



**ST. ALOYSIUS  
GONZAGA**



# HOUSE MANUAL





## **Table of Contents**



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<b>Section</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
<b>House System</b>	<b>3-6</b>
<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Life and History of Luigi Gonzaga</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>House Names, Colours and Translations</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Role of the Prefects</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Teacher Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>General Rules and Guidelines</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Awards, Recognitions, and Honours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>House and Individual Point Criteria</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	<b>18</b>



# St. Aloysius Gonzaga – House System      September 2005

## The House System

### A Definitions

1. St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School has been divided into the following ten houses:
  1. FORCA (Strength)
  2. VIRTUS (Courage)
  3. VERIDICUS (Faith)
  4. LACESSERE (Challenge)
  5. FIDELIS (Truth)
  6. EQUITAS (Justice)
  7. PAX (Peace)
  8. MORPHEUS (Dreams)
  9. PERSTARE (Perseverance)
  10. DUCTUS (Leadership)
2. House members are defined as all students and teachers who are affiliated with St. Aloysius Secondary School.
3. House members are defined as members who are currently attending St. Aloysius Secondary School.
4. House Prefects are leaders who are defined as the select group of students that further student life by taking a more active part in the house affairs and meet the expectations of the house members and staff.
5. No student or staff member may hold membership in more than one house.

## B. Rights of Members

1. All house members possess the following rights in their respective houses:

NOTE: students forfeit the following rights during a suspension

- i. The right to attend all house functions
- ii. The right to attend all house meetings
- iii. The right to vote at house meetings concerning house affairs
- iv. The right to attend all school related functions

## C. Responsibilities of Members

1. Inherent in the rights described in section B, all house members are expected to fulfill the following responsibilities:
  - i. Represent the school in a positive manner
  - ii. Represent their house in a positive manner
  - iii. Respect school property, all house members, and the community
  - iv. Be responsible for their behaviour at all times (Gonzaga Code of Conduct)
2. In the event that an egregious violation of house policy occurs, the house member may be subject to the standard school disciplinary action as outlined by board and school policy.

## D. Additional Expectations of House Members

1. In keeping with the value of House Life and in addition to all previously mentioned rights and responsibilities, members are expected to make further contributions to house affairs. House members are expected to:
  - i. Create a positive and welcoming environment

- ii. Participate in the Orientation of the incoming grade 9 class
- iii. Take an active role within the house and during house activities

#### E. House Lottery

1. Each spring a house lottery will be held for all grade 8 students coming to St. Aloysius Gonzaga in September. All students will be placed in one of the ten houses.

#### F. Amending the Constitution

1. If at some future time it becomes necessary to amend this constitution, the following procedure will be followed:
  - i. A House member may propose an amendment at his/her house's regularly scheduled, designated, and publicized meeting.
  - ii. The House membership may choose, by a majority vote, to recommend that said amendment receive further consideration by the executive committee
  - iii. The Prefects of said house will bring the proposed amendment to the next regularly scheduled Prefect meeting
  - iv. The House Prefects will then present the proposal to their general membership during a regularly scheduled meeting
  - v. At the following meeting the Prefects will vote on the amendment to be proposed to the executive committee
  - vi. In order for the amendment to be taken to the executive, it must receive a 2/3 vote
  - vii. At the following meeting, the executive committee will vote on the amendment
  - viii. In order for an amendment to be passed 2/3 of the executive membership must vote in favour

We the undersigned, on this 6th day of September in the year two thousand and five, hereby accept this as the constitution for the St. Aloysius Gonzaga House System.

_____	Principal	Mr. E. Crescenzi
_____	Parent Council President	Mr. J. Mckenzie
_____	Executive Member	Mr. J. Eagles
_____	Executive Member	Mrs. L. Zanatta
_____	Executive Member	Mrs. C. Coelho
_____	Parish Priest	Father Vid Vlastic
_____	School Chaplain	Sister Ursula
_____	Student Council Prime Minister	Francine Sheremeta

## Mission Statement

*For the Greater Glory of God*

The Houses are a distinguishing feature of the education that St. Aloysius Gonzaga provides. Each house will consist of 1/10 of the school's population. Each house will have Prefects who will help co-ordinate and inform the House of upcoming school events. The house system was established to create and instill a positive community and school environment. The Houses serve as a humanizing agent in the secondary school environment. Students will find it beneficial as they will grow with one another, respect the values of the school, be able to mentor and find role models, and mature as future Christian leaders.

