Ambulantes cum Magistro Maximo: Walking with The Greatest Teacher*.

House Name	Patron Saint	Mascot	House Motto
Brigid	St. Brigid of Ireland	Turtle	<i>Status magnitudini: Destined for great things.</i>
Christopher	St. Christopher	Albatross	<i>Vita est iter: Life is a journey.</i>
Francis	St. Francis of Assisi	Hornet	<i>Bonus est summa larorum parvorum: Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.</i>
George	St. George	Dragon	<i>Facite praesidium forte fide: Make a strong defense of faith.</i>
Joseph	St. Joseph (the Worker)	Blue Jay	<i>Pro laboribus: For those who labor.</i>
Seton	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Panther	<i>Ministerium aliorum: Service to others.</i>
Tekakwitha	St. Kateri Tekakwitha	Wolf	<i>Volate in alis vestris: Fly on your own wings.</i>
Teresa	St. Teresa of Avila	Tiger	<i>Aliquid pilchrum Deo: Something beautiful for God.</i>

Patron Saints

St. Brigid of Ireland was known for her charitable actions toward the poor. When St. Patrick blessed her, he used the form used for priests. When it was brought to his attention, he said that she was “destined for great things”. St. Brigid founded a school of art and continued her aid to the poor throughout her life.

St. Christopher was said to be of significant stature, very large and strong, a “giant” by some accounts. The mythology surrounding him says that he was given the job of walking people across a stream where many had died because of the strong current when trying to cross. He carried a child across who seemed to become heavier with each step. When he asked why that was so, the child told him that he was the Christ and that he was carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders. Christopher’s name means Christ-bearer.

St. Francis of Assisi is patron saint of animals, merchants, and ecology. Francis saw all of creation as a part of a grand whole and animals and all living things were his brothers. He lived a life of extreme poverty, once he accepted God, renouncing the wealth of his family. Those without possessions cannot be robbed, and those without the need for acclaim cannot be hurt or humiliated by the words of others. Those who have nothing are truly free.

St. George was a Catholic soldier and a defender of the faith. He was put to death because he would not denounce God and worship Roman gods. He converted an entire town by slaying the dragon (perhaps an alligator) that killed people when they approached the water.

St. Joseph is the patron saint of families and workers, a compassionate and caring man, who married Mary and helped raise Jesus. It is thought he died before Jesus began his public ministry, as he is not mentioned as being present at any of the events during that time. As a hard-working carpenter, he taught his trade to Jesus. While he lived a simple life, he was a descendant of King David.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was no stranger to hardship and heartache. She married and had several children, but her husband died and she was left to raise the children on her own. She suffered through the death of some of her children and eventually joined the Catholic Church where she found solace from her pain. She and a couple of friends founded the Sisters of Charity and she opened the first free Catholic school in America.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American saint. She is patron saint of the environment and ecologists. Kateri, or Catherine, contracted small pox and was horribly scarred by the disease. It is said that upon her death, the scars immediately disappeared and she was again made beautiful. Several miracles of healing are attributed to her. She worked hard to try to convert her tribe, the Algonquins, to Christianity.

St. Teresa of Avila was quite the firebrand! She was sent to the convent by her family because of her wayward behavior, but as she drew closer to God, she changed. The convent at the time was less about prayer than one would expect because those who were there were often not there because of their love of God. It was a place to send the willful and wayward members of wealthy families. St. Teresa, not one to blindly follow authority, worked to reform the Carmelites and was thrown out of the order for it. She founded the order of Discalced Carmelites.

House Colors

Each St. Raphael House has an assigned color, which is used on various house system-related items, including house t-shirts and sweatshirts.

House	Color
Brigid	green
Christopher	royal blue
Francis	yellow
George	red
Joseph	light blue
Seton	black
Tekakwitha	purple
Teresa	orange

House Meetings

The purpose of monthly house meetings is to provide an opportunity for the individual houses to come together for house system-related information and friendly competition, building community, teamwork, and good sportsmanship.

