



# BROOKS WESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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The National Junior Honor Society Chapter of Brooks Wester Middle School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization. Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in five areas of evaluation: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Students are selected for membership by a majority vote of a five-member principal-appointed Faculty Council, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school each spring.

## **NJHS Selection Procedure**

Students in grades 7-8 who have attended the school for at least one semester are eligible for membership. For the first qualifying criterion, scholarship, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 95. Each spring semester, those students who meet this criterion are invited to complete a candidate packet that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's leadership, service, character, and citizenship. These packets will be distributed by students' English teachers the week of February 7-11, 2022, and are due no later than 4:30 on February 25, 2022. No late or incomplete forms will be accepted.

To evaluate the tenants of membership (service, leadership, character, and citizenship), the Faculty Council uses several forms of input. First, the candidate will compose an essay and reflect on the core values of the organization and their experiences that demonstrate each value's importance. Recommendations will be solicited and completed by three teachers and a non-family community member who have observed the qualities in the candidate. Finally, school disciplinary records are reviewed.

All information is carefully evaluated by the Faculty Council to determine membership. A majority vote of the council is necessary for selection. Candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection within two weeks of the submission deadline.

Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all the newly selected members. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance (or better) in all five criteria that led to their selection.

## **NJHS Tenants**

- **Scholarship**—Cumulative GPA refers to a student's overall academic performance, including core and elective classes.
- **Leadership**—This includes any number of offices a student may hold in school or community organizations, as well as within a classroom. Participation in positions of responsibility includes athletic team captains, section leaders in band or choir, or committee chairs in student groups. A student exercises leadership when he or she is resourceful in proposing new solutions, applying principles, making suggestions, promoting school activities, exercising a positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit, contributing ideas that improve the civic life of the school, delegating responsibilities appropriately, inspiring positive behavior in others, demonstrating academic initiative, etc.
- **Service**—This is considered to be those actions undertaken by the student that are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation. This student serves or volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities, represents the class or school in competition, participates in some activity outside of school such as scouts or religious organizations, volunteers services for the elderly or disadvantaged, etc.

- **Character**—A person of character demonstrates trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, care, and citizenship. This includes an outstanding record of conduct and behavior with regard to school and community rules, guidelines, and policies. The student of character consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior; cooperates by complying with codes of conduct; takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously; demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and reliability; regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others; etc.
- **Citizenship**—This suggests understanding the importance of civic engagement, maintaining high regard for rules, and demonstrating mature participation and responsibility through organizations and communities.

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a middle school student. Our chapter has worked hard to bring the accomplishments of outstanding students to the attention of parents, teachers, peers, and the community. Our chapter strives to give practical meaning to the Society's standards of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. These five ideals are considered as the basis for selection. No student is inducted simply because of a high academic average.

Membership, however, is more than an honor. It is an ongoing responsibility and an obligation to continue to demonstrate those outstanding qualities that result in a student's selection. Membership also carries a responsibility to the chapter. If our NJHS chapter is to be effective and meaningful, each member must become involved.

Candidates who are inducted into the Brooks Wester NJHS are expected to attend chapter meetings each six weeks, complete school and individual service projects, and maintain the same standard of excellence in the five ideals which serve as the basis for selection. Upon acceptance into the program, we encourage students to review the national constitution of the NJHS as well as local by-laws, both of which are available on the Wester Middle School website: <https://wester.mansfieldisd.org/extracurricular/clubsactivities>

Selection to the NJHS is a privilege bestowed upon students by the faculty of the school and is not considered a right inherent to any student. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council on the condition of having met the standards for selection established at the local level and based on the provisions of the National Constitution.

Sincerely,

Kourtney Gates, Principal

Shana Healer, Chapter Adviser