### Dufferin-Peel Mission Statement

The mission of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, in partnership with the family and church, is to provide, in a responsible manner, a Catholic Education which develops spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social, and physical capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of the future, thus enriching the community.

## Life and History of Luigi Gonzaga

St. Aloysius was born in Castiglione, Italy. The first words St. Aloysius spoke were the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. He was destined for the military by his father (who was in service to Phillip II), but by the age of 9 Aloysius had decided on a religious life, and made a vow of perpetual virginity. To safeguard himself from possible temptation, he would keep his eyes persistently downcast in the presence of women. St. Charles Borromeo gave him his first Holy Communion. A kidney disease prevented St. Aloysius from a full social life for a while, so he spent his time in prayer and reading the lives of the saints. Although he was appointed a page in Spain, St. Aloysius kept up his many devotions and austerities, and was quite resolved to become a Jesuit. His family eventually moved back to Italy, where he taught catechism to the poor. When he was 18, he joined the Jesuits, after finally breaking down his father, who had refused his entrance into the order. He served in a hospital during the plague of 1587 in Milan, and died from it at that age of 23, after receiving the last rites from St. Robert Bellarmine. The last word he spoke was the Holy Name of Jesus. St. Robert wrote the Life of St. Aloysius.

He was the eldest son of Ferrante, Marquis of Castiglione in Lombardy, who was offered the spot of commander-in-chief to the cavalry of Henry VIII of England, but preferred the Spanish court. In Madrid Ferrante met Marta Tana who had come there with Isabel of Valois, Philip's third wife. He and Marta were married with incredible pomp in 1566, and Aloysius was born on March 9th, 1568. The boy began soon to practice prayer and penance, and in 1585 renounced his birthright in favour of his brother Rodolfo and joined the Society of Jesus. In 1591 plague broke out in Rome: Aloysius caught it by carrying the sick to hospital on his back, and despite a brief recovery died on June 21st, a little over twenty-three years old.

It is impossible to estimate Aloysius' (Luigi's) career without some idea of his appalling heredity and environment. The Gonzaga tyrants rank with the Visconti, the Sforza, and the D'Este. They entered history about 1100; the first Gonzaga, lord of Mantua, was Luigi (1328), whose third marriage took place on the same day as his son's and grandson's: the three brides entered Mantua together in triumph. Already their cliff-like fortress was looming over the city. These despots displayed an amazing mixture of qualities. The Gonzaga clan survived one assassination after another and became allied to most of the reigning houses; but Luigi Gonzaga (141), grimly surnamed 'The Turk,' kept up three printing-presses and had for clients men like Platina, or Mantegna, who painted the scenery--now at Hampton Court--for the plays to which the Gonzaga were devoted. The French Parliament petitioned against the introduction of these plays into France--they were a 'high school of adultery'--and no one would now dare paint the pictures with which some of the Gonzaga palaces were adorned. Yet these princes could care for agriculture, irrigation, checks on usury; and their insane debaucheries alternated with explosions of a genuine underlying faith. Their subjects, bled white by taxation, thrilled by their exotic pageantries, worshipped them till they broke into bloody but useless revolution.

Aloysius, convinced that such a society could not be reformed from within, and that he himself was 'a piece of twisted iron needing to be twisted straight,' tore himself out of his setting and joined the new Company of Jesus, both because of its vow of poverty and because it vowed not to accept ecclesiastical dignities. These involved not only elaborate exterior homage but, usually, vast revenues: a kinsman of his had been appointed archbishop at the age of eight, and made a cardinal at fourteen. But apart from the violent shock to his family, Aloysius, being an imperial prince and allied to all the royal houses, became tied up in legal negotiations that seemed interminable. Even when he had done with courts, insane flatteries pursued him--doctors, feeling his pulse, would exclaim at the privilege of feeling Gonzaga blood throb beneath their fingers.

