

**L.M. Gorsuch Chapter of the**  
**National Honor Society**<sup>®</sup>

**Chapter By-Laws**  
**2025 - 2026**



Perryville High School  
Perryville, MD

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The Perryville High School National Honor Society is an organization for high school juniors and seniors who currently maintain a 3.5 or higher weighted GPA. Membership in the National Honor Society is awarded to those who work hard to exhibit good examples of character, leadership, service, and scholarship. You have been invited/selected because of your past achievement in these areas.

Because NHS candidates and members are responsible for demonstrating character and leadership as well as integrity, any concerns regarding the NHS must be addressed by the candidate or member themselves. While adult support from home is encouraged, it is the student who needs to bring concerns to the NHS advisor. This is critical, especially in relation to member selections, probation, and dismissal procedures. NHS members are young adults who are able to develop the skills to advocate for themselves. Extenuating circumstances may include severe illness of the student, death in the immediate family, and student travel during times when communication with the NHS is necessary.

### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this chapter shall be the L. M. Gorsuch Chapter of the National Honor Society of Perryville High School

### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this chapter 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 students of Perryville High School.

### **ARTICLE III: POWERS**

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NHS. See [www.nhs.us/constitutions](http://www.nhs.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 by paying annual dues.

Section 3. The chapter advisers are given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

[\*Note, this chapter maintains two co-sponsors, both of which operate as *ex officio*, non-voting members]



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

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

#### **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, and character.

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 selection 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 have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Perryville High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be enrolled in a full academic schedule and shall have a minimum weighted cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

#### **ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council which consists of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisers\* shall be the sixth, nonvoting, *ex officio* member of the faculty council.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the first semester of the school year.



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

- A. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- B. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Candidate Information Form for further consideration.
- C. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official input mechanisms provided by the chapter advisers\*.
- D. The faculty council shall review the Candidate Information Form, faculty input, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

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

Section 6. For an active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school, 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 in order to retain their membership.

## **ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS**

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$20.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society. A member in good standing is defined as:

- meeting the GPA requirements
- attending all meetings
- paying dues
- members must earn at least 60 points each semester through participation in meetings, events, service projects, and leadership activities. ([this system is described in this document](#))

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter and is ineligible for future membership.



Section 4. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the **privilege** of wearing the honor stole at graduation.

Section 5. All members must have a membership contract signed by themselves and a parent/guardian. This will be kept on file during their entire school membership

### **ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS/LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Alternatively, members may be part of a leadership team that works together to guide the chapter.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning junior members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

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. Graduating senior members are not eligible to vote.

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 the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 8. Officers and the faculty advisers\* shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and 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 VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Special meetings can be called by the leadership team with approval of the advisers. Agendas will be posted in the online classroom for each meeting.

Section 2. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings. If a member misses more than two (2) meetings during a school year due to unexcused absences, they will be required to complete one additional service hour for each meeting missed.

- A. If a member is not present at any one meeting, he or she must have a valid excuse as to why he or she was not present, and will not earn attendance points.
- B. An excused absence from school will be viewed as an excused absence from the meeting. Excused absences also include: academic class requirements and sporting events that are documented.
- C. Written documentation may be requested if absent from a meeting. Example: printed athletic schedule, note from coach or teacher, absence note with code, etc...
- D. Members who are absent from a required meeting will need to demonstrate evidence that they reviewed the monthly agenda and are aware of the upcoming events. Evidence can be provided by having a conversation with an advisor or [completing an online activity about the monthly agenda](#).
- E. Proper action will be taken for those members who have *unexcused* absences from meetings.
  - 1. First absence: verbal or written warning
  - 2. Second absence: written warning
  - 3. Third absence: member will not be allowed to participate in NHS activities, such as inductions and placed on probation until 2 additional service hours are completed to make up missed time. Seniors will not be recognized at the senior awards assembly or at graduation.

Section 3: Members are **required** to attend the Induction Ceremony.



