Lyme-Old Lyme High School
National Honor Society

Bylaws of the Lyme-Old Lyme High School chapter of National Honor Society
Adopted November 18, 2022

Article I: Name

The name of this chapter shall be the Chapter of the National Honor Society of Lyme-Old Lyme High School.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of the Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Article III: Powers

Section 1. This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the NHS National Constitution. See www.nhs.us/constitutions

Section 2. The chapter adviser is given the authority of the chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 3. Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 4. Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member based on race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex (gender), and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation.

Section 3. Eligibility

. Candidates eligible for section to this chapter must be members of the junior or senior class. Eligible members of the junior class are invited to apply during the spring semester. Eligible members of the senior class are invited to apply during the fall semester.

a. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Lyme-Old Lyme High School. Special circumstances will be considered by the faculty council. If a student held membership at a previous school, this student must meet this chapter's eligibility requirements before membership resumes. Written confirmation and/or documentation from the previous school needs to be provided. (NHS Handbook National Honor Society Handbook 3.4.1.3 "Transferring Active Membership").

b. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 90.00. Starting with the class of 2026, candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 92.00.

c. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership and character.

Article V: Selection of Members

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council, which consists of at least 5 faculty members that represent a cross section of the teaching staff. The chapter advisor(s) shall have no voting power. All discussion and voting shall be and remain confidential.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held twice during the school year (eligible seniors during the fall semester and eligible juniors during the spring semester).

Section 3. Prior to the final section, the following shall occur:

. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.

a. All students who are eligible scholastically (candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit an application for further consideration.

b. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official input provided by the chapter advisor(s).

c. The faculty council shall review the candidate application, faculty input, and disciplinary records to determine those who fully meet the criteria for membership.

Section 4. Candidates become members upon receipt of the acceptance letter. A formal induction ceremony is held once a year in the spring semester. Members will receive an official NHS certificate of membership at the annual induction ceremony

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of their membership upon request.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will automatically be accepted for membership in this chapter so long as Lyme-Old Lyme Chapter of National Honor Society Eligibility requirements are met. Transferring students have a minimum of one semester to attain membership requirements. See Article IV section 3b.

Article VI: Obligations of Members

Section 1. Active members are to maintain the required cumulative GPA set by this chapter (see Article IV Section 3c), and must continue to demonstrate the qualities of character, service and leadership. Starting with the class of 2023, active members must complete a minimum of 2 hours of service per quarter or a cumulative total of 4 hours within a semester and submit required documentation.

Section 2. Active members are required to attend local chapter meetings. Active members who cannot attend a meeting shall email chapter advisor(s) and the chapter Vice President stating absence and reason for absence. An active member who fails to attend meetings will be issued a warning and counseled by the chapter advisor(s) and disciplinary action will be taken, if necessary.

Section 3. Participation in at least 2 chapter events is required. Quarterly students must complete and document a minimum of 2 service hours and document leadership rolls.

Section 4. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be granted the privilege of to wear honor cords at graduation.

Section 5. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall surrender the privilege of wearing honor cords at graduation

Article VII: Officers

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

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the second meeting of the school year. All active members in good standing are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot (Google Form). A majority vote shall be necessary to elect an 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.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings of the chapter, set agendas for the meetings, coordinate work, function as an intermediary, represent chapters at other meetings as required, take ultimate student responsibility for all chapter functioning.

Section 5. The vice-president shall fulfill the duties of president as circumstances require, maintain attendance records, oversee the number of community service hours rendered and monitor the mentor program. In addition, the vice-president will evaluate the need for developing new committees to help with the smooth functioning of the chapter.

Section 6. The secretary shall take minutes of all meetings, maintain accurate electronic records, and oversee publicity of chapter events and correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer develops and maintains all financial records and manage the NHS account and purchase orders and oversee all chapter fundraising activities. Annual NHS dues are the responsibility of the school and held within the principal's budget.

Article VIII: Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be every other Friday, opposite Student Advisory Council at 7:10 am in the Library Media Center. A calendar of all meeting dates are posted in the LOLHS National Honor Society Canvas course. This course is accessible to all current members. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the advisers.

Section 2. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.

Article IX: Activities

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year. The Lyme-Old Lyme High School National Honor Society chapter will be responsible each year for the LYSB Giving Wreath Toy Drive, a sports/athletic/Wildcat gear drive, and a teacher appreciation brunch.

Section 2. All member shall regularly participate in these projects.

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. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in service within our school or community that reflects their particular talents and interests and is documented and shared with the officers and advisers. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 5. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

Article X: Discipline and Dismissal of Members

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Lyme-Old Lyme High School chapter of the National Honor Society. Members of the National Honor Society are expected to maintain their academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership in their school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when they were selected, they will be given a written warning and a reasonable 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 that can include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Spring 2022 GPA: 90.0; Fall 2022 GPA: 90.0; Spring 2023 GPA: 92.0

Section 3. Violations of the law of school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to DWI; stealing; destruction of property; bullying; sexual harassment; cheating/plagiarism; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness) will receive a written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (faculty council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 5. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 6. In cases of pending dismissal:

a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge(s) against them at a hearing before the faculty council prior to any vote on dismissal. The member has the opportunity to present their defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, 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 presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members will not be able to wear honor cords at graduation.
d. The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
e. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered 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 XI: Ratification, Approval, and Review

Section 1. These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the administration.

Section 2. These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

Article XII: Amendments

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 V and X, which are developed by the faculty council with approval of the principal (selection and discipline).

Approved on: November 18, 2022