**Member Selection Procedures**

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character that were the basis for their selection.

A candidate for membership must first be selected by the Faculty Council and then inducted at a special ceremony to become an active member of the chapter.

Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

1. Students’ academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.

2. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e.,candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Candidate’s Form for further consideration.

3. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.

4. The Faculty Council shall review the Candidate Forms, faculty evaluations and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

**Selection Criteria**

**Cumulative GPA.** The scholarship requirement set by the National Council is based on a student’s cumulative grade point average. The phrase “cumulative grade point average” refers to the total academic performance as demonstrated by the grades received by the student while in attendance at the school where the chapter is found. In all cases regarding the Scholarship criterion, only those students who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 (on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent standard of excellence, or a higher cumulative average set by the Faculty Council.

These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

**Leadership.** The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection.

“To meet the leadership criterion for NJHS, a student must name three (3) leadership roles at school or in the community achieved since the sixth grade [in a 6–8 school] and indicate the roles and the name of the adult who supervised each of these activities on the Candidate Form. More than three roles may be listed, but there must be three verifiable listings to be selected to our chapter.”

A student exercises leadership when he or she:

• Is resourceful in proposing new solutions, applying principles, and making suggestions

• Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities

• Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit

• Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school

• Is able to delegate responsibilities

• Inspires positive behavior in others

• Demonstrates academic initiative

• Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability

**Service.** Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation.

 “To be selected as a member of our chapter, a candidate must demonstrate on his or her Candidate Form, the completion of ten (10) hours of service undertaken at school or in the community since the start of sixth grade.”

The student who serves:

• Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, and is willing to make sacrifices to offer assistance

• Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities

• Enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school

• Is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition

• Does committee and staff work without complaint

• Participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, religious groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged.

• Mentors in the community or students at other schools

• Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

**Citizenship.** The student who demonstrates citizenship:

• Understands the importance of civic engagement

• Has a high regard for freedom and justice; respects the US form of government (representative democracy); and respects the law for all citizens at the local, state, and federal levels

• Demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations, or school clubs.

**Character.** National Junior Honor Society is a member of the

Character Counts!™ Coalition and supports and recommends the use of a multi-faceted definition of character known as the Six Pillars of Character.

A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

The student of character:

• Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability, etc.)

• Cooperates by complying with school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct

• Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously

• Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity, and reliability

• Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others

• Complies with instructions and rules, and displays personal responsibility

Our chapter of NJHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex (gender), and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

**Discipline and Dismissal:**

It is the responsibility of the chapter adviser to periodically review the standing of members for compliance with Honor Society standards and for fulfillment of chapter obligations as described in the chapter bylaws. Members of the chapter should understand fully that they are subject to dismissal if they do not maintain the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character that were used as a basis for their selection. When a member falls below any of the standards by which he or she was selected or fails to fulfill chapter obligations, the adviser should inform the errant member in writing of the nature of the violation, the time period given for improvement, and provide warning of the possible consequences of nonimprovement, i.e., consideration of dismissal or additional disciplinary measures. If the student does not improve in the specified time, that student is subject to whatever disciplinary measures are considered appropriate by the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council can discipline members by placing them on warning (referred to as suspension or probation) during which time they are considered to be “not in good standing” with the chapter, although they still retain membership. Such warning periods are generally for a specific duration of time after which regular membership is restored. A member can never be dismissed automatically for failing to maintain standards, not meeting member obligations, or even being found guilty of violating school rules or the law. A written notification and hearing are called for in Article X, Section 4 and the hearing must be conducted by the Faculty Council to dismiss a member

Prior to any vote on dismissal, the Faculty Council should review all facts thoroughly before any action is taken. If the council determines that the facts warrant consideration of dismissal,

the member should be notified in writing of the violation, the possibility of dismissal, and the need for scheduling a hearing with the Faculty Council. The hearing is identified in the NJHS constitution as a right of membership, is guaranteed as due process as identified by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and requires the chapter to notify the member of the action being contemplated, the reasons for the action, the date and time of the hearing, and the opportunity for the member to respond either in writing or orally. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser. The Faculty Council’s decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies. As stated in Article VIII, Section 7, a student who is dismissed or who resigns is never again eligible for membership in NJHS (see www.nhs.us/constitutions).