

National Honor Society Selection Guidelines

Scholarship

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

Leadership

Students will have the opportunity to list leadership positions held in activities both in and outside of school; however, we acknowledge that leadership is not only shown by holding an office or title. For that reason, students have the opportunity to explain how they demonstrate leadership in their daily activities at school through their completion of the NHS essay. Additionally, 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. The national organization identifies a student who exercises leadership as demonstrating the following:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Shows 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

Character

As with leadership, students will have the opportunity to explain how they demonstrate character in their daily activities at school through their completion of the NHS essay. Faculty members will be asked to rate eligible students on the character they demonstrate 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. The national organization identifies a student who possesses positive character as one who demonstrates the following:

- Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise and stability)
- Cooperates by complying with all school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct
- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity
- Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern and respect for others
- Complies with instructions and rules, and displays personal responsibility

For character and leadership, a scale of 1-5 will be used by the faculty to evaluate the students they know.

- 5-Student is an exceptional candidate
- 4-Student is of above average character/leadership
- 3-Student is of average character/leadership
- 2-Student is a 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 36 service hours by the time of the selection of members. Additionally, current members are expected to participate in our group service project, typically held at the Stuart Avenue Food Bank.

Selection Process

1. Preliminary eligibility is determined by the student's GPA at the end of the third grading period of their sophomore, junior and senior years.
2. Selection materials and instructions are distributed to students during a meeting with the faculty advisor(s) where they are presented with an overview of the completion of the form and given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the requirements of membership, the information forms, and the selection process.
3. The faculty advisor(s) 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. Each student will receive the average score for leadership and character. The faculty rating forms are confidential. While students will be told the nature of any comments for scores of a two or under, they will not be told the faculty member making the comment.
4. A five-member Faculty Council, selected and/or approved 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 average scores before review by the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council may postpone a vote on a particular candidate for the purpose of clarifying information. In extenuating circumstances, such as the death of a family member or other catastrophic event, a candidate's identify may be revealed if such situations affect a particular candidate's ability to meet the standards. The NHS advisor(s) are not voting members on the council.
5. Letters will be sent to parents of students notifying them of the selection. Nonselected students will meet with the faculty advisor to be notified of their nonselection and the reasons for the Faculty Council's decision. All students, regardless of outcome, will be notified.
6. A spring induction ceremony will be held in the high school auditorium. Students must be inducted to be considered a member.