**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

**2018**

Membership in the National Society is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a high school student. Membership is, however, more than an award. Induction carries the responsibility to continue academic excellence and honorable conduct for life. Membership should be considered the beginning of an obligation, not merely the successful culmination of an effort to achieve recognition.

***Membership***:

Juniors and seniors who have been at Hanson for at least one semester and have a 3.5 cumulative GPA in high school are considered for induction in the **Moreau Chapter** of NHS. National Honor Society (NHS) is more than just an honor roll. The Moreau Chapter establishes criterion for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

**Scholarship**: Students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) as set by the Faculty Advisory Council, meet the scholarship requirement for membership. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

**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 the social events policy in the student handbook).

***The Selection Procedure***:

1. The selection procedure is determined by the local Faculty Advisory Council (the five member selection committee facilitated by the chapter adviser who sits as the sixth, non-voting member of the group). The procedure is approved by the principal and is published here, available for review by students, faculty, and parents.

2. As the first step, students’ academic records are reviewed to determine those who are scholastically eligible for membership, *i.e*., students with a minimum 3.5 GPA at the close of the second 9-week period of the junior year or senior year.

3. Students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., "candidates") are notified and informed that for further consideration, they must complete an Activity Form. This form outlines the candidate's accomplishments in the areas of Service, Leadership and Character—through a writing sample on the content of personal character. Care should be taken to follow the established guidelines and time schedule for completing and submitting the forms. Both students and parents sign these forms before submitting them, indicating that the content is both complete and accurate.

4. Additional faculty input may be collected for review by the Faculty Advisory Council. 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 Advisory Council. Faculty members consider this input in the most professional manner.

5. The Activity Form is reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Council, along with any other verifiable information about the candidates relevant to their consideration for membership. The leadership, service, and character of *all* candidates is reviewed carefully. Faculty Advisory Council members 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 are invited for induction into the chapter.

6. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser is required to report to the principal the results of the Faculty Advisory Council's deliberations. Lists of selected and non-selected students, as well as reasons for non-selection are incorporated into this notification.

7. The Advisor sends formal notification in writing of selection or non-selection to candidates and their parents. Selected student are notified of the timing of the induction ceremony. Special care and sensitivity for the non-selected students are taken in this part of the process.

8. **Appeals** - Appeals may be considered by the principal. Non-selected candidates may appeal by letter within one week of receiving notice. The principal will,

* review the letter and Activity Sheet of the appellee,
* review a summary of the advisor’s notes from the Faculty Council session,
* consult with the council and advisor regarding their decision-making process.

The principal will have the power to determine whether or not the selections process was followed according to the handbook. Outcomes are limited to the following:

1. If the principal finds no irregularity or determines the process was followed correctly, the appeal will be rejected and the decision upheld. This finding is final and no further appeals are afforded.
2. If the principal finds irregularities or determines the process was not followed correctly, the Faculty Council will be charged to reconsider the appellee for induction. A letter detailing the findings on appeal will be reviewed by the council during reconsideration. The second decision by the Faculty Council is final and no further appeal is afforded.

If no appeal has been registered by the deadline, all records pertaining to the selection will be destroyed.

***Induction and membership*** : Once selected, students will be inducted into the society during an induction ceremony where new inductees will pledge to maintain a life of honor that is commiserate with membership. Members are required to be involved in the chapter’s service program of peer tutoring. Members who do not attend to their tutoring duties will not be eligible for the society privilege of exemption from exams. The standing of members is reviewed each nine weeks by the faculty advisor.

**Probation** - A member whose behavior falls below the standards of honor to which he/she has pledged is placed on probation for a period not to exceed nine weeks. Some examples of honorable behaviors are enumerated in the Hanson Student Honor Code. However, honorable behaviors are not limited to those listed in the code. A member whose GPA falls below the required 3.5 scholastic average is placed on probation and has the next grading period (9 weeks) to bring his/her average up to the standard 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 behavior and/or grades. Parents are notified by mail of this probation. During probation, the member is no longer in good standing with the society. He/she can no longer wear the National Honor Society emblem nor be involved in any society activities. The member who fails to rectify the deficiency in his/or behavior and/or grades is a candidate for dismissal.

**Dismissal** – Consideration of dismissal from the Society is a function of the Faculty Advisory Council, with final approval of the principal. Members can be dismissed for failure to rectify probationary issues or for the flagrant violation of the society standards which do not require a probationary period. The Faculty Advisory Council will review the situation and make a decision which will be forwarded to the principal for final approval. Members and their parents have a right to address the Faculty Advisory Council at the time of deliberation. The decision of the committee becomes final with the confirmation of the principal.