

# National Honor Society

## I. Criteria

Students are to be selected for membership in the National Honor Society on the basis of the four criteria of scholarship, character, leadership and service which will be used as the basis for election. Following are definitions of Scholarship, Character, Leadership and Service.

### A. Scholarship

Scholarship is a distinguishing feature or trait of an individual which is indicated by academic achievement.

1. Students in the Junior Class are eligible for membership, provided that each student has a cumulative weighted grade point average of a 4.15 or higher. Grades through the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester will be used to compute the final average; i.e., a final average of 4.15 or higher must be achieved based upon all courses taken for credit through the 4<sup>th</sup> semester. This evaluation will take place in late October/early November each year. Students in the Junior Class must currently be enrolled in at least three (3) honors level courses or higher (AP or dual enrollment courses) at the time of consideration for membership.

3. Students in the Senior Class, not previously elected to membership, are eligible, provided that each student has a cumulative weighted grade point average of 4.15 or higher through the 6<sup>th</sup> semester. This evaluation will take place in late October/early November each year.

4. Students in the Senior Class must currently be enrolled in at least three (3) honors level courses or higher (AP or dual enrollment courses) at the time of consideration for membership.

5. Students who meet the above criteria will be invited to complete an application to join the Arthur L. Johnson High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. Students invited to complete the application will be considered to have met the necessary criteria for "Scholarship" as part of his or her application.

6. Students must also complete an essay as part of the application process. The essay is used as a means for the applicant to let the committee learn about the student and his or her achievements. It is not used in the scoring of the applicants.

## **B. Character**

Character is what a person is; reputation is what a person is thought to be. Character is a distinguishing feature or trait of an individual which is indicative of mature, responsible behavior. Character may be demonstrated by possessing qualities such as honesty, responsibility for completion of obligations, considerate behavior toward others, appropriate conduct without major or repeated disciplinary infractions, regular school attendance without excessive or unwarranted absence or tardiness. Character extends beyond the classroom and consideration of a student's character will be based not only during school time, but also how a student interacts with the community. Input from the assistant principal who is in charge of discipline and attendance for the school may be sought by the committee.

## **C. Leadership**

Leadership is a distinguishing feature or trait of an individual which is demonstrated by the ability to influence others toward positive goals. Leadership may be demonstrated by holding a school or community position of responsibility, school office, or committee chairmanship and efficiently performing the duties required; influencing others by promoting constructive activities within the classroom, the school, and the community.

## **D. Service**

Service is demonstrated by participation in a service-oriented club or activity which entails the student's involvement inside or outside the school environment. Students should participate in service activities without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.

## **II. Selection**

A. The National Honor Society advisor will annually select a committee of five (5) certificated members of the faculty (teachers, nurses, librarian/media specialist, guidance supervisor and counselors, special services personnel and the building staff). The committee members will review the completed application and select the students for induction into the National Honor Society

B. An eligibility list for possible selection based on the "Scholarship" criteria as noted above will be prepared by the National Honor Society advisor. The National Honor Society advisor will distribute the eligibility list, rating forms, and instructions to all certified faculty members who have been selected as members of the National Honor Society Selection Committee (five total members).

1. To be eligible for membership, a student must have spent at least one full semester in the school.

2. Each student will complete the National Honor Society Activity Application and return it to the National Honor Society advisor. This sheet will be used to evaluate each student's leadership and service to the school and community. No late or incomplete applications will be considered. The essay must also be completed, though it is not used in the scoring.

C. Each NHS Faculty Council member will receive and review the list of eligible students and their completed applications and rate the students he/she knows in the criteria with which he/she is familiar (Character, leadership, service). Names of applicants will be redacted for committee consideration for leadership and service categories. Applicant names will be revealed for the character category consideration.

5 = Superior

4 = Above Average

3 = Average

2 = Below Average

1 = Poor

No Score = Not familiar with student \*

\* A "No Score" will not have an impact on the rating/review process

D. The rating sheets are not to be shared with students or parents. Final overall scores for the three categories may be shared with the student for advising purposes. The adviser may counsel a student on his or her application for future consideration (if a Junior) or to provide constructive feedback to the applicant.

E. The National Honor Society advisor is responsible for averaging the ratings for each student on the eligibility list who has successfully completed the NHS Application Packet. The individual ratings are comprised from the NHS Faculty Council members' ratings of each candidate. An average will be computed for each student for each of the three categories (character, leadership, service). A student must receive a cumulative average score of 12 out of 15 for three categories or he/she is eliminated from the selection process at this point. There is no rounding of the scores.

F. National Honor Society (NHS) Faculty Council

1. The NHS Faculty Council will determine National Honor Society selections.
2. The NHS Faculty Council will consist of five voting staff members appointed annually by the Principal/National Honor Society Advisor. Input may be solicited from other non-voting staff members.
3. The National Honor Society advisor is designated as a non-voting chairperson of the NHS Faculty Council.
4. The NHS Faculty Council will review the list of students and rating averages and consider additional information, which may have an impact upon the eligibility of any student listed. A majority vote of the Council is required for selection.
5. The rubric used for scoring will be provided to each candidate in the application packet

G. A letter will be sent to each candidate advising him or her about the outcome of the formal review by the NHS Faculty Council.

**III. Induction Notification and Recognition**

A. Seniors will be notified in late October/early November and Juniors will be notified in December.

B. Formal induction will take place in an appropriate ceremony in the winter of each year (late February/early March).

**IV. Rules and Regulations**

The rules and regulations of the National Honor Society will be followed. The National Honor Society is an organization sponsored by the National Association of Secondary Principals.

**V. Dissemination**

Information regarding National Honor Society regulations, as contained herein, should receive widespread dissemination through the school website, the guidance department, student handbooks and teachers' organizational manuals.

## **VI Dismissal**

Members should understand that they may be dismissed if they do not maintain the standards of scholarship, leadership, service and character which were used as the basis for their initial selection.

A It is the responsibility of the National Honor Society advisor to review the standing of members for compliance with National Honor Society standards, each semester.

B. Members of the National Honor Society are expected to attend regular meetings and participate in National Honor Society service activities (i.e. peer tutoring, food drives, etc.)

C. Students who do not maintain the National Honor Society standards of scholarship (a weighted grade point average of 4.15 or higher), leadership, service and character will be placed on probation by the National Honor Society advisor for one semester. If the standards are still not met after the probationary period, the National Honor Society advisor will so inform the NHS Faculty Council. If the NHS Faculty Council determines that further action is warranted, the member will be notified in writing of the violation and possible dismissal after a due process hearing. The member may be allowed to appear before the NHS Faculty Council and explain the reason why the standards have not been maintained.

D. Seniors who have been put on probation for the second semester of the senior year for failure to maintain a weighted GPA of 4.15 or higher will be reviewed after the third marking period. If the scholarship standard has not been met, the student may be dismissed from the National Honor Society after a due process hearing (see C above).

E. In lieu of dismissal, the NHS Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

F. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member. The violations include but are not limited to DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school related activities or in the community. Members may be granted a due process hearing before the NHS Faculty Council prior to dismissal (see C above).

G. Offenders of the school code of conduct and attendance policies will receive a written warning notification. If the member is involved in another violation of the code of conduct, the member may be considered for dismissal.