## **ARTICLE IX: SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

- A. Winter Wonderland
- B. Senior Citizen Dinner Dance
- C. other projects approved by the advisers\*

Section 2. All members are required to participate in at least one major NHS sponsored service project. Members have the option to participate in as many as they wish.

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 opportunity to choose and participate in an individual service project which reflects their particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter advisers. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute. The chapter will work with students who have difficulty fulfilling hours.

Section 5. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

Section 6. No more than two hours of service completed for a different school organization will be counted towards the NHS service requirement.

Section 7. Service hour requirements

- A. Any service completed over the summer will count toward first semester requirements
- B. Service hours do not carry over from one semester to the next
- C. Service hours include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Nursing home or hospital visitation
  - 2. Feeding the homeless or working at soup kitchens
  - 3. Clothing, food and book drives
  - 4. Volunteering time for non-profit organizations
  - 5. Non-paid childcare for children not related to the member
  - 6. Community improvement (i.e. painting, cleaning, etc.)
  - 7. Tutoring outside of the immediate family with no pay
  - 8. Fundraising for non-profit organizations (requires active participation, not just collecting money)
  - 9. Other activities must be approved by an advisor



D. Service hours *do not* include

1. Fundraising for NHS
2. Tutoring or babysitting family members
3. Work in or around the home or homes of family members
4. Activities for classes in which the member earns academic credit
5. Participation with athletic teams, performances as part of a musical group
6. Fundraising for an activity that does not benefit the community directly is not considered service. Examples include: Fundraising for a baseball team on which you play, or fundraising for a dance studio where you take lessons.

## **ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL of MEMBERS**

Section 1. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain their academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to their school and community. Although a student may receive consequences for infractions from the administration, faculty, or community, NHS members are held to higher standards than others by the very nature of the organization to which they belong. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the L. M. Gorsuch chapter of the National Honor Society. The faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, probation, additional service, apology letter, dismissal upon a member as deemed appropriate. Members on probation would not have the privileges of membership - wearing graduation stoles, attending National Honor Society meetings or social events, running for office or removal from office. Probation is not permanent, whereas dismissal is.

Section 2. If at any time, a member is not in good standing, as defined in Article VI, Section 2, they will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the member is unable to attain good standing by the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter. For any infraction of school or community rules and codes of conduct that comes to our attention, the following will be required in order to remain as a member:

- A. The student will be placed on probation for a given time period. This means that he/she may not participate in any activities organized by the National Honor Society.
- B. The student *may* be required to complete additional service hours during probation. These hours are in addition to the hours already required by membership in the National Honor Society.



- C. The student will present a written apology to the offended party for their behavior (i.e., if the student cut class, he or she should apologize to the teacher whose class they cut).
- D. Students who have been placed on probation may not run for office the following year. If a student is a current NHS officer, they will be asked to step down.

Section 3. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, bullying/fighting, vaping, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (faculty council or student). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal. Students are allowed limited warnings during their membership.

Section 4. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member (see Section 6 below). These violations include, but are not limited to: DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

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.

Section 6. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- A. The member will receive **written notification** from the advisers/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- B. The member has the **right** to respond to the charge(s) against them at a **hearing** before the faculty council prior to any vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). A response to the charge(s) against them must be given either verbally or in writing to the advisor(s) within 5 school days of the dismissal notification. The member has the opportunity to present their defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, the faculty council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A parent/guardian may be present with the member but the primary focus of the hearing is to allow the member to present his or her case. Parents are not allowed to participate in the hearing. A majority vote of the faculty council is needed to dismiss any member.
- C. The results of the faculty 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 emblems to the advisers. Dismissed members will not receive a refund of dues paid.



- D. The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- E. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

### **ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, and REVIEW.**

Section 1: These bylaws will be **approved** upon receiving a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council and approval by the administration.

Section 2: These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised with approval of the faculty council.

### **ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds 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 IV, V, and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal.



