



NEW DIMENSIONS HIGH SCHOOL

Chapter National Honor Society

Bylaws adopted 09-12, amended 09-17

Article I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be New Dimensions High School Chapter of the National Honor Society

Article II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, to encourage the development of character, and to cultivate and maintain a culture of honor in the students of New Dimensions High School.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, good character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2 - Membership shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3 - The Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, Head Administrators, teachers, NHS advisers, adults, students with disabilities, or foreign exchange students in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of the National Honor Society. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 4 - Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5 - Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to be nominated by their chapters to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship Program.

Section 6 - An NHS member who transfers to another school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter adviser to the new school adviser shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 7 - Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

ARTICLE IV: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1 - To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of those classes (sophomore, junior, senior) designated as eligible in the chapter bylaws. (Freshmen [ninth graders] are not eligible.) Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester.

Section 2 - The Legacy chapter minimum standard for scholarship shall be a cumulative scholastic average of at least 88 percent. Cumulative to include 4 core courses and leadership. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and Good character.

Section 3 - The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Council. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser shall review with the principal the results of the Council's deliberations.

Section 4 - A description of the selection procedure shall be published on the NDHS web site for which is widely available to all students and parents of the school. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of NHS.

Section 5 - NDHS shall not review the judgment of the Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

Section 6 - Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the National Honor Society Application for further consideration for selection.
- c. The Council shall review the application in order to determine membership.

Section 7 - The selection of new active members shall be held once a year; the induction ceremony will occur in February/March each year.

Section 8 - Candidates become members when inducted at the induction ceremony.

Section 9 - Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 10 - An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and will be signed by the principal or chapter adviser.

Section 11 – A student who is an active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school from another and brings a letter from the principal or chapter adviser will automatically be accepted for membership in this chapter. The Council shall grant the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements in order to retain his or her membership.

ARTICLE V: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

Section 1 - Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, or good character may be considered for dismissal from the New Dimensions High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in leadership and service in his or her school and community.

Section 2 - If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected (minimum cumulative GPA of 88), he or she will be given a written warning and a time period (generally of one grading period) for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3 - If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4 - Violation of the law or school regulations as outlined in the discipline policy of NDHS can result in dismissal of a member. Examples of such activities include but are not limited to any display of inappropriate content or any reference by name or disparaging remark about NDHS or anyone affiliated with NDHS on personal internet blog sites (public or private) or chat rooms, participation in any group or organization whose reputation is not above reproach (e.g., gangs, some fraternal organizations, etc.), as well as behaving immorally, such as public intoxication, lewd behavior, or physical altercations with others. NDHS will guard the reputation of the school and individual persons affiliated with the school by implementing appropriate discipline for behavior in violation of this policy.

Section 5 – Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Council, student, or parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6 - In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser or Council indicating the reason for possible dismissal. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Council prior to the vote on dismissal. The Council will then vote on whether or not to dismiss member. A majority vote of the Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Council vote will be reviewed by the Directors and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent by the Council to the student, his or her parents, and the Administrator. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.

d. The Council's decision may be appealed to the Directors and afterwards through the school discipline policy.

e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 7 - In lieu of dismissal, the Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1 - The officers of the chapter shall be president; vice presidents of service, secretary, treasurer, and publicity.

Section 2 - Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of the previous school year; any positions not filled at that meeting may be filled after the induction of new members in the spring. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

Section 3 - A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Section 4 - It shall be the duty of the president to determine meeting agendas, run chapter meetings, and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 5 - The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6 - The publicity coordinator shall submit articles of NHS Activities to school newspaper for relevant editions; notify local newspapers/yearbook photographers of NHS activities (photo opportunities); advertise service projects to school; coordinate publicity committee.

Section 7 - The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 8 - The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 9 - The historian shall document activities and notable moments and shall maintain the NHS Trifold for school information meetings and NHS scrapbook.

Section 10 - Officers and the Council shall be collectively known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and business of the chapter. Any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE VII: ACTIVITIES

Section I - The Executive Council shall determine one or more service projects for each semester.

Section 2 - All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3 - These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

ARTICLE VIII: DUES

Section 1 - Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$ 20.00.

Section 2 - Dues will be payable to the chapter chair within 30 days of induction.

ARTICLE IX: POWERS

Section 1 - The chapter chair is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the principal.

Section 2 - The Administrator shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3 - These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

Article X: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, AND REVIEW

Section 1 - These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a majority affirmative vote of the Council and approval by the administration.

Section 2 - These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are selection and discipline, which are developed by the Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2 - Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society.

Approved on: _____

Signatures:

_____ Council Chair
_____ Council Member
_____ Council Member