



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

What is it?

Founded in 1921, the National Honor Society (NHS) is an organization created by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) to recognize and encourage academic achievement while developing other characteristics essential to citizenship in a democratic society. These ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service remain as relevant today as in 1921.

What do the four ideals mean to the National and Local chapters?

- **Scholarship** - To be eligible for membership consideration, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 90% or above.
- **Leadership** - This ideal is based upon one's participation in community, work and school activities or election to offices.
- **Service** - This ideal is based on activities undertaken by the student, which are done without direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service. The contributions made to school, classmates, and communities, as well as the student's attitude toward service, are relevant.
- **Character** - This ideal is based on individual demonstration of the "Six Pillars of Character" as defined by the Character Counts Coalition of which NASSP is a member. They are respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

How does one apply?

In the fall of each year, juniors and seniors wishing to apply must file the Declaration of Interest form with the NHS Advisor to initiate the process. Juniors and seniors are also eligible to apply in the spring by filing the Declaration of Interest form with the NHS Advisor. Deadlines are announced daily for one week prior to submission and those deadlines are strictly enforced. The Counseling and Guidance Office verifies the cumulative average and students receive a notification in first period of eligibility to apply.

What is involved with the application process?

Once eligible for application, students will be expected to attend a 30-minute meeting explaining the process. At this meeting, students will receive a packet of information. How one fills out the packet plays a major part in the selection. The NHS advisor and student officers will be available at the meeting and during application period to aid in completing the packet. Deadlines for submission of application are strictly enforced. **Please remember, the four ideals of NHS are the basis for selection, not just the cumulative average.**

Who makes the selection?

A committee of nine volunteer faculty members, called the Faculty Council, works with the NHS advisor to select the inductees based on the criteria set by NHS. Members of the Faculty Council evaluate the packets and then conduct a brief 10 minute interview with the candidates. The Faculty Council then compiles a final score for each applicant based on the packet and the interview.

How many times may a student apply?

Students may apply in the fall and spring of their junior and senior years. It is highly recommended that interested students reapply if they are not initially selected. The advisor and officers are available to meet with any student not selected and offer suggestions on how to qualify in the future. Increasing volunteer activities is an excellent way to improve qualification.

What are the obligations of members once selected?

The national constitution defines several obligations for members. First, all members are to maintain the standards by which they were selected (i.e., continued performance at or above the required GPA, involvement in service and leadership projects, etc.) In addition, the constitution expects members to attend meetings, pay dues, and to perform both individual and chapter service projects during the year. Local chapter requirements include attendance at any general meetings during the school year, attendance at two induction ceremonies, payment of yearly dues, and, along with individual service commitments, participation in a minimum of 10 hours of NHS chapter service projects. A variety of service activities are scheduled throughout the year to fulfill chapter responsibilities.

What are the deadlines for this induction session?

February 1, 2010	Declaration of Interest forms are available from the Vestal web page and the main office.
February 12, 2010	Declaration of Interest forms are due to the Guidance Office by 3:00 pm
February 25, 2010	Students meet with NHS advisor and officers to review the application process, obtain materials, and schedule interviews.
March 12, 2010	Packets are due (2 copies) to the Guidance Office by 3:00 pm sharp.
March 23-24, 2010	Interviews are conducted.
March 30, 2010	Letters will be mailed to students to notify them of the status of their application.
April 21, 2010	Induction Rehearsal, Period 8 Induction, 7:00 pm

Questions?

**Please see Mrs. Smith in the
Counseling & Guidance Office.**