

Società Onoraria Italica

Pomperaug High School

Chapter: *Società Pantera*

Established June 1, 2024

The Italian National Honor Society chapter of Pomperaug High School,

Società Pantera

is named in honor of the Pomperaug Panther.

Advisor: Prof. Ralph Belvedere

Abstract:

The Chapter of the Italian National Honor Society at Pomperaug High School, is a local chapter of the larger National Honor society of all students who encompass a passion for the Italian language in their studies. Each student in the Italian National Honor Society at Pomperaug High School must fulfill the following requirements in order to successfully join and maintain membership in the *Società Pantera*:

- Enrolled in Italian 3 or UConn ECE or Pass AAPPL Exam with **I2** or higher
- Have a grade of 90 or higher in Italian 2, and also in Italian 3
- 11th or 12th Grade Student
- No disciplinary infractions
- Be in good academic standing in all classes

Students who are selected to join the Italian National Honor Society **will be held to the following standards:**

- Maintenance of a 90 or greater in Italian
- Passing all classes with a 70 or better
- 5 or more hours of above school required Community Service for Italian National Honor Society
- Attendance of all Italian National Honor Society monthly meetings with no more than two absences
- Availability for Tutoring Italian Students
- Participation in all events

Official Charter of the Pomperaug High School National Italian Honor Society

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1--The name of this chapter shall be the *Società Pantera* of the National Italian Honor Society.

Section 2--The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an environment for scholarship, to Promote community and individual service, to prepare future leaders, and foster the development of character in students of Pomperaug High School

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1--Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, and alumni. Active members become alumni members upon graduation. Alumni members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2--Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty selection committee, and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 3--Eligibility

a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the junior, or senior class.

b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must be:

- Enrolled in Italian 3 or UConn ECE or Pass AAPPL Exam with **I2** or higher
- Have a grade of 90 or higher in Italian 2, and also in Italian 3
- 11th or 12th Grade Student
- No disciplinary infractions
- Be in good academic standing in all classes

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

e. Service – Candidates must perform a minimum of 5 hours of community service prior to induction over the course of the year prior to induction. In addition, candidates must provide 2 letters of reference from individuals involved in the service hours as proof for service hours.

f. Leadership – Candidates should hold a leadership position in the school. This may be in their respective class, a club, or as part of the student council. If a leadership position is not held, applicants should document leadership in their application and show how they provide leadership in or out of school.

g. Character – Candidates must be of good and moral character and may not have committed any infractions as defined in Article IV.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1--The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Committee consisting of three faculty members appointed by the NIHS Coordinator.

Section 2—The Faculty Selection Committee shall remain anonymous, except to the advisor and principal. Each member shall separately and individually make their decisions concerning each application. The members of the committee can approach the advisor in case of a question or concern. If a majority of the committee have similar concerns, only then shall the Committee meet together.

Section 3--Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Societa Pantera Application.
- c. The faculty members shall be requested to evaluate candidates individually, and to state their opinion as it pertains to the membership application and the supplied rubric.
- d. The Language Faculty Committee shall review the application and recommendations in order to determine membership. Students shall be scored against themselves, and not compared to other applicants in that selection year.
- e. Applicants will be interviewed by the advisor to help solidify any questions or concerns that the faculty committee might have about the application.

Section 4--The selection of new active members shall be held once a year prior to the second semester of the school year. Juniors and Seniors will be considered based on cumulative GPA at the end of the first semester each school year.

Section 5--Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 6--Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintained all obligations of membership.

Section 7--An active member of the Italian National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the principal or chapter adviser.

Section 8--An active member of the Italian National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Committee 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 or her membership.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

Section 1--Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Pomperaug High School chapter of the Italian National Honor Society. A member of the Italian National Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

Section 2--If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected (3.5), he or she will be given a written warning and a 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 Language Faculty Council, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3--If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Language Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the Chapter.

Section 4--Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. Section 6--In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Language Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. The Language Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Language Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Language Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the principal and afterwards to the President.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Honor Society.
- f. A member who is dismissed will not be allowed to wear Italian National Honor Society regalia at graduation.

