

## O'Fallon Township High School - National Honor Society Bylaws

Selection for the NHS is a privilege bestowed upon students by the faculty of the school and is 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.

### **Eligibility for Induction:**

Students will be eligible for induction into the OTHS Chapter of NHS when the following criteria are met:

- I. Cumulative GPA of 3.500 or higher after completing the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, or 7<sup>th</sup> semester
- II. Academically eligible, taking and passing 5 academic classes going into and at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, or 7<sup>th</sup> semester.
- III. Behaved responsibly and has had no major violations of school policy or Level 1 or 2 Code of Conduct violations
- IV. Candidates must have been in attendance at OTHS the equivalent of one semester

***As the NHS is a national organization, we will recognize membership obtained at other schools.***

### **Transfer Member Reciprocity:**

Students who have been initiated into the National Honor Society at another school will be expected to follow all regulations described in this document by the O'Fallon Chapter of the National Honor Society.

- I. For a sophomore, junior, or senior, O'Fallon Township High School chapter of the National Honor Society will recognize membership granted at your previous high school upon documentation of membership.
- II. A student who is a junior or senior and has not been enrolled for 1 full semester at O'Fallon Township High School must provide evidence of eligibility including:
  - a.) All grades officially transferred to our registrar verify a 3.500 cumulative GPA.
  - b.) A letter from your high school must show that the student has not been suspended or expelled for any violation of school policy and remains in good standing.

### **Membership and Dues:**

All students who choose to accept membership into the organization will acknowledge membership by signing a membership agreement and paying a one-time membership fee of \$10 prior to induction.

### **Induction Ceremony:**

All students acknowledging membership of the organization will be inducted into the society during a mandatory formal ceremony held in April of the year they receive their invitations. Juniors will participate in the ceremony during their 6<sup>th</sup> semester and seniors will participate during their 8<sup>th</sup> semester.

***The National Honor Society recognizes students for achievement in 4 areas: Leadership, Character, Service, and Scholarship. To remain in good standing with the organization, several tasks demonstrating the four ideals must be completed during their time as a member of the local chapter.***

**Membership Expectations:**

I. Leadership

- a. All members are expected to actively participate in multiple activities at OTHS (in and out of the classroom) and in the community.
- b. All members are expected to attend NHS meetings (attendance will be documented) and regularly participate in decision making, individual service projects that align with their particular talents and interests, and chapter service projects throughout the year.

II. Character

- a. All NHS members are expected to be positive representatives of OTHS and the community.
- b. All NHS members will follow the OTHS Code of Conduct.
- c. All NHS members will demonstrate the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity, and reliability.
- d. Immediate removal from the society and entitled to due process for the following violations:
  - i. School suspensions for major offenses (violence, alcohol/drug possession, etc.)
  - ii. School expulsions
  - iii. Level I or II Code of Conduct violations

III. Service

- a. All NHS members will complete 15 hours of community service between the time of their induction to April 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year.
- b. Any senior inducted during their 8<sup>th</sup> semester will have until the date of graduation practice to submit their 15 hours of required service.

IV. Scholarship

- a. All members of NHS will be required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or higher.
- b. All members of NHS will strive to challenge themselves academically.
- c. All members will maintain weekly eligibility requirements by passing at least 5 academic classes.

V. The Executive Committee

- a. Composed of the chapter officers and the chapter adviser.

- b. Help direct the business affairs of the chapter, determine special chapter projects, and meeting agendas.
- c. Responsible for meeting outside of the general chapter meetings.
- d. Members of NHS interested in an officer position will submit their intention to the faculty adviser and are placed on a ballot to be voted on by the general membership.

**Membership Requirements:**

The members of the National Honor Society have the responsibility to maintain the standards by which they were selected and must fulfill the following requirements to uphold their membership:

- I. Members must complete 15 hours of community service by April 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year. These service hours must be independent of requirements or activities required of other organizations.
- II. Members must maintain a GPA of 3.500.
  - a. At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester, grades will be verified. Any student who has fallen below the 3.500 GPA will be put on academic probation. If the member fails to reinstate his/her 3.500 GPA by the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester, the student will be removed from the National Honor Society.
  - b. After the 7<sup>th</sup> academic semester, grades will be verified.
    - i. Students that fail to meet the 3.500 requirement who are on academic probation will be dismissed from the organization.
    - ii. Students that fail to meet the 3.500 requirement for the first time will be expected to earn a 3.5 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
    - iii. Any member inducted after the 7<sup>th</sup> semester will be required to earn a GPA of 3.500 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of that school year and expected to maintain the cumulative 3.500.
- III. All members must be taking and passing 5 academic courses each semester to be eligible.
- IV. All members must be free of major school discipline issues and OTHS Code of Conduct violations.

**Discipline and Dismissal:**

Members who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. In the case of flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a member does not have to be warned. Failure to comply with any of the above regulations could result in dismissal from the National Honor Society in compliance with the rules and regulations of the NHS National Constitution. In all cases of pending dismissal, a member shall have a right to due process.

- I. Due Process: All NHS members are entitled to due process, which includes a written warning and a period of time for improvement. If the member has not complied with the terms of the warning period (or is in flagrant violation of school rules or the law), then they are entitled to a hearing with the chapter's five-member faculty council.

- II. The five-member faculty council will consist of OTHS faculty with no Assistant Principal and/or Principal on the faculty council. A majority vote of the faculty council is required.
- III. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

**Members in Good Standing:**

All members that successfully complete the four membership requirements will be considered ***Members in Good Standing***. All members in Good Standing will earn the distinction of wearing the ceremonial National Honor Society gold stole at graduation. This symbolic stole recognizes the students for their commitment to scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

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