



2015-2016

Local Selection Process Guidelines



Much care and attention has been given to the formulation of the selection process guidelines, all of which are based on existing provisions of the NHS National Constitution. To be selected for membership, the Faculty Council considers a candidate's demonstration and participation in the 4 categories of National Honor Society principles: *Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character.*

Scholarship

The scholarship requirement set by the National Council is based on a student's cumulative grade point average. Students invited to candidacy have already met or exceeded this requirement.

Heritage High School's minimum cumulative GPA to qualify students to candidacy is 3.2.

Service

Service is generally considered to be actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation.

To be selected as a member of our chapter, a candidate must demonstrate on his or her Candidate Form, the completion of ten (10) hours of service undertaken at school or the community since the start of ninth grade.

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 services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged
- Mentors in the community or students at other schools
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

Character

National Honor Society supports the multi-faceted definition of character known as the Six Pillars of Character. A candidate will be able to demonstrate an outstanding record of conduct and behavior with regard to school and community rules, guidelines, and policies, or be able to demonstrate sufficient growth and improvement to compensate for previous inadequacies.

A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Documentation of character might include such sources as:

- Administrative discipline records of the school
- Counseling records from the guidance office
- Conduct/behavior grades or ratings (including comments) on report cards or progress reports
- Professional records of individual faculty members
- Recommendations from faculty members evaluations in candidate evaluation forms
- Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable 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 integrity, and reliability
- Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Complies with instructions and rules, and displays personal responsibility

Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. The Faculty Council interprets leadership in terms of number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations. We recognize that leadership exists outside elected positions including leadership roles in and out of the classroom and effective participation in positions of responsibility in other activities offered on campus such as athletic team captains, section leaders in band and chorus, committee chairs in student groups, etc. Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified.

“To meet the leadership criterion for NHS, a student must name two (2) leadership roles at school or in the community achieved since the ninth grade and indicate the roles and the name of the adult who supervised each of these activities on the Candidate Form. More than two roles may be listed, but there must be two verifiable listings to be selected to our chapter.”

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 and community
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility 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 accepted responsibility

The Faculty Council

The Faculty Council is annually appointed by the principal. This body of 5 faculty members is responsible for selecting members and the dismissal & discipline process. The NHS advisor is an advisory, non-voting member of the Faculty Council who is not involved in any membership status decisions.