

National Honor Society

2017-2018

Students are invited to apply for the National Honor Society in their Junior and Senior year if they have met the following criteria:

Leadership

Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified. The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive influence in upholding school ideals
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- 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, and in other school or community activities
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted
- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude

Service

The panel will review the contributions each candidate has made to school, classmates, and community, as well as the student's attitude toward service.

The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work without complaint
- Participates in some activity outside of school, i.e., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
- Show courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers and students

Character

According to the National Honor Society Constitution, a person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. In addition, it can also be said that the student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and faithful both inside and outside the classroom
- Has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the minimum required GPA to be in NHS?

The current GPA stands at a 3.6. If a student has met this GPA requirement by the beginning of his/her Junior year they will receive an invitation letter home stating that they are a potential candidate and, if interested in applying, are required to attend the candidate meeting. Seniors meeting this requirement who have not already been accepted into NHS in their Junior year will also be invited to apply.

Can I be accepted into NHS as a Senior if I was not accepted as a Junior?

Yes. You can be accepted as a Senior if you meet the 3.6 GPA requirement at the beginning of the year and you were not already accepted into NHS.

How many service hours are required to be eligible for NHS selection?

NHS students usually complete 40 hours of service per high school year. For Juniors who are eligible to apply 80 hours should be documented, for Seniors 120 hours. **These hours should be from multiple organizations.**

****Students must document at least two IN-SCHOOL service opportunities and two COMMUNITY service opportunities.****

How many leadership hours are required to be eligible for NHS selection?

While there is no set number of leadership hours, the candidate is required to demonstrate sustained leadership in either the school or community. The committee is looking at the quality and duration of the leadership position held.

What counts as leadership or service hours?

Service can be described as participation in any activity for a **non-profit** organization. Service should be completed on a volunteer basis and not as a requirement for a club or group. Non-profit is defined as “A corporation or an association that conducts business for the benefit of the general public without shareholders and without a profit motive.”

For example:

- Doing yard work for a family member does not count towards your service hours because it is not an organization where the hours can be professionally verified.
- Kumon, doctors’ offices, and lawyers’ offices are for-profit organizations and will **only** count for leadership.

Leadership Leadership for the purpose of NHS is considered an experience in which a candidate initiated, organized, facilitated, delegated, or served as some sort of chairperson for a group, organization, event, etc. E.g. Tutor/teacher, officer in a club, captain of a team, organizer of a recognized activity or group, etc.

Can something be both leadership and service?

Yes. We leave this up to the candidate to decide. If you have 150 Leadership Hours but need an additional 20 Service Hours in order to complete your application, you can choose to transfer hours that could fall in both the Service and Leadership categories to Service. These hours must be deducted from the total Leadership hours. A candidate cannot “double dip”, using the same hours for both Leadership and Service.

***When do service and leadership hours start counting for admission into NHS?
When do they stop counting toward your total?***

A candidate may begin logging hours on his or her first day of 9th grade. The cutoff for hours is **December 3, 2017**. Any service or leadership hours accumulated after this date **WILL NOT** count toward a candidate’s application hours.

How are hours verified?

If service hours are completed IN SCHOOL, these hours need to be verified with a signature from a teacher or staff member. If hours are completed with an organization outside of school, the committee requires a signed letter on **letterhead** or a **certificate** from the organization. Dates of service and hours completed must be clearly stated in the application packet. No family member may sign off on a candidate’s application packet. Please do not send pictures, photographs, thank you letters, or assignments that you have created. The committee needs to see a verified signature from the organization or person with whom you have worked closely.

How does an integrity violation affect my eligibility?

Any student earning a level two violation or greater during his or her high school career is unlikely to be accepted in the initial selection process. A student earning a level three integrity violation or greater will not be considered for admission. The National Honor Society stands for academics, character, and integrity. We value honesty above all else.

When we will know if we were accepted into NHS?

Letters will be sent home approximately one month prior to the induction ceremony in March. Any student who is not initially accepted will have the chance to appeal to a selection committee. Service and Leadership hours completed after the original December cutoff date **will not** count toward the appeals process.

After I am a member of NHS what is required of me?

New members inducted in their senior year must complete an additional 8 hours of service before May of their graduation year. New members inducted as a junior must complete 25 hours of service before May of their graduation year.

Can I be removed from NHS?

Yes. You can be removed from NHS if you fail to complete your required service hours, your GPA falls below the required number, or if any other issues of integrity or character arise.

How do we contact the NHS advisors with any further questions?

You can email the NHS advisors at NHS@sbschools.org