

# Hamden High School

## National Honor Society By-laws and Expectations

### Overview

Hamden High School's National Honor Society (NHS) chapter operates under by-laws that align with the national standards while incorporating specific acceptance criteria tailored to our school community. Candidates for membership must demonstrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

### 1. Purpose and Objectives:

**Purpose:** The Hamden Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) aims to recognize and encourage academic excellence, leadership, service, and character among students.

**Objectives:** To promote high standards of scholarship, leadership, service, and character, and to provide opportunities for students to engage in meaningful service and leadership activities.

### 2. Membership Criteria:

**Academic Excellence:** Students must maintain a minimum GPA as defined by the chapter bylaws, typically 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

**Leadership:** Candidates must be juniors who demonstrate leadership abilities through involvement in school or community activities, holding leadership positions, or leading initiatives.

**Service:** Candidates must show evidence of significant involvement in service activities, both within the school and in the community.

**Character:** Candidates must exhibit high standards of character, including honesty, responsibility, and respect for others.

### 3. Selection Process:

**Eligibility:** Students become eligible for membership in spring of their junior year, based on academic performance based on their weighted GPA (6.2 or above) and a review of their involvement in leadership and service.

**Application:** Eligible students must submit an application, which may include essays, a record of service and leadership, and teacher recommendations. Parents must SIGN the application.

**Review Committee:** A selection committee composed of faculty members reviews applications and selects new members based on an established criterion.

Criteria for acceptance: 30 hours of volunteer service, minimum of five school activities, minimum of two leadership positions, faculty recommendations from all major subject area teachers, all faculty recommendations must be in favor of the applicant.

Notification: Selected students are notified of their acceptance via Google Classroom and invited to join the NHS during a formal induction ceremony.

#### **4. Duties and Responsibilities of Members:**

Attendance: Members are expected to attend regular meetings and participate actively in NHS activities.

Service Projects: Members must participate in and contribute to NHS service projects and community service initiatives.

Leadership: Members are encouraged to take on leadership roles within the NHS and contribute to the planning and execution of activities and projects.

Academic Integrity: Members must maintain their academic standing and uphold the principles of honesty and integrity.

#### **5. Chapter Organization:**

Officers: The chapter typically includes elected officers such as President, Historian, Secretary, who are responsible for organizing meetings and activities.

Advisor: Faculty advisors provide guidance, support to the chapter, and help ensure adherence to NHS guidelines and bylaws.

Meetings: Regular chapter meetings are held to discuss activities, plan events, and address any chapter business.

#### **6. Code of Conduct:**

Behavior: Members are expected to model exemplary behavior, both in and out of school, and to uphold the values of the NHS.

Disciplinary Actions: Members who fail to meet the expectations of the NHS may face disciplinary actions, which could include probation or dismissal from the honor society.

#### **7. Amendments and Review:**

**Bylaws Review:** The chapter bylaws should be reviewed periodically and amended as necessary to reflect changes in policies or procedures.

**Approval Process:** Amendments to the bylaws typically require approval from the chapter members and the school administration.

By adhering to these bylaws and expectations, the NHS aims to foster a community of students who are dedicated to academic excellence, leadership, service, and character.