Section 7--In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

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

Section 2--Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote. Chapter officers will be elected in May of each year and will serve until the following April.

Section 3--A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any 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. The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter.

Section 4--It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5--The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' activities.

Section 6--The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

Section 7—Officers would be relieved of their duties without prejudice at the request of the officer or for failure to perform their official duties. These cases will not result in dismissal from the chapter.

Section 8 – In the event an Officer resigns or is removed from their position, the Language Faculty Council will appoint a new Officer from a list of students who may be interested in the position. This new Officer must then run for re-election at the next regular scheduled election.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1--The executive committee shall consist of the faculty advisor and the chapter officers.

Section 2--The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1--Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly, but may be more frequent if special business needs to be discussed.

Section 2--This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3--All chapter members are invited to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1--The chapter shall give consideration to the service projects which are undertaken by the school.

Section 2--All members must meet the service hour requirements already established.

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 an individual service project that reflects his or her particular talents and interests.

ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM AND ITALIAN REGALIA

Section 1--Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the Italian National Honor Society. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 2--Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the graduation regalia adopted at the local level at graduation.

ARTICLE X: DUES

Section 1--Annual dues for this chapter and its members shall be paid for with funds raised by the chapter. Initial dues for each member shall be \$5.00 to pay for initial membership fees, which include their certificate and honor cord for graduation.

ARTICLE XI: POWERS

Section 1--The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal and Coordinator.

Section 2--The Coordinator and President shall reserve the right to approve all activities by the chapter.

Section 3--The School Principal and BOE must approve all out of state travel prior to visits.

Section 4--These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

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. The exceptions are Articles III (selection), which was developed with the approval of the principal and requires their approval for amendment.

Section 2--Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the Italian National Honor Society. Additional Articles can be added as needed. It is often convenient to have the last article dealing with amendments.

Constitution of the National Italian Honor Society

Article I: Name and Purposes

Section 1.

The name of this organization shall be the Società Onoraria Italica for Secondary Schools (public, private, and parochial).

Section 2.

The purpose of this organization is to stimulate interest in the study of the Italian language, to give recognition for distinguished achievement in Italian, and to promote an understanding and appreciation of the Italian culture and civilization.

Section 3.

This organization is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI).

Article II: Membership

Section 1.

Membership shall be restricted to students enrolled in classes of Italian beyond the second year.

Section 2.

Candidates must have achieved an average of 90% or above in Italian for the three semesters of high school prior to invitation. Also, they must have maintained a general scholarship average of 80% or above.

Section 3.

The number of candidates shall not exceed 30% of the students enrolled in Italian at the time of selection.

Section 4.

Students may continue their active membership for one year after the termination of their study of Italian.

Section 5.

Italian instructors of each school chapter must be members of the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI).

Section 6.

A chapter which does not submit a list of initiates during a period of two years may be considered inactive. To regain active status, the chapter must resubmit an application accompanied by the fee which shall be the same as the original charter fee.

Article III: Administration

Section 1.

The national officers of the organization shall be a president, a vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer.

Section 2.

The president of the Società Onoraria Italica shall act as liaison officer with the American Association of Teachers of Italian, shall promote the establishment of new chapters, and shall be responsible for the welfare of the organization. The position of the president is not subject to term limits.

Section 3.

The secretary-treasurer of the Società Onoraria Italica shall keep accurate records of chapters and members, collect the charter and membership fees, and manage all the expenses. The secretary-treasurer shall render annual accounting of the financial status of the organization.

Article IV: Recognition

Benefits of the Società Onoraria Italica are as follows:

1. Students receive a certificate of membership, a pin, and/or a medal..
2. Newly elected members are published in the AATI Newsletter and in the local newspaper.
3. Instructors may place a photograph of members in the yearbook.
4. Counselors include membership on student's transcript.
5. Schools honor the new members at an induction ceremony.
6. Italian instructor presents an award to the Outstanding Student of Italian at graduation.

Article V: Amendments

1. If a member of the Società Onoraria Italica does not maintain an average of 90% or above, the Italian instructor may terminate the student's membership.
2. Suggestions for amendments may be submitted by all chapters to the president of the Società Onoraria Italica.