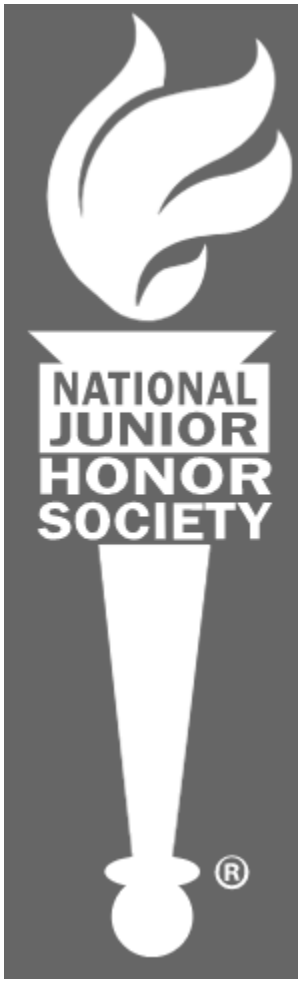
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EASTCHESTER
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Eastchester Middle School
Lisa VanTassell
NJHS Adviser

NJHS BYLAWS

Eastchester Middle School Chapter



ADVISER

Ms. Lisa VanTassell
lvantassell@eufsdk12.org

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Madelin LoBue
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National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society was founded in 1929. The National Organization was established to recognize the outstanding qualities of the students in middle school. Eastchester Middle School takes pride in the high achievement, service, leadership, character, and outstanding citizenship of our students who qualify. We hope that they will gain confidence through our recognition and continue to grow in these qualities throughout their school years and as productive members and contributors of society.

EMS • 550 White Plains Road • Eastchester, NY 10709 • (914) 793-6130, ext. 4587
Fax (914) 793-1699 • lvantassell@eufsdk12.org

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Should students qualify for induction to the NJHS, they will be pledging to uphold the following:

NJHS Pledge

"I pledge myself to uphold the high purposes of the Society, to which I have been elected; I will be true to the principles, for which it stands; I will be loyal to my school, and I will maintain and encourage high standards of scholarship, citizenship, service, leadership, and character."

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NJHS General Information

Each chapter is required to publish its qualifications for membership, which is based on the five pillars of:

- **Scholarship**
  Per EMS chapter guidelines, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 93% (no rounding and no exceptions will be made).
- **Service**
  This involves voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation.
- **Leadership**
  Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school/community activities while working with/for others.
- **Character**
  The student of good character is cooperative; demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability; shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others; and generally maintains a clean disciplinary record.
- **Citizenship**
  The student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of civic engagement; has a high regard for freedom and justice; respects democracy; respects the law for all citizens at the local, state, and federal levels; and demonstrates mature participation and responsibility in activities such as scouting, community organizations, or school clubs.

Students who meet the scholarship requirements will have an opportunity to complete an application detailing their accomplishments in and commitment to service, leadership, character, and citizenship. It is the combination of all of these pillars that will potentially result in induction into the NJHS.

Understanding the Obligations of Membership

Students who receive a majority vote by the Faculty Selection Committee/Council (after achieving the required cumulative GPA and officially completing the application) will be invited to accept membership if they earn a majority vote by the Faculty Selection Committee/Council. Selected members may also decline membership and should do so in writing to the chapter advisor. Accepting members should be aware of the time and commitment involved with this honor. For example, there will be chapter meetings and other obligations decided upon by the faculty adviser that must be fulfilled. According to our chapter bylaws, members must attend chapter meetings and participate in the official Induction Ceremony. Members must also actively engage in a group service project to benefit a need in our school or the larger community. Members can also opt to go above and beyond and complete an individual service project (consistent with their specific interests/talents), as approved by the chapter adviser.

