

National Honor Society Selection Process 2013-2014

Introduction:

Membership in the National Honor Society is an honor, not a privilege based solely on academics. Each member must also demonstrate and maintain strength in leadership, service and character. Information on guidelines for all four criteria is available to students and parents. Careful consideration is given so as not to discriminate any qualified candidate or member based on race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex (gender), and disability.

1. Selection of Members

- a. Criteria for scholarship (as per bylaws)
 - i. Students must be enrolled at least one semester before being considered for membership.
 - ii. Current juniors and seniors are eligible.
- b. In January, after 1st semester grades have been posted, a cumulative weighted grade report is generated by the Director of Studies, for current juniors and seniors. This report includes the grades from the first semester, giving semester courses the 0.5 credit and full year courses, which would not show up as a completed course, a 0.5 credit also.
- c. Once the list of candidates eligible by meeting the scholarship component for NHS is created, letters are sent to the students. Included in this letter is the candidate information form.
- d. The chapter adviser meets with the candidates at break immediately after they receive the letters to confirm receipt of the letter, to remind them of the firmness of the deadline, and to answer any questions.
- e. The Dean of Students is given a list of candidates to research any Honor Code violations and to generate a list of the number of unexcused tardies, demerits, TADs, in-school confinements, and out of school suspensions. This report is given to the chapter adviser, and is referred to during discussions by the Faculty Council.
- f. After the candidate information forms are turned into the Upper School office, where students initial they have turned it in, the chapter adviser does the following:
 - i. Make four copies of each form.
 - ii. Send a list of candidates to all Upper School faculty and staff, asking for input on the students regarding leadership, service, and character.
- g. Discussions are held at meetings with the Faculty Council and the chapter adviser. Each member is given copies of a group of candidates to report back to the committee. All candidate information forms are reviewed carefully, based on the criteria below and votes are taken. Majority vote for selection is needed.
- h. Candidates not selected are notified in person, by their grade chair or by the school counselor, before the letters are sent to those selected. Careful consideration is given to each student's well-being. All non-selected candidates are given specifics on which of the four criteria mandated by the National Honor Society was not met.
- i. Appeals Process:

If a candidate who is not selected wishes to appeal the decision of the Faculty Council;

- All appeals go directly to the principal, and will be based on a review of original candidate information form, without additional information.
- Possible outcomes:
 - Rejection of the appeal; sustaining of the original judgment.
 - Request from the principal for the Faculty Council to reconsider the case.
 - A change in decision, resulting in the selection of the student in question.
 - An overturning of the Faculty Council's decision by the administration, only if a technical or procedural error had been made.

2. **Selection Criteria** Scholarship:

Per www.nhs.us:

Students who have a cumulative grade point average of 85 percent, B, 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent standard of excellence, **or a higher cumulative average set by the local school's Faculty Council**, meet the scholarship requirement for membership. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, and character (and citizenship for NJHS)

Brookstone, as a college preparatory school, takes academics very seriously. To be eligible for consideration for membership in NHS, students must have an 85 or higher weighted academic average. Once the academic requirement is met, students will be considered on the basis of service, leadership and character.

3. Service:

Per www.nhs.us

“This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.”

Through Servant Leadership at Brookstone, many opportunities are given for serving the community, including the Day of Service. As all students participate on that day, candidates for the Brookstone chapter of NHS must demonstrate service beyond that minimum.

To be selected as a member of our chapter, a candidate must demonstrate on his or her Candidate Form, the completion of twenty (20) hours of service undertaken at school or in the community since the start of ninth grade and may include Day of Service hours.

The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, and is willing to make sacrifices to offer assistance.
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities.
- Enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school.
- Is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition.
- Does committee and staff work without complaint.

- Participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, religious groups, volunteer service for the elderly, poor or disadvantaged.
- Mentors in the community or students at other schools.
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

4. Leadership:

Per www.nhs.us:

Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

Recognizing that leadership is more than the number of elected offices a student has held in the school or community, and that students may be leaders in the classroom, on the athletic field, and in “un-sung” ways, students must show a minimum of one (1) verifiable, confirmation by the adult leader listed, leadership role at school or in the community achieved since the ninth grade on their Candidate Form.

A student exercises leadership when he or she:

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

5. Character

Per www.nhs.us:

The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others, and generally maintains a good and clean lifestyle.

To be selected as a member of Brookstone’s chapter of NHS, students must display the six pillars of character – trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

The Honor Code on which Brookstone stands states: “As a Brookstone student I will neither lie, cheat, steal or tolerate any of these acts.”

The Faculty Council will very carefully consider the records of students, who have violated the Honor Code, or students who have been issued warnings or tickets by law

officials, or students who have been issued multiple demerits, served Thursday Afternoon Detentions (TADS) or who have served in-school-confinement, in-school-suspension, or out-of-school suspensions.

The student of character:

- Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability).
- Cooperates by complying with all school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct.
- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic, and reliability.
- Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others.
- Complies with instructions and rules, and displays personal responsibility.