Bylaws for the Mariner Chapter of the National Honor Society

ARTICLE I: NAME
The name of this chapter shall be the Mariner Chapter.

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 Falmouth 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 advisor is given authority to supervise the administration of 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.
See Article V, Section 1 of the National Constitution.
Section 4. Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, 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 and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.
Section 3. Eligibility:

a. Candidates eligible for selection must be members of the junior or senior class.

b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to four semesters at Falmouth High School.

c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 95%.
d. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter must have a minimum of 30 hours of completed volunteer community service logged in the office.
e. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, service 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 majority vote of the Faculty Council which consists of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisor shall be the sixth, non-voting, ex officio member of the Faculty Council.

a. Faculty Council voting members shall serve for a term of 3 years, at which time they will rotate off the Faculty Council for a minimum of 3 years before being eligible for re-appointment.

b. Every attempt will be made to include a cross section of content areas.

c. Members of the Faculty Council shall remain anonymous unless disclosed voluntarily by the member him/herself.

Section 2. The selection of active members *from the senior class only* shall be held in the Fall.

Section 3. The selection of active members *from the junior class only* shall be held in late Winter or early Spring.

Section 4. Prior to selection the following shall occur:

a. Students' academic and service records, in cooperation with the Guidance Office, shall be reviewed by the advisor to determine eligibility for application for selection.

b. All students who are eligible shall be notified by letter and asked to complete and submit the Candidate's Form for further consideration. Submission of all materials shall be made online.

c. The faculty will be requested to evaluate candidates determined eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter advisor. *Submission of all materials shall be deemed confidential. Once submitted, students waive all rights to view any and all submitted materials, including teacher and non-teacher evaluations.*

d. The Faculty Council shall review the Candidate Forms, faculty evaluations and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

i. Since academic eligibility is a given, the Faculty Council shall focus on evidence of leadership, service (beyond the number of hours required for eligibility), and character.
ii. Personal experience of a Council member may be considered if it is direct and occurred within the past 12 months of application.
iii. The advisor shall only comment upon request of a council member, and only if the advisor has recent, direct personal experience with the candidate.
iv. The Council is authorized to assess the depth of any service evidence provided, as well as the breadth.
v. Evidence of leadership considered by the Council may include evidence from the classroom, clubs, student government, and sports. *This listing is not exclusive.*
vi. Evidence of leadership from significant outside activities may also be considered as long as demonstrated leadership within the school is also included.
vi. Evidence of character considered by the Council may include documented and/or observed interactions with classmates, teammates, coaches, faculty, club advisors, administration and support staff, examples of academic integrity, reaching out to peers not within the candidate's established group and/or disciplinary actions, or lack thereof. Qualities that demonstrate NHS worthy character include honesty, academic integrity, kindness, friendliness, selflessness, motivation, consideration, etc. *This listing is not exclusive.*
vii. Service or leadership activities for which the candidate received payment shall not be considered as evidence.

Section 5. Decisions on admission by the Faculty Council, upon approval by the principal, are final and not subject to appeal.
Section 6. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.
Section 7. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers *from* FHS, *upon request*, will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.
Section 8. An active member of NHS who transfers to FHS upon providing proof of his/her status, will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be $15.00. Dues will be payable to the chapter within 30 days of induction. Please make checks payable to *Falmouth High School*.
Section 2. Each new member shall sign and abide by the Falmouth High School (Mariner Chapter) National Honor Society Obligations Agreement. This Agreement is in effect for the duration of a member's active status.
Section 3. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service, good character, and leadership in his/her school and community.
Section 4. Members of this chapter annually shall participate for 8 hours in a chapter approved group service project(s).
Section 5. Members shall attend monthly meetings. Failure to attend meetings shall be grounds for disciplinary action that includes dismissal or placement on probation.
Section 6. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the gold honor cord at graduation.

ARTICLE VII: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS
Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Mariner Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of NHS is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership in his/her school and community.
Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect (currently 95%) when he/she was selected, he/she will be given a written warning from the advisor and allowed 4 weeks for improvement. If the grade point continues below standard at the end of the 4 weeks, then the member will be referred by the advisor to the Faculty Council for further action, including dismissal from the chapter.
Section 3. Failure to comply with the terms of the Agreement, violations of the law or school regulations and/or code of conduct, including those set forth in the Student Handbook for Falmouth High School, will result in a written warning and placement on a probationary status for a length of time to be determined by the Faculty Council.

a. Serious violations (such as theft, assault, being under the influence of drugs and alcohol, suspension from school) may result in immediate dismissal from NHS without a probationary term.

b. Less serious violations of FHS' Code of Conduct (such as use of profanity, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness) may result in an oral warning by the advisor, or written notice and referral to the Faculty Council for placement on probation. If the behavior does not come into compliance with NHS expectations, dismissal from the chapter by the Faculty Council is an option.

Section 4. In all cases of pending dismissal:

a. The member will receive written notification from the advisor indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.

b. The member will be given an opportunity to respond to the notification at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to any vote.

c. After the hearing, the Faculty Council will vote on whether to place the member on probation, subject the member to a disciplinary action as outlined in school policy, or dismiss the member from the chapter.

d. A letter outlining the Council's decision will be sent to the member and his/her parents/guardians.

e. A member who has been dismissed or resigns will not receive a cord at graduation and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society. This decision may be appealed in writing within 5 business days to the Principal whose decision will be final.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and chair of the induction ceremony committee.

a. An officer shall serve in his/her elected capacity until he/she graduates, unless he/she resigns or is dismissed from NHS membership.

b. An incumbent officer may run for another vacant position but must forfeit his/her current position to do so.

c. The faculty advisor may fill any unexpected vacancies in the Executive Committee by appointment until the next scheduled election. The principal shall approve any interim appointment.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting each school year. All returning members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for any vacant position. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

a. The president and vice-president shall be elected by a majority vote. If the first vote does not yield a majority, then there shall be a runoff election between the top two vote getters for each position.

b. The remaining three positions shall be elected by the members receiving the three highest number of votes. This group then shall meet to determine who wants what of the three positions. Any dispute shall be resolved by the advisor.

c. Descriptions of the duties of the officers shall be in a separate document as an attachment.

d. Officers and the faculty advisor shall collectively be known as the chapter's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall establish annual goals for

the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter. Any action of the Executive Committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter will be monthly on the first Monday of each Month at 2:35 p.m. at a place to be announced. Changes to this schedule will be announced by the secretary. Special meetings may be called by members of the Executive Committee with the approval of the advisor.

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

Section 3. Requests to be excused from a meeting shall be submitted to the secretary who then will obtain the approval of the advisor.

Section 4. The secretary shall publish an agenda 1 week before the scheduled meeting. Any requests for agenda items must be submitted to the secretary 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE X: SERVICE PROJECTS

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

Section 2. All members 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. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

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 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

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.

Section 2. Changes to **ARTICLES V and VII** must be approved first by the Faculty Council, advisor, and principal before going to membership for final approval.

Approved On: October 6, 2014
Amended and approved on February 3, 2020

Signatories to the Bylaws:

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Principal

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Advisor