Should you have any questions, please contact the chapter adviser (via email) using the link below:
lvantassell@eufsdk12.org

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Chapter Bylaws of the Eastchester Middle School Chapter of the NJHS

School ID:00003342

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Eastchester Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, promote leadership, develop character, and acknowledge exemplary citizenship in students of Eastchester Middle School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NJHS. See www.njhs.us/constitutions. In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

Section 2: This chapter will remain an active member of the State Association of New York by paying annual dues and participating in state functions when possible.

Section 3. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities as delegated by the school principal.

Section 4: Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 5: Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NJHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member based on race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

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ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. Eligibility:

a. **Candidates eligible for membership must be a member of the EMS 8th grade 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 Eastchester Middle School.**

c. **The EMS minimum requirement to be invited to apply for candidacy is a cumulative GPA of 93% (no rounding and no exceptions).**

d. **Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, character, and citizenship.**

e. **Membership will be reviewed and decided upon by the Faculty Selection Committee/Council. A majority vote is required and this vote is final and cannot be challenged.**

***Please note that the NJHS is WELL MORE THAN a scholastic "honor roll". As such, scholarship alone DOES NOT result in induction into the NJHS.**

****The NJHS extends beyond scholarship/academic achievement and equally requires commitment to ALL four of the remaining pillars of the society:**

- **Service**
- **Leadership**
- **Character**
- **Citizenship**

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ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Selection Committee/Council, which consists of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, nonvoting, *ex officio* member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2. The selection of members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year, where an anonymous profile of candidates will be presented to the committee and votes will be cast using a secret ballot. The selection of members requires a majority vote of the Faculty Selection Committee/Council, is final, and is indisputable.

Section 3. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. If a student does not achieve a cumulative GPA of 93% (without rounding), they will not meet the necessary initial scholastic candidacy requirements. This GPA is based on concrete data (run by the district using our standard GPA calculations for all four quarters of Gr 7 & the first two quarters of Gr 8), cannot be challenged, and absolutely no exceptions will be made.

b. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete a personal written submission for further consideration. A "personal written submission" shall be defined as an application, essay, and/or candidate information form. Personal written submission requirements will be decided upon by the adviser, and requirements regarding this will be clearly communicated to all candidates.

c. The entire faculty will be made aware of potential scholastic candidates and shall be requested to evaluate candidates and provide feedback to the adviser, who will then factually share profiles with the Faculty Council for review without indicating the candidate's name, gender, or teaching team.

d. The Faculty Selection Committee/Council shall review all profile submissions, faculty input, and any other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4. Candidates become members once they receive a majority vote of the Faculty Selection Committee/Council, accept membership, and are officially inducted at our chapter's Induction Ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter to retain his/her membership.

Section 7. A description of the selection procedure shall be published in an official school publication that is widely available in a timely fashion to all students and parents of the school. The selection procedure shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of NJHS.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Each member of this chapter is expected to remain in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations. If possible and able to be provided by the school district, members shall be entitled to wear the NJHS cord or emblem, if given, (and/or any other symbolic representation) at the 8th-grade moving-up ceremony to indicate their membership in the NJHS.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall not be entitled to wear this symbolic representation and, if given, must return their emblem, if given, to the chapter.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

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

Section 2. On or after the first meeting of the newly selected membership, an election of student officers will take place. Any member can apply for an Officer position and will have the opportunity to vote. The election can be extended to include EMS Faculty if the majority of the members vote to approve this. Advisers and the Faculty Council will consider the number of votes for each position and will make final Officer selections. Only the NJHS adviser and/or the Faculty Council will see/count ballots.

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot. 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.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 5. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep a record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 8. The moderator shall assist all other officers and ensure all meetings remain respectful.

Section 9. Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be announced by the Adviser with ample notice to members. Special meetings can be called by the president with the approval of the adviser.

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

Section 3. Members are expected to make every effort to attend all chapter meetings. If they have a legitimate conflict preventing their attendance, they should inform the adviser in advance, either in person or via email.

Section 4. A "legitimate conflict" can be defined as sickness, family emergency, personal issue, or anything other than the adviser deems permissible.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one (or more) service project(s) for each year. The group service project of our chapter requires participation by all members for everyone in the chapter to remain in good standing.