## APPENDIX

**Induction Information  
Membership Contract  
Officer Form**



## **Induction Process Information**

Students with a minimum weighted GPA are invited to share additional information regarding their service, leadership, and character with the selection committee to be considered for membership.

Selection to NHS is a privilege bestowed upon students by the faculty of the school, and not considered a right inherent to any student. Technically, students do not apply for membership. Instead, they await a request or invitation to provide information to be used by the faculty council to support their candidacy for membership. Membership is granted to those students selected by the faculty council in each school on the condition of their having met the standards for selection established at the local level and based on the provisions of the constitution and NHS Handbook.

NHS is more than an honor roll. Each member must demonstrate not only good grades, but also strength in each of the remaining three criteria. Membership is not an election nor is it automatically conveyed simply because a student has achieved a specified level of academic performance.

Students who meet the scholarship requirement will be notified via email or letter regarding their candidacy. It is imperative that students check their email regularly and respond promptly when required. Due dates are non-negotiable.

The advisor(s) will offer a session during or after school to review the additional NHS membership requirements and answer any questions regarding the information packet.

Information packets must be hand written and turned in on paper. Writing must be legible and all guidelines must be followed carefully.

Deadlines to turn in the information packet will be at least 7 days after the optional candidate meeting with the advisor regardless if the candidate attended or not. Deadlines will be clearly communicated in writing and online.

The deadline for the information packet is non-negotiable, unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as serious student illness, a death in the immediate family, or the candidate is traveling the entire time between the candidate meeting and the information packet due date.

All questions regarding selection must come directly from the candidate. While family support is encouraged, candidates demonstrate character and leadership by advocating for themselves.



All teachers, coaches, administrators and counselors are asked to evaluate the leadership and character of candidates in a process using a rating scale and written comments.

### **Leadership:**

A student who exercises leadership:

1. Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
2. Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
3. Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit
4. Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
5. Is able to delegate responsibilities
6. Inspires positive behavior in others
7. Demonstrates academic initiative
8. Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability
9. Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities

### **Character:**

The student of character:

1. Cooperates by complying with all school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct
2. Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity, and reliability
3. Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others
4. Complies with instructions and rules, and displays personal responsibility

Candidate service is evaluated by the presence of documented service hours and activities both in and out of school. This information, along with adult contact information, is provided by the candidate in the information packet.

### **Service:**

The student who serves:

1. Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, and is willing to make sacrifices to offer assistance
2. Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
3. Enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
4. Is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition
5. Does committee and staff work without complaint
6. Participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; religious groups; volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged.
7. Mentors in the community or students at other schools
8. Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students



### Candidate Evaluation Sheet

| Category                               | Points Possible  | Committee member #1 | Committee member #2 |
|--|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| School Activities                      | 1 point for each year of each activity<br>(points awarded at discretion of selection committee)  |                     |                     |
| Service / Volunteer Activities         | 1 point for each 5 hours of service<br>divide total hours by 5<br>(points awarded at discretion of selection committee)                            |                     |                     |
| Other Activities                       | 1 point for each 25 hours of activity<br>divide total hours by 25<br>(points awarded at discretion of selection committee)                         |                     |                     |
| Employment                             | Employment is not scored;<br>however it should be considered as students who need to be employed may not have time to do as many other activities. |                     |                     |
| Leadership Positions                   | 1 point for each leadership position<br>(points awarded at discretion of selection committee)  |                     |                     |
| Leadership<br>(teacher rating average) | Leadership average   |                     |                     |
| Character<br>(teacher rating average)  | Character average  |                     |                     |
| Total                                  |  |                     |                     |
|  | Committee member initials:   |                     |                     |

Comments:

Selection Committee Vote:

Should this person be inducted into the PHS National Honor Society?

