

The National Junior Honor Society Whitesboro Chapter

Dear _____

The National Junior Honor Society has been in existence at Whitesboro Middle School for over 30 years. Recently the guidelines for eligibility and acceptance have been reconstructed to reflect the standards for excellence set by Whitesboro Central Schools. As of June, 2009, students entering the 8th grade class need a 93 cumulative grade point average which is calculated by averaging grades from the last two quarters of 6th grade and all 4 quarters of 7th grade to meet eligibility. All other guidelines for acceptance are explained below. I am pleased to inform you that you have met the **eligibility** standard of a 93 GPA and are invited to apply for membership.

In addition to academic performance, it is also important to meet the other requirements and then have your application reviewed by the Faculty Council who will bestow membership on those students they feel meet the standards of leadership, character, citizenship, and service. Please remember that acceptance into the National Junior Honor Society is a privilege not an entitlement.

The criteria of leadership and character will be determined by having staff endorse students they feel exemplify these qualities. Eligible students must receive a minimum of three endorsements from the staff at Whitesboro Middle School. Students will not solicit endorsements nor will they be told how many endorsements they have received or from whom. (I will manage this part of the application process.) Students will, however, be responsible for having two forms completed. First, they will ask one of their 7th grade teachers to write a letter of recommendation with the enclosed form. Teachers will pass the letters of recommendation on to me, NOT via the applicant. (Teachers are able to download the letter of recommendation form from the Middle School home page and each teacher is limited to writing only 5 letters of recommendation so ask early and have a back up plan).

The second form is important to help the Faculty Council review the service and citizenship criteria. The service record/activity sheet enclosed will list in-school activities, out of school activities, and community service activities performed in the school or the community during 6th and 7th grade. These activities must be signed by the adult that oversaw the activity, **not a parent**. The Faculty Council will be looking for at least two activities listed in each area. Finally, a short paragraph must be neatly written explaining why he/she feels that they exemplify the qualities of a National Junior Honor Society member. Remember the criteria for membership includes: scholarship, citizenship, leadership, character, and service.

All paperwork must be filled out **neatly and in pen**. Please feel free to ask those who will be signing to verify your activity of service records, to send you a quick note and signature and you may attach it to your application. Please plan ahead. Teachers/advisors/coaches whose signatures are needed maybe contacted through their school e-mail. As there are so many students on the track team, the coach will be given one list and he/she will initial those that he/she wants to endorse for their participation. So on your application, you simply need to list track as the activity and I will verify your participation and standing with the coach's list. Please read over everything in this packet carefully and be aware of the terms of membership, before deciding whether or not to apply. Please also know that membership into the National Junior Honor Society does not determine, nor is it required for, membership into the National Honor Society at the high school level. Being a member of the NJHS does require responsibility and commitment. Students need to uphold the standards of scholarship, leadership, and character to maintain their membership. In addition members are asked to perform a minimum of 5 hours of service each semester and to attend monthly meetings.

Your application with all attachments must be passed into Mrs. Butka in room 101 no later than **Friday September 14th**. Please remember that it needs to be signed by you and a parent/guardian. The application review process will be completed by the first week in October and the induction ceremony will take place on Wednesday October 17th.

If you or your parents have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact Mrs. Butka at school at 266-3100 after Labor Day or by e-mail at bbutka@wboro.org. Extra forms will be available from Mrs. Butka or by going to the Middle School home page, clicking on forms for parents and downloading the NJHS application.

Once again, congratulations for your academic achievement and eligibility. Good luck if you choose to apply.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Butka
Advisor of NJHS