

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INFORMATION

Note: National Honor Society Tutoring is available on Mon-Thu 7:20 - 7:50 am Room 16

Membership in the National Society has become recognized as one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a high school student. Membership is, however, more than an honor. Induction carries a maximum responsibility of continued academic excellence and code of conduct, and should be considered the beginning of an obligation, not merely the successful culmination of an effort to achieve recognition and honor. The basic criteria for Moreau Chapter of the National Honor Society is as follows:

1. Only juniors and seniors are eligible.
2. Students must have at least a 3.5 cumulative scholastic average in high school.
3. Students must be in attendance at Hanson for one semester.
4. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of **Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character** as outlined in the National Honor Society Handbook.
5. The selection of members to the Chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council composed of five teachers, representing different departments in the school, excluding the chapter advisor.
6. Membership is an honor, not a right. Final decision for membership is made by the faculty committee.
7. Students who fail to pass muster of the faculty council can again be considered for admittance the following year.

The basic criteria for the Pope John Paul II Chapter of the National Junior High Society are as follows:

1. Only seventh and eighth grade students are eligible.
2. Students must have at least a 3.5 cumulative average in junior high school
3. Student must be in attendance at Hanson for one semester
4. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character
5. The selection of members of the Chapter shall be the majority vote of the faculty council composed of junior high teachers, excluding the chapter advisor.

Students who are inducted into the Pope John Paul II Chapter are required to be involved in the Chapter's service program of maintenance of the grounds of Hanson Marian Grotto and a yearly cleaning of graves at the Franklin Cemetery.

Students inducted into the NHS Moreau Chapter and NJHS Pope John Paul II are required to be involved in the Chapter's service program of peer tutoring. They are reviewed every nine weeks by the faculty advisor and must uphold the high standards of the society. They must maintain a minimum scholastic average of 3.5 and live up to the character, leadership and service ideals of the National Honor Society.

A member who falls below the 3.5 scholastic average is placed on probation and has the next grading period (9 weeks) in which to bring his average up to standards of the Society. The

faculty advisor will hold a conference with the student at the point of probation to discuss how he/she can best improve his/her grades. Parents are notified by mail of this probation. He/she can no longer wear the National Honor Society emblem nor use the membership on college transcripts. Dismissal from the Society is pending until the Faculty Advisory Committee can review the situation and make a decision which will be forwarded to the principal for final approval of the recommendation.

Membership

National Honor Society (NHS) and **National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)** are more than just an honor roll. The Honor Society chapter establishes rules for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of: [Scholarship](#), [Service](#), [Leadership](#), and [Character](#) (plus [citizenship](#) for NJHS). These criteria for selection form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built:

Scholarship:

Students who have a cumulative grade point average of 85 percent, B, 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent standard of excellence, or a higher cumulative average set by the local school's Faculty Council, meet the scholarship requirement for membership. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, and character (and citizenship for NJHS).

Service:

This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.

Leadership:

Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

Character:

The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others, and generally maintains a good and clean lifestyle (e.g. see social events student policy below).

Citizenship:

The student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of civic involvement, has a high regard for freedom, justice, and democracy, and demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations, and school clubs.

Specific standards for these criteria may vary from one school to the next. Such variations are acceptable as long as they do not fall below the national standards set by the National Council

of the NHS and NJHS. All chapters are required to write down the criteria and procedures used in their local selection processes. The Honor Society adviser maintains copies of the local procedures and has them available upon request. Any student in grades 10 through 12 in a school with both an official charter of the National Honor Society and an affiliation with the national office is eligible for consideration for membership in NHS. For NJHS, any student in the second semester of the sixth grade or grades 7 through 9 in a school with both an official charter of the National Junior Honor Society and an up-to-date affiliation with the NJHS national office is eligible for consideration for membership in NJHS.

Once a school has established a chapter, all membership selection for individual students is handled through the local school chapter.