**YES**

**NO**



## PERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
as a member of the Perryville High School National Honor Society Chapter #148415, understand and willingly agree to the requirements of membership. These requirements include:

- Payment of \$20 dues to the organization to cover induction costs (if I have financial concerns, I will speak privately with an advisor)
- Attendance at all monthly meetings
- Participation with the service projects sponsored by NHS
- Earn and document a *minimum* of 60 participation points each semester
- Support Perryville High School by assisting with special events, such as new student orientation, back – to- school night, and graduation

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
as a member of the Perryville High School National Honor Society Chapter #148415, promise to uphold the standards of scholarship, leadership, service and character. I will uphold all Cecil County Public Schools and Perryville High School rules and unwritten rules of honor.

Specifically, this means that I will **not**:

- Copy or lend homework
- Give or receive test or quiz information either before, during, or after the assessment
- Plagiarize either from another student, a published or non-published source, or from a computer-generated source such as AI
- Ask for or offer information from a test or graded assignment obtained either as a teacher's aide, an independent study student, or by any other means
- Lie, overtly or by omission, either verbally or in writing about absences during or outside of school
- Falsify any pass, grade, or computer-kept records
- Falsify any record of NHS service requirements, including signatures, hours, phone numbers, etc...
- Use any badge, pass, or privilege (aide, peer helper, independent study, etc...) in a manner unrelated to its official use
- Take advantage of a teacher, coach, or counselor trust in any way
- Bully or disrespect any individual in school or in the community in any way, including through social media
- Use social media in an inappropriate manner

Regarding local, state, and federal laws, I understand that I will **not**:

- Participate in the use of illegal substances, including alcohol



I understand that although there is no written “morals clause” in the NHS national or local constitution, part of my pledge of honor implies adherence to school and community standards of honorable behavior.

This list is *not* meant to be all-inclusive. It is a *sample* of types of actions that not only tarnish your own reputation, but that of all the members of the PHS National Honor Society as well as the national organization.

I understand that I was inducted into the National Honor Society because, in addition to fulfilling the requirements of scholarship, service, and leadership, I have consistently demonstrated a high moral character in both words and behaviors. I understand that I will continue to maintain these standards of honor and integrity. Additionally, I will abide by the rules delineated in the Perryville High School National Honor Society’s Chapter By-Laws. I understand the requirement of maintaining a GPA of at least a 3.5.

I agree that I have read and understood both the PHS NHS Chapter By-Laws as well as the explanation of the PHS NHS points system. I clearly understand and agree to follow the standards both written and implied by this contract. If I do not, I know that I am subject to suspension of membership and its privileges, or forfeiture of membership.

Member’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Perryville High School  
National Honor Society  
Declaration of Intent to Run for Office**

*Carefully complete this form to declare your intent to run for one of the officer positions of the PHS National Honor Society. Please consider the amount of time you have available to devote to the job. Officers meet the week before each monthly meeting and occasionally during other times of the month. The officers often have individual duties and report back to the group during meetings. Officers are role models for the rest of the group as well as the entire school. Students who run for office must have never been on probation for NHS. Officers who receive probation will be removed from office.*

**President** – (must have been an NHS member for at least a semester) represents the school and community, runs all meetings, arranges for speakers, etc...

**Vice-President** – in charge of all volunteer service hours, recording meeting attendance

**Secretary** – responsible for all written communication, thank you notes, and creation of monthly meeting agendas

**Treasurer** – records all finances, assists with asking for donations

Please complete the bottom of this form and return it to the advisor by the end of the day on \_\_\_\_\_. The ballots will be made and all juniors NHS members are eligible to vote for the officers for the upcoming school year. On \_\_\_\_\_, be prepared with a 2 – 3 minute speech for your fellow members describing how you are the best candidate for the position.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, am declaring my candidacy for the office of  
President    Vice-president    Secretary    Treasurer  
for the Perryville High School chapter of the National Honor Society. I feel I am qualified for the position and promise to dedicate time to do the job well.

Three teacher signatures are required. These teachers are supporting my decision to run for office and agree I have the skills needed for the job.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_