

**Perryville High School's Chapter
of the
National Honor Society**

Candidate and Parent Information 2025

All candidates and families should read this information very carefully to fully understand the selection process for the National Honor Society.

I. What is the National Honor Society?

The National Honor Society is an organization promoting recognition of students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in all four areas of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. The purpose of the NHS is to create enthusiasm for **scholarship**, to recognize outstanding students, to stimulate a desire to render **service**, to promote **leadership**, and to develop **character** in the students of secondary schools.

II. What is so meaningful about membership in the National Honor Society?

- It is a lifetime membership in a national organization—recognizing individuals excelling in all four areas of scholarship, leadership, character, and service.
- Many members receive additional benefits, such as recognition and scholarships awarded by many colleges and universities.

III. What do members of the National Honor Society do?

- Respond to all communication in a timely manner. NHS members (not their parents/guardians) are responsible for following through with communication.
- Attend *all* monthly meetings. Meetings are *after school* in the advisor's classroom or other location as necessary. Meeting attendance is mandatory to remain a member in good standing.
- Participate in all fund-raising and ceremonial activities which will be held *after school hours*.
- Assist with graduation, freshmen orientation, and other school functions that are held *after school hours*.
- Participate in group and individual service projects benefiting the community that are held *after school hours*. Members are *required* to complete a minimum of 10 community service hours per semester.
- Maintain high standards in both behavior and character.
- Serve as role models and mentors to other students.
- Create and maintain life-long friendships with others with the same goals.

IV. How are members selected?

All the national guidelines created by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) are followed. Students interested in membership in the PHS chapter of the National Honor Society are required to submit a student information sheet. The information sheets are shared with the Faculty Council composed of five teachers from different disciplines. They review the information, discuss each candidate and vote to decide whether the individual will be invited to join the organization. Please note that the adviser, Mrs. Forman is *not* a member of the Faculty Council, and therefore does not take part in the selection process and has no influence on the proceedings.

“There is no right to membership, it is a privilege bestowed upon a student by the faculty of the school.”- *NHS Handbook*

The following information is used to determine selection:

- Minimum of a 3.5 grade point average
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Leadership positions, such as in sports, clubs, community, work, and in the classroom
- Volunteer service hours in the community
- Teacher recommendations in both character and leadership
- Vote of the Faculty Council

V. How are inductees notified of their status?

The Faculty Council convenes to review the information sheets and vote on candidates. When it is determined which candidates will be invited to become members, each inductee will be given a letter of tentative acceptance into the Perryville High School Chapter of National Honor Society. Each inductee will receive a membership contract to be signed by both the inductee and their parents. Additionally, inductees will need to pay the one-time \$20 dues before inductions. (If you have financial concerns, please speak to Mrs. Forman or Mrs. McCaw privately) In accordance with the national guidelines, until the official ceremony the inductee maintains only inductee status. This means the invitation may be rescinded prior to the ceremony for non-compliance with established rules and guidelines of the signed contract.

VI. What if I am not selected?

The information regarding non-selection comes directly from the 20th edition of the National Honor Society Handbook.

“ Parents and students must understand that no student has a right to be selected for membership in a chapter of the National Honor Society.”

“..if the principal believes that some kind of technical or procedural mistake has been made, the principal may ask the Faculty Council to reconvene to review the situation.”

“..all decisions of the kind involved in the selection process have some subjective aspects, but that the decisions were derived in a fair manner and based on sound professional judgment.”

Please note, for students who are not selected and they feel it is in error, it is the **student’s responsibility** to make contact with the advisor. *Parents/guardians may advise their student, but the student must do all of the following themselves:*

- Within 5 school days after receiving the letter of non-selection, students must set up a meeting with an NHS advisor.
- After the meeting, non-selected candidates (*not parents/guardians*) may choose to file a letter of appeal. Upon learning the reason for the Faculty Council’s decision, a student may believe that the information he/she submitted was not properly interpreted.
- Within five days of meeting with an advisor, the student may submit a letter to the Faculty Council explaining this perceived misunderstanding.
- Letters of appeal must be written by the student in question.
- *New information will not be accepted*; the purpose of the appeal process is to clarify information which was previously submitted.

In consultation with the principal, the Faculty Council will reconvene to consider the merit of all appeals, and a second notification letter will be sent. All appeals decisions are final and cannot progress past the judgment of the high school principal and the faculty council.

VII. A last word...

Mrs. Forman and Mrs. McCaw are *not* members of the Faculty Council voting on inductees; therefore they have no influence on what happens at the meeting. Their role is to advise current members and to answer any questions the candidates may have. All communication needs to come directly from the candidates. Please do not hesitate to inquire about the selection process, the completion of the information sheet, selections, or the induction ceremony. However, do not wait until after the information sheets have been submitted to ask questions! They are here to guide you through this process.

No information forms will be accepted late; however, you may turn in your information early.