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# National Honor Society Candidate Information Meeting

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Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Advisor: Mrs. Joanne Fenimore

# The Four Pillars of the National Honor Society

- I. Scholarship
- II. Leadership
- III. Service
- IV. Character

All four pillars are equally regarded when it comes to NHS membership. Candidates must demonstrate consistent strength in these four areas in order to be granted membership.

# Initial Qualification Standards

- Students graduating in the Class of 2015, 2016, and 2017 are required to have a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.0 to receive an initial qualification letter.
- Starting with students graduating in the Class of 2018, a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.5 will be required.
- Open to juniors and seniors only.

# The Application Process

- All application requirements will be due to Mrs. Fenimore by a specific date. NO late or incomplete application packets will be accepted!
- All completed application packets will be carefully reviewed by the NHS Faculty Council. The Faculty Council will then vote on each application for membership. Majority vote of the Faculty Council rules.
- All candidates who submit completed application packets on time are guaranteed an impartial review.
- The advisor and principal are considered non-voting members of the Faculty Council.

# Application Requirements

- **Completed application.**
  - ❖ There are spaces on the application to list all in-school activities and athletics, non-school-sponsored activities and athletics, community service activities, and employment experiences.
  - ❖ For every activity listed on the application, the signature of the coach, advisor, or supervisor must be obtained.
  - ❖ For any coach or advisor who is not a current employee of South Hunterdon High School, contact information must also be listed.
  - ❖ Applications must be signed by both the candidate and the candidate's parent/guardian.

# Application Requirements

- Two short essays
  - ❖ Topics are listed on page 1 of the application.
  - ❖ Essays should be limited to two typewritten pages, double-spaced in a traditional, 12-point font.
- Two letters of recommendation from academic teachers who can speak to the candidate's ability and leadership in the classroom.
- One letter of recommendation from an advisor, coach, or supervisor who can speak of the candidate's commitment and leadership outside of the classroom.

# Community Service Requirement

- There is no set minimum number of hours of annual community service required for NHS membership. However, the Faculty Council will look favorably upon those students who go “above and beyond” the 20-hour annual requirement for graduation.
  - The Faculty Council considers regular commitment to service very important. If a candidate has been unable to commit to more than 20 hours of volunteer service per year, it would be beneficial for candidates to explain why. A short note on the application would be appreciated.
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# What About Character?

- The Faculty Council will be reviewing any formal discipline and attendance records on file.
- The three required letters of recommendation will speak to each candidate's character in and outside of the classroom as well.

# Appeals of Faculty Council Decisions

- Parents may appeal decisions of the Faculty Council. Appeals must be made in writing to both the National Honor Society advisor and to the principal.
- Appeals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Chapter Appeals Committee, which consists of the principal, two members of the Faculty Council, one teacher not currently serving on the Faculty Council, a guidance counselor, and the advisor.
- Under no circumstances will an appeal request be honored for candidates who fail to hand in completed application packets by the deadline, or for candidates who hand in incomplete application packets.

# NHS Membership

- All candidates who have earned membership status will be notified in writing. (Candidates who are not granted membership will also be notified in writing.)
- New members are expected to attend the monthly NHS meeting (first Monday of each month), and to notify Mrs. Fenimore beforehand if unable to make a particular meeting.
- New members will also be expected to attend induction ceremony practices, and to give input regarding the induction ceremony. “What would you like to see happen during your ceremony?”

# NHS Membership

- All NHS members are expected to sign up and volunteer their time as weekly peer tutors. Tutoring takes place during the school day, and is arranged through Mrs. Fenimore on an as-needed basis.
- All NHS members are expected to help volunteer at school functions such as college fairs, career day, and the annual senior citizen holiday luncheon.
- All NHS members are required to maintain a minimum unweighted quarterly GPA of 3.0 throughout senior year.
- All NHS members are expected to identify an “Influential Educator” and write a letter to that educator, to be read at the following year’s springtime induction ceremony.

# Dismissal Procedures

- Students will be automatically dismissed from the National Honor Society for any of the following infractions:
  - ❖ Violations of the school alcohol & drug policy
  - ❖ Violations of the law such as assault, theft, unlawful possession of weapons on school property, or unlawful internet misuse
  - ❖ Academic dishonesty
  - ❖ Destruction of school or others' personal property
  - ❖ Excessive minor disciplinary infractions resulting in detentions/suspensions.

# Dismissal Procedures

- Any out-of-school suspension of any NHS member will automatically be reviewed by the Faculty Council.
- Any member whose quarterly GPA falls below 3.0 will be required to meet privately with the advisor. A plan for improving the member's grade(s) will be developed, and the student will be placed on probationary status. If that student does not show improvement, and/or a consistent "good faith effort" (e.g., attending regular unit lunch tutorials with the teacher, weekly peer tutoring, homework completion, etc.) to improve by the following marking period, s/he may be dismissed from the NHS.

# Dismissal Procedures

- In all cases pending dismissal, the member, advisor, and principal will discuss the situation in a private conference. A letter will be sent home to the member's parents/ guardians.
- The member and his/her parents have the right to appeal the dismissal and present their defense in person before the Faculty Council.
- When a student is dismissed from the National Honor Society, s/he may never reapply for membership, and gives up all privileges of membership therein.

# Now That That's Out of the Way...

- When are completed application packets due to Mrs. Fenimore?
  - ❖ Thursday, March 5, 2015 by 2:43 PM
  - ❖ Please put all application materials in a plain brown mailer envelope with the candidate's name and "NHS Application" written on the front.
  - ❖ If Mrs. Fenimore isn't available when you want to drop off your packet, please give it to Mrs. Baker, Ms. Christofely, or Ms. Laird in Guidance.

# REMEMBER...

- A complete application packet consists of:
  - ❖ Application signed by the candidate and the candidate's parents/guardians
  - ❖ Two essays, maximum of two double-spaced pages each
  - ❖ Two letters of recommendation from academic teachers
  - ❖ One letter of recommendation from an advisor, coach, or supervisor
  - ❖ A short note to the Faculty Council, written by the candidate, if s/he feels that s/he may have fallen short in an area such as Service or Character.
  - ❖ Turned in to Mrs. Fenimore by 2:43 PM on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

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# QUESTIONS?

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