



Somers Middle School National Junior Honor Society Application Directions 2026-2027



Dear Interested Candidate,

If you wish to access the National Jr. Honor Society Application, you MUST join the NJHS Schoology course (not a group) for your grade level. Only students may join the NJHS Schoology courses! Use the codes below. You will be let into the course within 72 hours of your request.

6th Grade- 9GRM-5N75-5HNRF

7th Grade- 9D43-NX4R-K542B

8th Grade- 7SDC-8QPZ-BHM2H

*****The request to join MUST be received no later than Friday, February 26th, 2027*****

The information below describes National Junior Honor Society and gives directions for applying to the SMS chapter. NJHS is based on 5 pillars which align directly with our school's mission, as an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme school. The NJHS pillars are **Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Citizenship, and Character**. There are multiple direct connections between NJHS and MYP, as both are designed to help students like you to develop into responsible and caring global citizens and leaders within the community. This application gives you the opportunity to be thoughtful and reflect on how you meet those requirements.

Eligibility to Apply is based on the current year AND the prior year (for 7th and 8th graders).

- ❖ **6th graders – You need to reflect on how your first year at SMS is going.**
- ❖ **7th graders – You need to reflect on both your 6th grade and current 7th grade years.**
- ❖ **8th graders – You need to reflect on both your 7th grade and current 8th grade years.**

SCHOLARSHIP – Students must demonstrate a high level of academic achievement:

- All courses are weighted equally
- Students must earn a **90 or above in at least 6 of your courses**. (This is a cumulative average for *each* course - not combined average of all courses- for trimester 1 & 2)
- **No course grade average below 80**. (Each course's cumulative grade for trimester 1 & 2 must be at least an 80.)
- **Averages are not rounded up**

BEHAVIOR (Character) – Demonstration of positive conduct aligned with the SMS Code of Conduct is required.

- Any **suspension (in or out of school) per the Code of Conduct** will result in automatic denial of candidacy for the current academic year.
- Students with **5 or more documented Level 1 or Level 2 behaviors** will result in automatic denial of candidacy for the current academic year.
- Prior incidents may be considered with student reflection in the application.

SERVICE- 15 Hours of service are required. You will need to provide a list of your service hours, complete with a supervisors' name, date completed and hours on each date. When in doubt, contact Mrs. Schettino or Mrs. Bieber. Service hours will be verified by the advisors.

- Service includes organizations, projects, charities, etc. for which you have given your time for no personal gain and or received any compensation.
- **Donating vs. Serving-** As per NHS and NJHS regulations- service must be actionable. **NJHS service hours recognize the time and effort you personally give to help others, not the money or items you donate** Students can certainly donate items, but the donation itself does not represent time spent performing community service.

Examples:

- **Food pantry:** Buying or donating groceries = **not service hours**. Sorting donations, assembling food boxes, stocking shelves, or volunteering at the pantry = **service hours**.
- **Jam the Jeep:** Purchasing canned goods or bringing donated items to school = **not service hours**. Helping organize and sort the collected items, packing boxes, loading the Jeep, or helping prepare the donations for delivery = **service hours**.
- **Holiday toy drive:** Buying and donating a toy = **not service hours**. Volunteering to sort, wrap, organize, or distribute donated toys = **service hours**.
- **Card collection:** Buying cards to donate = **not service hours**. Personally creating/writing cards for veterans, hospital patients, nursing-home residents, etc. = **service hours**.
- **Clothing drive:** Donating clothes from home or purchasing new clothing = **not service hours**. Spending time sorting, organizing, packing, or distributing the collected clothing = **service hours**.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY– Students must maintain academic honesty at all times.

- **Documented Academic Integrity violation** will be reviewed and may result in denial of membership. This includes but not limited to the SCSD Guidelines of AI acceptable use.
- At no time should a student or parent contact a teacher to request a grade change for the purposes of NJHS eligibility. Grade change requests connected to NJHS candidacy are considered a breach of academic integrity and **may impact a student's ability to be considered for membership**

ATTENDANCE- Attendance is an integral part of demonstrating scholarship, citizenship, and character. NJHS members are expected to be present in class and take an active role in their own learning. To meet this requirement, candidates must have less than 15 absences in each of the current, except under extenuating circumstances. Chronic lateness/early dismissals count towards the attendance requirement (*to be reviewed by the NJHS advisory committee*).

The application deadline is Friday, March 12, 2027@ 5pm.

If your application is not electronically turned in by the deadline, you will not be considered for membership this year.

Sincerely,
Jenna Schettino and Ellen Bieber
SMS NJHS Advisors