Mount Olive High School Chapter of National Honor Society

Application Directions for Fall 2026

The application packet consists of the following components:

1. Letter of Intent: **DUE TUESDAY, 6/9/26 by 11:59 pm**
2. Essay: **DUE THURSDAY, 9/10/26 by 11:59 pm**
3. Recommendation forms (via Google Forms link): **DUE THURSDAY, 9/10/26 by 11:59 pm**
4. Service Hours/Leadership Templates: **DUE THURSDAY, 9/10/26 by 11:59 pm**

1. Letter of Intent:

- Please sign, date, and obtain a parent/guardian signature indicating that you intend to apply for membership. **"Live" signatures ONLY – Electronic signatures NOT ACCEPTED!**
- **Form must be UPLOADED to the Google Classroom site by 11:59 pm on TUESDAY, 6/9/26.**
- **Late forms will NOT be accepted** and will cancel the offer to apply for NHS membership.

2. Essay:

- ➢ Your essay must be **NO MORE THAN 500 words**, double-spaced, 12-point font TNR or Arial (approximately two pages). PLEASE BE CONCISE !!
- ➢ A template is provided in Google Classroom for the essay.
- ➢ Submit a **typed essay** on the following topic:

There are four characteristics (or "pillars") of an NHS member:
scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

- ➔ Select **2** of the pillars which you most exemplify
- ➔ Compose an essay response which supports your consideration for selection to NHS by using specific examples, scenarios, and/or challenges which support those **2** pillars

3. Recommendation Forms:

- ➢ **VERY IMPORTANT:** Your 4 recommendations forms are **CONFIDENTIAL**. Under no circumstances are you to view the completed forms. ***The forms MAY NOT BE GIVEN TO YOU DIRECTLY!***
- ➢ All recommendations must be completed and submitted via the Google Forms link provided in Google Classroom **by 11:59pm on THURSDAY, 9/10/26.**
- ➢ You must select **4** individuals to complete the recommendations forms. Note that the same person *MAY NOT* complete both a leadership and a service form.
- ➢ **If all FOUR of your recommendations forms have not been received by the due date – which is why you must follow-up on these – your application will be considered incomplete, and therefore, you will not be considered for membership selection. NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Keep in mind when selecting references...

1) Be sure to choose **FOUR** individuals you think will give you ***excellent*** references.
   - ➔ Provide them with the correct "NHS Recommendation" form (***service* OR *leadership).***
   - ➔ The individuals you select should be **well qualified** to evaluate you in **one** of those critical areas.
   - ➔ You are required to have **2** references for leadership and **2** references for service.
   - ➔ When you ask that person to write a recommendation for you, specifically ask them to address THAT SPECIFIC area (service OR leadership).
   - ➔ *Remind them they **must** write in the section for comments and **sign off on the last page of the form.***

2) It is strongly encouraged to have recommendations that highlight your commitment to **both** the school and the community.
   - ➔ We cannot stress enough how important it is to select your recommendations carefully.
   - ➔ The Faculty Selection Committee needs detailed and positive information regarding your service *and* leadership skills to evaluate you properly.
   - ➔ The Faculty Selection Committee strongly recommends that you demonstrate a diversified application by featuring leadership activities/roles/positions as well as service activities for which you do not receive monetary compensation and/or are not in exchange for discounted tuition or fees.
   - ➔ ***ALSO VERY IMPORTANT:* Only ask teachers who know you in a capacity OTHER THAN the classroom** -- for example, a club adviser or coach. The teacher must be able to provide information about you *outside of the classroom.* Being a "leader in the classroom" is fantastic -- but the Selection Committee already knows that by virtue of you being invited to apply to NHS !

4. Service and Leadership Templates:

- *** ***IMPORTANT NOTES ON SERVICE HOURS**: **1)** In order to apply, Candidates for NHS **MUST** have **45 hours of completed service** -- **at least 20 hours of which MUST be community-based service (non-MOHS)**; 2) Only Service hours and Leadership from **Grade 9 and forward** are considered for your application; **3) Include voluntary Service ONLY** – "participation" or "required" activities should not be noted **4)** The "Guidelines for Service, Leadership, and Character" document (see pages 4 - 8 section on "Service Pillar Guidelines") for specifics on service vs. participation.*

- The Service and Leadership Templates provide you with an organized space to detail your service activities and hours along with your leadership experiences.
- **For Service, you will indicate MOHS and Community activities description with hours**.**
- ** **Only true "volunteer" service hours count – do not count hours for activities which are required by a club/organization.** For example, if tutoring is a requirement of an Honor Society membership, those hours may not be counted as "service" for your NHS application consideration.
- **For Leadership, you will indicate the organization (within or outside of MOHS) along with your role/position and responsibilities.**
- On the Leadership template, you will also be able to list Honors/Awards and/or employment positions.
- On each template, please provide your References information, including the names, titles/roles, and contact emails of each of your selected recommenders.

The Faculty Selection Committee *values a mix of school and community service during the application evaluation process.*

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- ➢ **The Essay, Recommendation letters, and Service and Leadership Templates must be UPLOADED TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM no later than THURSDAY, 9/10/26 by 11:59 pm**
- ➢ Failure to meet this deadline will be interpreted as an indication that you do not wish to be considered for selection to NHS.
- ➢ **Late/incomplete application packets will not be considered. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask one of the advisers or one of the current NHS officers or NHS members.

The application review and selection process will take several weeks to finish. You will be notified via email after the Faculty Selection Committee has made its decision.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Ross/Room B242 Mrs.Shaw/Room S07