But in 1588 a quarrel broke out between Rodolfo and Vincent, duke of Mantua, head of the clan, over the fief of Solferino; not all the grandees, lay and ecclesiastical, with their army of lawyers, could settle the matter; the imperial authority was involved; even war seemed probable. Aloysius had often helped his father, a reckless gambler, to settle his debts; and it was felt that only he, clear-headed, inflexible, unbribable, utterly unselfseeking, could be trusted to cope with the feud--although he was only just twenty-one. He went to Mantua and solved the business. There he was able to see his mother, whom he loved deeply, for his father by now had died. After his brother's death, Rodolfo ran riot; his exasperated vassals shot him, aged twenty-four, in 1593; his youngest brother Diego too was shot and ran to his mother's arms to die; she was stabbed and left for dead in the street but Aloysius, in a vision, cured her.

Aloysius himself had hoped for the missions overseas: others, that this youth of so mature a judgment would some day govern the Society of Jesus: but the plague cut short such hopes. Though the reek made him sick and faint, he served in hospitals heaped with dying men, obscene and blasphemous. If he had persevered his purity intact, his innocence was not ignorance; prudery in those days was impossible. He whose prayer was so deep never meant to be a recluse; if he could control quarrelling princes, so could he speak to the Roman rabble and lead them back to confession.

Such were the circumstances of Aloysius' life. They show the toughness of character that must have been his to have fought his way through such battalions of temptation, to victory. But human character alone would not have sufficed: it might have decided him to discard his coronet; but it would not have enabled his mother to see, before she died, his portrait above an altar and rays around his head. His life of prayer, and continuous war against that pride which he knew still remained deep in him, and his day-to-day response to grace, were what fitted him to become the patron of all young men, different though their circumstances are from those of the Gonzaga princes.

## House Names, Colours, and Translations

1. House names and colours are permanent features of the House
2. A House name and colour cannot be changed without ratification and approval by the executive committee – all executive committee members must vote in favour of this change

<b>English Translation</b>	<b>House Name</b>	<b>Colour</b>
1 Strength	Forca	Yellow
2 Courage	Virtus	White
3 Faith	Fidelis	Burgundy
4 Challenge	Lacessere	Red
5 Truth	Veridicus	Silver
6 Justice	Equitas	Gold
7 Peace	Pax	Orange
8 Dreams	Morpheus	Sky Blue
9 Perseverance	Perstare	Green
10 Leadership	Ductus	Royal Blue

## Role of the Prefects

1. Prefects will be designated to each house
2. Each House will have Two Prefects designated as House Heads
3. An additional two Prefects will be chosen as Head Prefects by the executive committee
4. Prefects will be identified by his/her Prefect Jackets/Pins
5. The roles of the Prefects will be:
  - i. count and tabulate house points
  - ii. schedule and lead house meetings
  - iii. organize and lead fall orientation and house activities
  - iv. attend regularly scheduled Prefect meetings
  - v. organize grade 8 parent night
  - vi. assist in parent – teacher night
  - vii. assist student council and other groups in the organization and running of:
    - school activities
    - dances
    - assemblies
    - pep rallies
    - masses
  - viii. monitor and supervise designated hallways
  - ix. assist in any other function or area that requires leadership service

## **Teacher Roles and Responsibilities**

1. Each House will have three to four supervisory teachers who will:
  - i. meet with House members during regularly scheduled meeting times
  - ii. assist Prefects with notification of House members of school and House events
  - iii. assist Prefects with the tabulation of House and Individual Leadership Points
2. All teachers will be designated to a House. The teacher will assist and participate in House and school events.
3. Teachers who are in a leadership position as a coach, organizer, or chairperson for a student team, group, club, organization, etc. will use the point criteria to complete the student's passport. Teachers are asked to follow the criteria provided in the points criteria section of this manual (see pages 16 & 17)
4. Each classroom teacher can award **one** student in each of his/her class per semester **one** point for effort in his/her class. Teachers may award a student a point based on the following criteria:
  - i. overall academic achievement
  - ii. academic and/or behavioural improvement
  - iii. consistent respect and behaviour
  - iv. display of leadership qualities and skills

## General Rules and Guidelines

### A. House Points

1. Each member will earn points for his/her house
2. House members will earn points for each calendar year
3. House points can be earned in the following ways:
  - sports
  - school clubs/organizations
  - attendance
  - uniform
  - academic achievement

