CONSTITUTION
of the
RICE HIGH CHAPTER
of the
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Rice High School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council of the National Honor Society, duly signed by the members of the National Council.

Section 2. The object of this council 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 all students of Rice High School.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be based upon Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

Section 2. Membership of this chapter shall be known as active or graduate. The graduate members have no vote. Active members become graduate members at graduation.

Section 3. Candidates shall have spent at least two semesters at Rice High School and be a member of the sophomore, junior, or senior class.

Section 4. The candidate shall have a cumulative scholastic average of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale and be on the recommended or foundation graduation plan.

Section 5. The candidate may have not more than one day of ISS in the current school year.

Section 6. All students who meet the scholarship and conduct requirements will be notified in writing that they are a candidate for membership. They will be expected to sign and return a form within one week indicating if they

prefer to continue in the application process. If the form is not returned, they will no longer be considered a candidate for membership in the current year.

Section 7. Applicants must return the Student Information Packet, including an essay, with their signature and a parent/guardian signature by the designated deadline or the applicant is not eligible for membership. This packet includes specifics about the applicant's history of service and participation in school. The essay should be a 250 word, double-spaced, typed paper. The topic of the essay is "How I Demonstrate Leadership in the Classroom and in School Activities".

Section 8. The NHS Faculty Advisory Committee, composed of the NHS Advisor, Principal, and five teachers, will review the application packets, discuss the candidates and make selections based on Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

Section 9. Any student who is not selected for membership will be notified in writing and will also be counseled by the advisor on why they were not selected. Suggestions will be made to improve the chances of acceptance in the future.

Section 10. Students who are selected for membership will be notified and given an invitation to be inducted during a ceremony at the high school on a date to be set by the advisor and principal.

Section 11. An active member of the National Honor Society who meets the standards for election listed in Article II, and who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. This transfer member must maintain the membership requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

Section 12. An active member of National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter signed by the principal indicating the status of his/her membership.

ARTICLE III

Maintaining Membership

Section 1. Students must maintain an overall average of 3.3 each semester with no grades below 70 in regular classes and no grades below 65 in PAP or AP classes in any six weeks grading period.

Section 2. Students must perform at least 6 hours of individual service

during each school year. These hours must be completed and turned in by the date designated by the advisor.

Section 3. Members are expected to participate in fifteen hours of practice and compete in at least one UIL Academic event at the district level to maintain membership.

Section 4. Members are expected to participate in all NHS activities, such as meetings, service projects and fundraisers.

Section 5. Probation.

A. Probation means that a student has committed a violation of the NHS guidelines. Students will be notified in writing and a parent signature must be obtained if a student is placed on probation. Anyone placed on probation will be expected to perform additional service hours approved by the advisor and the principal. While on probation, students are still expected to participate in all club activities, but the member loses their voting rights during the probationary period.
B. Students can only be on probation once per year. A second offense in a year of any kind will begin the dismissal process.
C. Causes of probation
    1. Failure to participate in group service projects
    2. Failure to pay dues, fines or turn in fundraiser money
    3. Missing monthly mandatory NHS meetings
        a. If the student knows in advance that they cannot attend a meeting, they must personally contact the advisor and place in writing the reason for their absence.
        b. 1st unexcused absence will result in a written reprimand, and an extra hour of individual service will be added to duties.
        c. 2nd unexcused absence will result in probation
        d. 3rd unexcused absence will result in dismissal
    4. Failure to meet individual service hours by the deadline
    5. Assignment to ISS

Section 6. In case of a flagrant violation of school rules or law, a member may be dismissed without probation or warning.

Section 7. When a member is dismissed, he/she must be notified in writing. His/her emblem and membership card are then returned to the advisor. Notice of his/her dismissal must be indicated on the Annual Report submitted to

the national secretary at the end of the school year. Once dismissed, a student may not be considered for membership again.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and reporter. They shall be elected at the last regular meeting of the year.

Section 2. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of this chapter.

Section 4. The vice-president shall fill the chair of the president in his/her absence.

Section 5. The chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings, a record of all business, and all records on file. He/she shall, with the approval of the principal or advisor, certify to the National Secretary of the National Council the names of all members for the current school year on the Annual Report submitted to the National Headquarters.

Section 6. The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the chapter and shall keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements in accordance with school regulations.

Section 7. The reporter shall photograph all chapter activities and report the activities to the *Eagle Lake Headlight.* The reporter is also responsible for writing announcements regarding meetings and activities and turning them into the office.

ARTICLE V

Executive Committee

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the chapter.

Section 2. The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and business of the chapter, but any action on the part of the executive committee may be subject to the review of the chapter and Faculty Advisor.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. The regular meetings of this chapter shall be held monthly during the school year on days designated by the president/sponsor and approved by the principal.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the president.

Section 3. The executive committee shall meet once a month before regular meetings.

Section 4. Only National Honor Society Members may attend meetings.

ARTICLE VII

Fines

Section 1. In the event that a member misses a fundraiser, all profits expected to be made by such member must be paid to the chapter by a deadline specified by the advisor.

ARTICLE VIII

Emblem

Section 1. Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem.

ARTICLE IX

Dues

Section 1. The annual dues for each member shall be fixed annually at the first meeting. The amount shall be subject to the approval of the executive committee of the chapter.

ARTICLE X

Scholarships

Section 1. Scholarships are available only to active National Honor Society members.

Section 2. Number of scholarships and scholarship amount shall be determined annually by the chapter.

Section 3. If scholarship is not claimed by January 1 of following year, funds return to chapter.

Section 4. Any probation causes member to be ineligible for National Honor Society Scholarships.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter.

Section 2. The executive committee is responsible for making amendments to the constitution, but must present changes to chapter for final approval.

I have read the Constitution of the Rice High School National Honor Society and I understand the requirements for maintaining membership and the commitment involved in accepting membership into the organization.

Applicant signature and date

Parent/Guardian signature and date