



Eden High School National Honor Society®

Chapter By-Laws

What is the National Honor Society?

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921. It is important to understand that chapter membership not only recognizes students for their past accomplishments, but also challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

Membership is "an honor bestowed upon a select group of students by the faculty council..." in accordance with the National Honor Society Constitution, and *is not* a right accorded the academically eligible student. Membership is granted by a vote of a faculty council, appointed by the principal, representing the faculty as a whole. Admission into the National Honor Society is an award from the Eden High School faculty and, as any award, is a privilege and not a right of any student.

History of the National Honor Society

In 1921, the National Association of Secondary School Principals officially established the National Honor Society. Though many local and regional honor societies existed prior to 1921, no nationwide organization had been founded. Under the leadership of Dr. Edward Ryerson, principal of the Fifth Avenue High School, Pittsburgh, Pa., the organization grew from the original Alpha Chapter at the Fifth Avenue School to more than 1000 chapters by 1930. Equipped with a constitution, an emblem and motto, and a group of dedicated principals as coordinators, the new NHS organization quickly developed into one of the country's leading educational groups.

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One principle of the National Honor Society has guided its existence since its inception, and continues as its mission today: “To create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in students of secondary schools.” (from the NHS constitution) These purposes also translate in the criteria used for membership selection in each local chapter.

Who is Eligible?

Juniors and seniors who are enrolled as full-time students at Eden High School are eligible for consideration as members. In order to be academically eligible, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 95 or higher. Grade point averages are figured based on the student's performance from the start of earning high school credit (could be in eighth grade) through the end of the first semester of junior year for junior candidates and through the end of the junior year for senior candidates. Grade point averages are not rounded up. In order to be eligible, the student must have attended Eden High School for a minimum of one semester.

Eden High School Selection Process

The Eden High School chapter of the National Honor Society has developed its selection procedure to comply with national standards and guidelines. However, the selection procedure used at Eden High School may vary slightly from that of other schools, as national guidelines allow each chapter to modify its selection process to meet local needs. NHS is more than just an honor roll. The Eden HS National Honor Society chapter establishes rules for selection for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These criteria for selection form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built. “Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities”.

4 Steps in the Selection Process

1. In the early spring of each school year, the chapter adviser confirms grade point averages with the guidance office and compiles a list of those students who meet or exceed the grade point average requirement. The guidance office and administration confirm the eligibility list.
2. Academically eligible students in good standing will be given an NHS packet which includes information for those students who wish to continue the selection process. Included in the packet are a letter with details about the steps to be taken, information meeting details, a Student Activity Information sheet, essay, and signature sheet deadlines, selection process details, the By-Laws, and selection criteria. For further consideration in the selection process, eligible students must attend an information meeting and return the Student Activity Information Sheet, essay, and signature page by the given deadline. Receiving the NHS Packet is in no way an indication or guarantee of future selection.

3. **A faculty on-line survey** is conducted and each potential member is evaluated in the areas of leadership, service, and character. Faculty members will rate the students according to the following scale. If the faculty member is unable to rate a student in a particular category, this will be indicated by N/A.

(4) Indicates that the student is outstanding in that category and to be definitely considered

(3) Indicates that the student is average in that category and to be considered

(2) Indicates that the student is lacking in that category and to be considered w/reservation

(1) Indicates that the student is lacking in that category and not to be considered.

*There is availability for faculty to leave comments for each candidate.

*Candidates are compared with the entire student body, not with other candidates on the list.

According to national guidelines, students are selected for membership based on four criteria: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Selection takes into account a candidates' grade point average, involvement in school and community activities, leadership positions held, classroom behavior and evaluations from the entire high school faculty. Decisions and actions made during freshman and sophomore year will influence consideration for membership as a junior. Again, selection for membership in the National Honor Society is an award from the faculty and is similar to any other scholarship or award in that it is a privilege and not a right of any student.

The Selection Criteria is based on performance inside and outside the classroom.

A. Scholarship

Students must have a cumulative academic average of at least a 95 with no rounding.

B. Leadership: The student who exercises leadership:

1. Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and asking questions
2. Demonstrates initiative in promoting activities
3. Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideas
4. Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
5. Is able to delegate responsibilities
6. Exemplifies positive attitudes
7. Inspires positive behavior in others
8. Demonstrates academic initiative

9. Successfully holds offices or positions of responsibility, conducting business effectively and efficiently, and without prodding, demonstrates reliability and dependability

10. Is a forerunner in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities

11. Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.

C. Service: The student who serves:

1. Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude

2. Participates in some outside activity: Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; church groups; volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged; family duties. A minimum of three different service projects must be completed before being inducted and these must have been performed after entering high school.

3. Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance

4. Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities

5. Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school

6. Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and interscholastic competition

7. Does committee and staff work without complaint

8. Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

D. Character: The student of character:

1. Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously

2. Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, and stability)

3. Upholds principles of morality and ethics

4. Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.

5. Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability

6. Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others

7. Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside the classroom

8. Has powers of concentration and sustained attention in the classroom and actively participates.
9. Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
10. Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

4. Eden High School Faculty Council

The NHS Faculty Council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the high school principal. Faculty Council members may serve more than one term. The chapter advisor(s) shall be ex-officio, non-voting member(s) of the Faculty Council, will provide information from the prospective members and faculty, and strive to keep the process fair and consistent. No principal or assistant principal shall serve as a member of the Faculty Council or attend the selection meeting as per the National Constitution. Decisions of the Faculty Council are final. The National Constitution has no appeal for non-selection.

The Faculty Council is charged with final decisions regarding selection and non-selection of students for membership into the National Honor Society. Additionally, the Faculty Council determines the grade point average needed for selection, and reviews the policies and procedures of the chapter each school year. The NHS Faculty Council will review, make changes as needed, and vote to accept the By- Laws of the Eden Chapter each year.

The names of Faculty Council members will remain anonymous and will not be shared with any staff or faculty member, student, or parent. In addition, in order to maintain its anonymity, the Faculty Council has appointed the chapter advisers to represent it in matters of discipline of members.

National guidelines prohibit any type of quota system for selection. There is no set number or percent of students who will be selected each year. Final decisions as to selection and non-selection are the determination of the NHS Faculty Council (with input from the information gathered from each candidate as well as input from the high school faculty). A majority vote of the Faculty Council is necessary for selection. The advisor and principal have no vote. Decisions of the Faculty Council are final, as per the National Constitution.

According to national guidelines, "Chapters are not legally or constitutionally obligated to share with parents and students information concerning specific students not selected for membership in the Society." It is the practice of the Eden High School chapter that all information used by the advisers and Faculty Council during the selection process will remain confidential. However, the advisor will give general information to the parents and students concerning the reason(s) for selection or non-selection.

Those students who are selected for membership will be notified by mail with an invitation to the induction ceremony. Those students who are selected for membership are required to attend an

informational meeting that provides them with information about the induction ceremony and obligations that accompany membership. Attendance at the induction ceremony is required to become a member. Non-selected students are also notified by mail and encouraged to re-apply in the fall of their senior year.

The Chapter Advisers in the Selection Process

It is important for all prospective members, current members, and their parents to know that the chapter adviser does not determine membership in the chapter and does not have a vote in the meeting at which members are selected. The role of the adviser(s) during the selection process is solely to collect and assemble information to be presented to the Faculty Council and to ensure a fair and consistent process. The chapter advisers can, however, participate in the process by completing Faculty Recommendation Forms and evaluating candidates with the remainder of the faculty. The adviser(s) also acts as liaison between faculty, administration, members, and community. The chapter adviser(s) shall regularly review each member for compliance with NHS standards and obligations.