### B. Individual Points

1. Students will earn points for their individual point total
2. Students cannot earn Individual points at the same time as earning community service hours
3. Students will tabulate his/her points each year
4. Students will keep track of all of his/her points that go towards his/her individual awards
5. Individual points can be earned in the following ways:
  - sports
  - school clubs/organizations
  - attendance
  - uniform
  - academic achievement

## C. Tabulation of House and Individual Point(s)

1. Students are responsible of collecting his/her points in his/her House Passport
2. Passports are the responsibility of the student to maintain
3. Points will be tabulated by House Prefects and House teachers at regularly scheduled meetings
4. House Prefects are responsible for posting the House totals 48 hours after the House meeting

## D. Awards and Recognitions

1. Students will be awarded annually for recognition of his/her involvement in the school
2. A House will be awarded top house annually— “Crescenzi House Champion” named after Gonzaga’s first Principal (Ezio Crescenzi 2000-2006)

## E. Penalties and Demerits

1. Students whose actions are perceived to be harmful, disrespectful, and/or negative will have points subtracted from both his/her house and individual totals
2. Students whose actions are determined to be serious the violating student will be penalized from participating in any house activities and functions for a time to be determined by the administration
3. Students whose conduct is detrimental to the house, the house system, the school, and/or the community will automatically be excluded from House events and functions
4. Students who are deemed to have acted in a manner of disrespect to a teacher, vice-principal, principal, Gonzaga Staff member, students, or a prefect will face severe consequences for his/her actions
5. Students who receive **three** or more demerits in a school year will be ineligible to receive any individual or house awards, prizes, or participation in any celebration
6. Students who falsely state or record any information in his/her Leadership Passport will lose all points towards his/her leadership certificate and honours and the house will lose all points that the offending student has accumulated
7. Students whose actions are not covered in the above criteria and are viewed as negative to the school, community, and/or the house will face a penalty for his/her action and possible hearing with the executive committee

## Awards, Recognitions, and Honours

### A. Individual

1. Students will earn points to achieve their leadership recognition
2. Students will strive to achieve three personal recognitions over his/her high school career:
  - i. Small Leadership 'G': 25 points
  - ii. Large Leadership 'G': 40 points
  - iii. Leadership Plaque: 80 points
3. Students will use his/her passport to record the points that he/she has earned each year
4. The student from each House who has earned the most points from his/her grade will receive a Leadership Certificate
5. The top grade 12 student from each House, who has earned the most points that year will receive a Leadership Certificate and a cash bursary

### B. House

1. The House whose members have earned the most points in that year will be awarded:
  - i. House Banner
  - ii. House Picture
  - iii. House Cup
  - iv. House Trip/Prize

## **House and Individual Point Criteria**

### **Sports: Individual/ Team**

Member	Captain
3 pts/team	+2pts/team

### **Student Council**

Rep	Minister	Cabinet
3pts	5pts	10pts

### **Prefects**

Prefect	House Head	Head Prefect
3pts	5pts	10 pts

### **Organization/Clubs/Committee**

Member	Executive
3pts	+2pts

### **Managers/Time Keepers/Helpers/Tech Crew/Volunteers**

2pts

### **School Play/Drama/Musicals**

Member	Leads
3pts	+2pts

**Nominated for Breakfast of Champions**

1pt

**Honour Role**

3 pts per year

**Student Academic Achievement**

1pt/semester/teacher/class

**Variety Shows/Coffee House/etc.**

1 pt/ participant / event

**Community Service**

1 pt/ for every 40 hours of community service accumulated

**Administration Award**

1pt/student

## Acknowledgment

The House system was designed to promote school spirit and leadership. The school, the community, and the students have striven to achieve an unique and superior form of education for the students attending St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School

The following students and staff were responsible for the creation and inception of the House system. The committee would like to thank the student body, administration, parent council, and the staff for their hard work and vision. This program would not be successful without a collaboration of effort from all areas of the school community.

### Staff

Mrs. Cathy Coelho

Mr. Jason Eagles

Mr. Kevin Greco

Mrs. Nadia Gabrielle

Mr. Tim Lariviere

Ms. Cherine Mutavdzija

Mrs. Lori Zanatta

### Students

Ashley Bettencourt

Jessica Diab

Rhea Fernandes

Ninette Shenouda

Ashley Tyrell

Kim Slongo

Sierra Yanush

