Welcome to Ocean Houses



A Forest Whales Pre-Visit Program

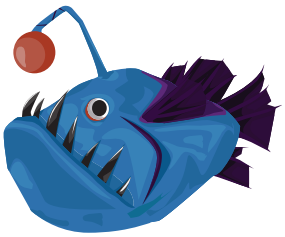
Clara is coming. Here's how to make her arrival something your students will never forget.

What you have:
Four house identity posters (Reef, Benthic, Pelagic, Tidal)
Ocean Houses Leaderboard
Leaderboard Markers (cut out and attach with masking tape or poster putty)

What to do, in order:

Week 1 -- Announce and assign.
Divide students into four mixed-grade houses. Aim for roughly equal numbers. Post the house identity posters in the hallway. Announce the houses over the intercom or in a school-wide assembly. Let the excitement build on its own. Kids can decorate the hallways according to each theme. Let them pick their house color. Fill your school with ocean-themed art.

Weeks 2 and 3 (or more) -- Run the competition.
Houses earn points for things your school already values like attendance, kindness referrals, returned forms, reading minutes, hallway behavior. You decide what fits your culture. You determine points for each item, and the points to reach each level (We recommend making each deeper level a little bit harder to achieve). Update the leaderboard in the hallway as often as you like. Kids will check it every day.



The day before Forest Whales arrives -- One announcement.
Over the intercom: "Clara arrives tomorrow." Nothing more needed.

Program day -- House colors.
Invite students to wear their house color if they have something. Name tags with house symbols work too. When students enter the gym for the inflation assembly, they sit together as a house.
The winning house gets announced on program day morning.
Everything else, like the whale, the fossils, the sessions... is for everyone.

Questions?
Reply to your booking confirmation email and Dave will get back to you or call 715-303-9407

Ocean Houses is designed to build cross-grade connections. When a fifth grader and a first grader share a house, cheer for the same mascot, and work toward the same goal, something happens that a standard school day rarely creates.