

Bylaws of the Canton High School Chapter of the National Honor Society

This chapter is governed by the general guidelines as stated in the National Constitution of the National Honor Society

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 - The name of this organization shall be the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools (NHS).

Section 2 - The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in students of secondary schools.

Section 3 - The NHS shall be under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by vote of the Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2 - Membership shall be known as active and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3 - Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 4 - A National Honor Society member who transfers to another school and brings verification to the new school adviser shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 5 - Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Section 6 - The description of the selection procedure shall be published on the school's website and be available to all students and parents of the school. The selection process shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of the NHS.

ARTICLE III - SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1 - To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of those classes (sophomore, junior, senior) designated as eligible in the chapter bylaws. (Freshmen [ninth graders] are not eligible.) Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester.

Section 2 - The minimum standard for scholarship shall be a cumulative scholastic average of at least 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale). This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy.

Section 3 - All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such a standard will have the opportunity to apply for selection. Applicants are responsible for turning in their application by the due date. Their eligibility shall then be considered on service, leadership, and character.

SERVICE is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or for the benefit of others without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service.

- Volunteers, provides dependable and well-organized assistance and is gladly available
- Willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others
- Is willing to take on difficult tasks
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Does committee and staff work without complaint
- Participates in some activity outside of school
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers and students

LEADERSHIP

- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive influence on peers and is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies a positive attitude
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Conducts group activities effectively and efficiently
- Demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, and in other school or community activities

CHARACTER is probably the most difficult criterion to define. A person of character demonstrates respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring and citizenship.

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual and faithful both inside and outside the classroom
- Has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

Section 4- The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council based on the information received from the applicant and the staff.

Section 5 - The National Council and NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

ARTICLE IV - THE PRINCIPAL

Section1- The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2 - The principal shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as chapter adviser, who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3 - The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 4 - The principal shall review appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates, and disciplining or dismissal of members.

ARTICLE V - THE CHAPTER ADVISER

Section 1 - The chapter adviser shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

Section 2 - The chapter adviser shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions.

Section 3 - The chapter adviser shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

Section 4 - The adviser shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates, and disciplining or dismissal of members.

Section 5 - The chapter adviser shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

Section 6 - The chapter adviser shall be a non-voting sixth member of the Faculty Council.

Section 7 - The chapter adviser shall be a member of the faculty, appointed annually by the principal, and may serve consecutive terms.

ARTICLE VI - FACULTY COUNCIL

Section 1 - The Faculty Council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be a non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2 - The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section 3 - The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select new members, and consider non-selection, dismissal other disciplinary actions and warning cases.

ARTICLE VII - DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

Section 1 - Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Canton High School chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

Section 2 - If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3 - If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership; he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4 - Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, DWI; stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities.

Section 5 - Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council, student, or parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6 - In all cases of pending dismissal: a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held. b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member. c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser. d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy. e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 7 - In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS

Section 1 - The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president and secretary.

Section 2 - All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

Section 3 - A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter.

Section 4 - It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5 - The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6 - The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

ARTICLE IX: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 - The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 2 - The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE X: MEETINGS

Section 1 - Meetings of this chapter shall be held once each month.

Section 2 - All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings. Two unexcused absences from meetings each semester results in a written warning and three unexcused absences results in a referral to the Faculty Council for possible discipline and dismissal. Students must provide a reason to the adviser on the first day he or she returns to school. The adviser will determine if an absence is excused.

ARTICLE XI: ACTIVITIES

Section 1 - The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2 - All members shall regularly participate in these projects and attendance is required at the annual service project. If a student fails to participate in the annual chapter service project, the Faculty Adviser will refer that student to the Faculty Council for possible discipline or dismissal. The Faculty Council will determine if a hearing is warranted.

Section 3 - These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4 - The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE XII: EMBLEM

Section 1 - Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2 - Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 3 - Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor stole or other insignia adopted at the local level at graduation.

ARTICLE XIII: POWERS

Section 1 - The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2 - The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3 - These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles III and VII (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2 - Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society. Additional articles can be added as needed

Date of last approved revisions: September 2021