Selection Procedure: NHS & NJHS

The following is an overview of the Recommended Selection Procedure that appears in a more substantial version in the national handbooks for NHS and NJHS. The recommendations that appear below best represent the guidelines found in the national constitutions of the Honor Societies, however local chapters are given some flexibility when creating their own local selection process. **Local variations can be accommodated as long as they are not contrary to the guidelines found in the national constitutions and handbooks.**

The current *NHS* and *NJHS Handbooks* provide an outline of the Recommended Selection Procedure for all chapters. As a quick review, here are some of the most significant points to keep in mind:

1. The selection procedure should be determined by the local Faculty Council (the five member selection committee facilitated by the chapter adviser who sits as the sixth, non-voting member of the group), approved by the principal, and *must be published* and available for review by students, faculty, and parents.
2. As the first *step* in the process, students' academic records should be reviewed to determine those persons who are **scholastically eligible** for membership, *i.e.*, those persons who meet the required cumulative GPA standard. The GPA used at the local level cannot be set below the national minimum standard outlined in the national constitution, and, once set, must be applied fairly and consistently to all candidates.
3. Students who are eligible scholastically (*i.e.*, "candidates") should be notified and informed that for further consideration for selection to the chapter, they may complete the **Candidate Form**. This form outlines the candidate's accomplishments in the areas of Service and Leadership (a sample of this form can be found in the current handbook; note, this form should *not* be referred to as an "application"; additional sample forms are also found in the "Adviser Zone" on www.nhs.us). Many chapters offer "help sessions" for candidates providing assistance in properly filling out their forms. Care should be taken to follow the established guidelines and time schedule for completing and submitting the forms. It is further recommended that both students and parents sign these forms when submitting them, indicating that the content is both complete and accurate.

4. If **additional faculty input** would be beneficial, all faculty members can be invited to make comments on candidates, most often done on a **Faculty Evaluation Form**. It is important to note that the actual selection of new members must be made by a vote of the five appointed members of the Faculty Council. Consequently, point totals or averages of the faculty ratings are not to be considered as 'votes' or the sole determinants of membership, but should, instead, be reported to the Faculty Council to add to their information when considering selections. Faculty members should consider this input in the most professional manner and consequently be able to substantiate claims, in particular those low ratings provided, with professional actions. All input from faculty should be signed, but may remain confidential as per commentary in the handbook. See the October, 1994 edition of *Leadership* magazine or the newest handbooks for additional information on the use of faculty evaluations in your selection process. (A recommended form is available in the Adviser Zone or upon request from the national office.)
5. The Candidate Form should be reviewed by the Faculty Council, along with any other verifiable information about the candidates relevant to their consideration for membership. Some Faculty Councils may wish to interview candidates personally. The leadership, service, and character (and citizenship for NJHS) of *all* candidates should be reviewed carefully. Faculty council members are encouraged to deliberate in order to guarantee that their decisions are based on accurate and complete understandings of all information presented for review. With the vote on each candidate, those candidates receiving a **majority vote of the faculty council** should be invited for induction into the chapter. All candidates identified and listed as "not selected" (i.e., those who do not receive the majority vote of the faculty council) should have a list of those criteria not met by the individual candidate listed next to their name to assist the adviser and principal in handling inquiries regarding non-selection.
6. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser is required to report to the **principal** the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations for approval. Lists of selected and non-selected students, as well as reasons for non-selection may be incorporated into this meeting. This will assure the support of the administration prior to any notification.
7. Chapters should consider formal notification of all selected candidates and their parents to inform them in writing about selection and the timing of the induction ceremony. Schools should also seriously consider the method by which students who are NOT selected are informed about their non-selection to see that this method is both timely and considerate of their well-being.
8. To finalize the plans for induction, steps should be devised for verification of new membership, acceptance of the invitations for membership, and attendance at the induction ceremony.

Additional discussion of the selection process can be found in the *NHS* or *NJHS Handbook*, both in the [constitution](#) and the commentary. The process noted above has undergone significant review by school administrations and the courts and contains the best recommendations to date for procedures for all chapters.