



House System



HOUSE SYSTEM

The house system at Berlin Metropolitan School is the central tenet of our pastoral care system. As an extension of our mission statement, the vertical house system helps each student reach his or her full potential intellectually, academically, and emotionally. Each house secures a sense of belonging to the house members, by providing opportunities for student participation and for student leadership roles.

By providing a structure conducive to enriching the lives of the house members, each student is supported with their social-emotional growth and supported with making responsible choices, increasing the ability to function in a group and offering guidance and support in preparation to meet the intellectual, social and emotional demands of young adult life.

The vertical house system is comprised of four distinct houses each named after the four elements: Earth, Fire, Water, and Air. Each house has one student house captain, two vice-captains and four tutor captains who lead the house through student leadership initiatives.

In addition to student leadership, each house is led by the Head of House, a member of our faculty, who is responsible for the care of each student in the House for the duration of their Secondary education. House tutors assist the Head of House in supporting house activities, promoting participation in the house culture, as well as managing the house tutor time in the mornings.

Together with the student leadership, students create their house vision as a group within their first house meeting. Students create a common house action with each new school year which guides their efforts to support both local and international charities and is tied to their specific vision and house element.

HEADS OF HOUSES

Sebastian Saunders, Head of Well-Being

Sebastian Saunders has over 8 years of experience in pastoral care leadership and brings with him a wealth of knowledge in the humanities subjects. Sebastian is a staunch advocate of student engagement through pastoral care and is inspired to bring an ethos of inclusion and meaningful action to the BMS House System.

David Brinson, Head of House Earth

David Brinson leads the Earth House and is committed to providing his Earth house students with a sense of identity within the Secondary school. In addition, he endeavors to form trusted bonds of mentorship and guidance to his Earth house students and to provide the framework for active and meaningful engagement.

Carmen Mena Elvira, Head of House Air

Carmen Mena Elvira joins the pastoral care team as Head of Air House after five years as an integral part of the science department. In doing so, Carmen seeks to use the strong connection previously cultivated with students to mentor them in achieving their goals and providing direction for strong character development. In doing so, Carmen is committed to reinforcing the central hallmark of a strong house system, by providing a balanced approach between academics and greater school life.

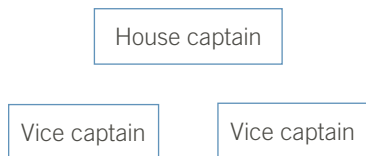
Leigh-Anne Robinson, Head of House Fire

Leigh-Anne Robison joins Fire House this academic year after 3 years of teaching within the English Department and as a house tutor at Berlin Metropolitan School. Leigh-Anne is an avid supporter of the house system as her core interest lies in the holistic well-being of secondary students. Her central focus as Head of House is establishing a space in school to foster healthy relationships and to infuse students with a feeling of belonging in a strong and vibrant school community. Moreover, she strongly believes that a constructive collaboration amongst each and every member of the house is paramount to our students' growth and overall happiness.

Hannah Bevis, Head of House Water

Hannah Bevis joins BMS this academic year as Head of Water House and as former Head of Year she is excited to join the pastoral care team aimed at student well-being. By instilling a positive house spirit with an enthusiastic team of Tutors, she hopes to foster a culture of participation, ambition and kindness in Water House, so that students thoroughly enjoy their time at school and their emerging role in both the local and global communities they are a part of.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE



HOUSE TUTOR TIME

House tutor time takes place everyday before lunch from Monday to Friday. This is an extremely important start to the school day as House Tutors form a strong bond with the students within their tutor group. The House Tutors role is one of caring for students while monitoring their progress both academically and socially; encouraging involvement and commitment both within the House System and their academic studies.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES- DAY	THURS- DAY	FRIDAY
House Time and School week outlook and Reminders	Mentoring Homework And Study Academic Support and Guidance	House Competition preparation Assembly preparation Discussion of house themes	House Rooms Meeting with Heads of House House Competitions	Assembly or House Time

HOUSE BLOG

Our school blog has a dedicated space for all house updates. Here, member of our community can follow the latest House points, outcomes of school competitions, as well as read the latest updates from the house actions both in Germany and abroad.

HOUSE POINTS

Competitions and activities are a central part in building the identities of Students as a member of their house and allow students to form bonds of friendship and collaboration. The House System works together with the academic side of the school helping our students develop into internationally minded people who have the desire and capabilities to help create a better and more peaceful world.

House points are awarded for the following:

Sports and the Arts

To help our students appreciate the importance of balancing different aspects of their lives, intellectually, physically and emotionally as well as encouraging students to become risk-takers and challenge themselves points are awarded for getting involved in the sports and the arts.

- Member of a school sport team
- Music
- Drama production

Community Spirit

Community Spirit is to help our students appreciate the importance of integrity, honesty and the ability to take responsibilities for their actions. These attributes include:

- Being a good role model
- Demonstrating a caring attitude towards peers
- Helping at School events
- Charity

Academic effort and achievement

BMS aims to develop students who are curious and have the skills for inquiry and research and encourage them to explore and develop their knowledge over a range of disciplines. We therefore award points for academic excellence and for those students who make the extra effort to perform to the best of their ability.

House Competitions

To build a sense of competition and camaraderie within the school students can get involved in House completions. Points are awarded for

- Sports day
- Chess
- Debating
- Football
- Drama and music
- Art

Individual House Points

- 1 house point for an isolated achievement e.g. Politeness, picking up litter, working hard on a piece of work etc.
- 2 house points for a sustained achievement e.g. sustained good behavior, an achieved target, hard work on a project etc.
- 3 house points for a special achievement.
- 4 house points for volunteering and helping at a school event.
- 5 house points for participating in a sporting event, drama production or showing initiative and leadership.

House Competitions

Throughout the school year the following competitions with take place: Sports day, Football, Chess, Debating and Music/Drama. The house points are awarded as follows:

First place - 200 points
 Second place - 150 points
 Third place - 100 points
 Fourth place - 50 points

Thursday competitions

Small competitions are organized during house time on a Thursday morning and points are awarded as follows:

First place - 100 points
 Second place - 75 points
 Third place - 50 points
 Fourth place – 25 points