



Membership in the Avella Chapter of the National Honor Society is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

I. Membership:

- a. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Honorary members are selected at the discretion of the faculty council. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

II. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the sophomore or junior class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Avella Jr./Sr. High School.
- c. Candidates who are currently sophomores in the 2027 graduating class are eligible for election to the chapter and shall have a minimum cumulative of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale. To align with the 2024 fall revisions to the grading scale, freshmen who are members of the 2028 graduating class are eligible for election to the chapter as sophomores and shall have a minimum cumulative of 3.6 on a 4.0 scale.
- d. Candidates eligible for selections must agree to enroll in at least two weighted courses in the succeeding school year. (i.e. A current sophomore who is not enrolled in any honors courses must enroll in at least two hours of courses when scheduling for the following school year.) Students who attend a vocational/technical school (Western Area Career & Technology School) must remain in good academic standing and obtain all possible certifications within his/her area of study. Any complications or extenuating circumstances surrounding scheduling conflicts or personal affairs will be directed to the advisor and faculty council.
- e. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

III. Selection of Membership

The foundational beliefs of the National Honor Society are based on four pillars: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Once students meet the required GPA for eligibility to apply to the Avella Chapter, they must complete an application. Once completed, the names of the candidates are removed from the applications by the sponsor and are reviewed by a faculty council. The sponsor is not a part of the faculty council. Below are the definitions of leadership, service, and character as defined by the National Honor Society. These definitions are used as a guideline by the faculty council when reviewing the candidates' applications.



- a. **Scholarship** denotes a commitment to learning. A student is willing to spend hours in reading and study, knowing the lasting benefits of a cultivated mind. We should continue to learn even when formal education has ended, for human education ends only with the end of life. Knowledge is one great element in life, which leads to the highest success and it can be acquired in only one way—through diligence and effort. Learning furnishes the lamp by which we read the past, the torch guiding us to understand the present, and the light that illuminates the future. Candidates have the desire to continually expand their world through the opportunities inherited by scholarship.
- b. **Leadership** should exert a wholesome influence on the school. In taking initiative in the classroom and in school activities, the real leader strives to train and aid others to reach their common goals of success. The price of leadership is sacrifice—the willingness to yield one’s personal interests for the interests of others. A leader has self-confidence and will go forward when others hesitate. No matter what power and resources may exist in a school, community, or nation, they are ineffectual without the guidance of a wise leader. Leadership is always needed; thus, to lead is a meaningful and substantive charge to each of our members.
 - i. While all students may not hold the title of an officer of an organization, students can demonstrate leadership skills through their involvement in various extracurricular activities. Candidates can highlight their involvement in various clubs and athletic teams, in the “Activities” section of the application. It is important that candidates be involved in extracurricular activities throughout grades nine, ten, and eleven in order to receive a higher score in this area of the application.
- c. **Service** can be established in the routine of the day’s work where many opportunities arise to help others both at school and in the community. A willingness to work for the benefit of those in need, without monetary compensation or public recognition, is the quality we seek in our membership and promote for the entire student body. We are committed to volunteering our time and talents to the creation of a better tomorrow.
 - i. Sophomores who are eligible to apply must earn a minimum of twenty (20) community service hours between grades nine and ten. These service hours must be earned prior to the end of the second nine-weeks grading period in January.
 - ii. Juniors who are eligible to apply must earn a minimum of twenty (20) community service hours between grades ten and eleven. These service hours must be earned prior to the end of the second nine-weeks grading period in January.
 - iii. All service hours must be accurately documented. Contact information for sponsors and/or adults who can verify the candidates’ volunteer hours must also be provided.



- d. **Character** is the force within the individual that distinguishes each person from others. It creates for each of us our individuality, our goodness. It is that without which no one can respect oneself, nor hope to attain the respect of others. It is this force of Character that guides one through life and, once developed, grows steadily within. Character is achieved and not received. It is the product of constant thought and action, one's daily striving to make the right choice. The problem of Character is the problem of self-control. We must be in reality what we wish to appear to others—to be rather than seem. By demonstrating such qualities as respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship, we may hope to prove by example that we value Character.
- i. Students who are interested in becoming a member of the NHS must be aware of their words and actions even as underclassmen, as each candidate's character will be evaluated. Once a list of students who meet the required GPA for application is generated, the list is shared with the faculty and administration. The faculty may confidentially share any major concerns with the sponsor and/or administration. The principal will also generate an attendance and discipline report on each candidate. Any concerns will be investigated and considered prior to the application and/or selection process. Depending on the circumstances, candidates may be interviewed regarding any concerns or disciplinary action. In addition, each candidate must write a written evaluation on his/her character as part of the application process.