Section 2. Project(s) 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 3. Each member also has the option of choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her particular talents and or/ interests in addition to the required group service project. This must be approved by the chapter adviser. This is OPTIONAL and would be done in addition to the chapter service project to which all members must contribute.

Section 4. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL of MEMBERS

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

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard of 93% when he/she was selected, he/she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Selection Committee/Council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter. A majority vote of the Faculty Selection Committee/Council will result in dismissal and the member will no longer be affiliated with our chapter or be warranted to wear anything symbolic of NJHS moving forward.

Section 3. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member (see Section 5 below). These violations include, but are not limited to bullying; threatening; stalking; hazing; racial, gender, religious, psychological/emotional, or sexual harassment; violating the district's appropriate use of technology policy; stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities/in the community or any other violation deemed inappropriate by the Faculty Selection Committee.

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as the use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive a written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 5. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the Faculty Council, and that decision will be final. No appeal of the decision to remove an officer or representative from their role is permitted.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL of MEMBERS (continued)

Section 6. In all cases of pending dismissal:

a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser/Faculty Council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.

b. The member has the right to respond to the charge(s) against him/her at a hearing before the NJHS Adviser and Principal prior to any vote by the Faculty Selection Committee/Council on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, the adviser and Principal will present the facts to the Faculty Selection Committee/Council, and an anonymous vote on whether to dismiss will take place. A majority vote of the Faculty Selection Committee/Council is needed to dismiss any member.

c. The results of the Faculty Selection Committee/Council vote will be presented to the principal for review and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblem, if given, to the adviser.

d. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 7. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the Principal, and the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district will then be applied.

Section 8. The Council's decision to remove an Officer from his/her position is not subject to a hearing nor to an appeal.

Section 9. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Selection Committee/Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Section 10. At EMS, the Faculty Selection Committee/Council retains the right to remain FULLY anonymous.

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, and REVIEW.

Section 1: These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the Faculty Council, and approval by the administration.

Section 2: These bylaws shall be reviewed and, if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one week before the vote. The exceptions are Articles IV, V, and X, which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

We look forward to welcoming qualifying candidates into the Eastchester Middle School Chapter of the NJHS!

Lisa VanTassell
Ms. Lisa VanTassell, Adviser
lvantassell@eufsdk12.org

Madelin LoBue
Mrs. Madelin LoBue, Principal
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NJHS Frequently Asked Questions & Resources

Will I be notified if I'm not selected for NJHS membership?

Local chapters are strongly encouraged to notify non-selected candidates. Some chapters also provide explanations and counseling, but they are not required to do so. This decision cannot be disputed.

Can I join NJHS via the national office/website?

No. All decisions regarding membership in NJHS chapters are handled at the local level.

How can I find out about my local chapter's selection procedure?

All chapters are required to publish their selection procedure in a manner widely accessible to students, parents, and faculty (see Article IX of the NJHS Constitution). Try looking in school publications or on your school's website; if you're still having trouble finding them, ask your local chapter adviser.

Please note that the national office cannot provide information about individual chapters' selection procedures.

If I'm not selected for NJHS membership, can I appeal the decision?

No, our chapter reserves the right to make all final decisions on membership, which is achieved by a majority vote of the **Faculty Selection Committee/Council. Members can appeal if they were accepted for membership, and behavior unbecoming of NJHS pillars occurs sparks dismissal.** Please keep in mind that the national office does not hear appeals for student membership decisions, except in the case of a chapter violating the NJHS National Constitution (see our Complaint Process FAQ).

*Please keep in mind that NJHS membership is a privilege, not a right, and that your school's Faculty Council has every authority to withhold membership. All decisions are final and binding.

Student Resources can be found using the following link: https://www.njhs.us/students/

Parent Resources can be found using the following link: https://www.njhs.us/parents/

Should you have any questions, please contact the chapter adviser (via email) using the link below:
lvantassell@eufsdk12.org