

National Honor Society Selection and Membership Guidelines

Scholarship

As in the past, student candidates are determined based on their cumulative G.P.A. at the end of the third term of their sophomore, junior, and senior years. Once it has been determined that the student meets the grade requirement, he or she must then demonstrate possession of the other three criteria of NHS--leadership, service, and character. Keep in mind, admission into NHS is not a guarantee. The purpose of the organization is to recognize students who exhibit extraordinary academic achievement, make valuable personal contributions to the school and community while also maintaining high moral standards.

Leadership

In the past, the leadership qualification was determined by participation in a set number of school or outside activities. While such participation can be an indicator of leadership, it does not adequately represent a student's true leadership ability. In addition to participating in **multiple** in school and out of school activities, students must also explain how such participation indicates their personal leadership qualities. The Faculty Council believes students should be involved in a **minimum** of three activities to be able to demonstrate a commitment to both the local and school community; however, leadership is not demonstrated exclusively through participation in extracurricular activities. On a daily basis, leadership can be demonstrated in the school and classroom. For that reason, faculty members will be asked to rate eligible students on the leadership demonstrated by students both in their classrooms and in the school at large. The faculty council will then examine the information provided by the student and by faculty members for the following qualities:

- * Reliability, dependability
- * Positive attitude
- * Ability to work with others
- * Initiative, resourcefulness
- * Performance in school offices/activities

Character

Faculty impressions of students have always been a part of the selection process and will continue to be so under the revised guidelines. However, rather than having faculty members select from eligible or ineligible as the only ratings for students, they will have a scale on which to assess the character of individual students as well as list of the traits students are expected to demonstrate. Additionally, school disciplinary records, including unexcused absences and tardies, will be examined as part of the character evaluation process. The qualities deemed important in the determination of character are as follows:

- * Integrity, honesty
- * Courtesy, respect
- * Responsibility
- * Trustworthiness
- * Cooperation

For each of the qualities listed under character and leadership, the faculty will be able to evaluate students on a scale of 1-5 based on the following descriptions:

- 5-Exceptional candidate, student is of **outstanding** character/leadership
- 4-Student is of **above average** character/leadership
- 3-Student is of **average** character/leadership
- 2-Student has **below average** character/leadership (comment necessary)
- 1-Student **lacks** character/leadership (comment necessary)

Service

Service activities are those that are done for or on behalf of others (not including immediate family members) for which no compensation is given. Students are expected to have accumulated a total of 36 service hours by the time of the selection of members. Members are also required to participate in the group service project, which may vary from year to year.

Induction Process

1. Cumulative grade point averages are calculated at the end of the third nine week period (when the grade change period has passed, ten days after report cards are distributed).
2. Prospective members will be notified of their initial eligibility, based on GPA, and membership material packets will be distributed.
3. The due date for the materials will be printed on the membership packet and are due no later than 3:00 p.m. of that day. Due to the time needed to prepare the information for faculty review, materials submitted after this date CANNOT be considered since those students will not have the necessary faculty input.
4. The faculty advisor will distribute a list of eligible students to the entire faculty and request their input as to their character and leadership qualities as demonstrated during the school day as well as during school related activities. A rating scale will be provided and each student will receive a composite score based on the faculty response that will then be presented to the faculty council.
5. A five member Faculty Council, selected by the Principal, will review each candidate's service, leadership, and character as indicated by their election information and the faculty ratings. All names will be removed from the data sheets and faculty composite scores before review by the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council may postpone a vote on a particular candidate for the purpose of clarifying information.
6. Letters will be sent to parents and students notifying them of the selection. All students, regardless of outcome, will be notified.
7. An induction ceremony will be held in the high school auditorium, on a date chosen by the Principal.

Disciplinary/Dismissal Procedures

All members, during their induction ceremony, pledge to uphold the high standards of the National Honor Society; therefore, any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service, may be dismissed from the Brentwood High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. According to the NHS handbook, dismissal is warranted when:

performance falls below the acceptable levels of any of the standards by which the student was selected, when the member fails to fulfill chapter obligations, or when the member is found guilty of violating school rules or the law.

In such instance, the following steps will be put into effect:

1. For all offenses, the member shall receive a written warning from the chapter advisor and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. During such time the student is considered to be on probation.
2. For offenses involving a flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, where a probationary period is not appropriate, a warning will not be given and the student will be notified in writing of their consideration for dismissal.
3. The member and advisor will discuss the written notification in a conference.
4. Prior to dismissal, the member will be offered a hearing with the Faculty Council to determine whether or not the student's actions violate the standards of NHS and warrant disciplinary action, which may include a warning, a probationary period, or dismissal.
5. Once the student has been given the opportunity to present his or her side of the situation, the Faculty Council will vote on whether or not discipline is needed as well as the disciplinary action. A majority vote is required to dismiss a student.
6. A letter of dismissal will be sent to the principal, students, and parents.
7. Once dismissed, a student will not be considered for readmission to NHS.