House meetings are held once monthly and are facilitated by the counselor. Each meeting includes a business portion, in which general announcements are made and the three houses with the most points for the previous month are announced. The house meeting also includes a competitive activity, organized and planned by one of the houses and the house mentor.

House mentoring time will also be scheduled, with specific dates and times to be determined at the beginning of each school year. This time is intended for individual houses to have the opportunity to work together on activities or projects as determined by the house mentor.

Sorting of 5th Grade Students

Each spring, the counselor works with the 5th grade teachers to begin the sorting process. Although the process is largely random, some information is taken into consideration when placing 5th graders into their future houses, such as current sibling placement. The final house

meeting of the year is the Sorting Ceremony, which is attended by the school. This meeting is organized and planned by the counselor and the 5th grade teachers.

House Captains

Applications for house captain are distributed by the counselor in April. Any 7th grader may apply to be a house captain during their 8th grade year. The applications are reviewed by the counselor and the house mentor. Qualities of each applicant that are considered include, but are not limited to: adherence to the St. Raphael Honor Code, input from students (e.g. vote among house members), input from teachers and administrators, nature of any disciplinary history, level of participation in all house activities, and consistent contribution to house points at the individual level. Once the house captains have been determined, they will be announced at either the final monthly house meeting or at the sorting ceremony.

House captains are expected to maintain a high level of personal integrity, a commitment to kindness toward others, and participation in the activities of the St. Raphael community. Relinquishing of duties, non-participation, or behavior/attitude unbecoming of a house captain may result in the recommendation by the house mentor, in consultation with the counselor, of probation. The student would remain on house captain probation until she or he displays consistent effort toward change (but a two-week minimum is suggested, depending on the nature of the problem). If a house captain is placed on probation, the duties of house captain are assigned to another student selected by the house mentor.

House Point Sheets

The counselor will distribute a house sheet on or immediately prior to the first day of the month. Students are to secure signatures when they participate in activities that earn points. Signatures must be given by the adult in charge of the event, the coach, or the event organizer. Parents or guardians, unless they fall into one of the previously mentioned categories, may not sign for their child's participation.

Extra service hours are intended to be a way for students to gain experience with outreach, providing assistance to those less fortunate than themselves through organized activities and community service agencies. These hours must be accrued through participation in organized non-profit or charitable activities. Extra service hours may be accrued at local non-profit or charitable organizations, and must be signed by an employee/worker at that agency. Please note that points documented for the following activities will **not** be counted as extra service points: help or assistance provided to friends, family members, neighbors, or acquaintances; working,

babysitting, raking leaves, decorating for holidays, helping out “for free;” assisting a teacher or house mentor with classroom or house activities, e.g., cleaning up a classroom, carrying school materials, etc.

Special cases or extenuating circumstances are to be discussed with the counselor **prior** to documenting associated points, and exceptions or adjustments may be considered. Regular participation in non-profit activities may be counted in a manner similar to stewardship activities, with a set number of points per month. This determination is at the discretion of the counselor.

House Shirts

House shirts will be available to all middle school students in their respective house color. St. Raphael will provide one T-shirt to all 6th graders and middle school students who are new to St. Raphael the Archangel School. Additional shirts, sweatshirts, and shirts for 7th and 8th graders may be purchased directly from Shaheen’s Department Store.

House T-shirts and house sweatshirts may be worn on house mentoring days, house meeting days, or spirit-wear days. Neither the house T-shirt nor the house sweatshirt may be worn as a part of the regular St. Raphael the Archangel uniform.

House Awards

Monthly Meeting Award

At each monthly house meeting, the house that has earned the most points will receive recognition and an award. These awards are generally offered during house mentoring time, and may include open gym time (schedule with PE teacher), recess time, popcorn and a movie, or another appropriate award as determined by the house mentor.

End of Year House Awards

The house award ceremony occurs at the house meeting prior to the sorting ceremony. Awards are given in the following categories:

- Highest stewardship point earner in each house
- Highest point earner in each house
- Highest compassion point earner overall
- Highest combined Counselor/Principal/Dean challenge point earner overall
- Highest total point earner overall
- Winning house