Membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

The National Honor Society is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in order to give recognition to outstanding high school students. A committee made up of the Executive Council and the Faculty Advisor will consider each student’s developing character, service to community, and leadership qualities to confirm induction into the society. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the election council.

The following guidelines will help give further definition of leadership, service and character.

### Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. Leadership roles in both the school and the community may be considered provided that they can be verified.

The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions.
- Demonstrates leadership in school activities.
- Exercises influences on peers in upholding school activities.
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- Is able to delegate responsibilities.
- Exemplifies a positive attitude.
- Inspires positive behavior in others.
- Demonstrates academic initiative.
- Successfully holds school offices or other positions of responsibility.
- *Conducts business effectively, and without prodding, demonstrates reliability and dependability.*
- Demonstrates leadership in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities.
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.

### Service

The criterion of service is often defined in terms of contributions. Common questions are: What contributions has this candidate made to school, classmates, and community? What is the student’s attitude toward service?

The student who serves:

- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.
- Participates in some outside activity: Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; 4 H; church
groups; volunteer for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged; family duties.
• Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance; is gladly available
• 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 uncomplainingly.
• Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

Character
Character is probably the most difficult to define. The election council should consider the positive as well as the negative aspects of characters. All judgments should be free of hearsay and rumor.

A 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, athletics, office, hall, etc.
• Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability.
• Shows courtesy, concern and respect for others.
• Observes instruction and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside the classroom.
• Has power of concentration 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.
• Is free from any truancy reports, in-school suspensions, and out-of-school suspensions.

NON-SELECTION PROCEDURE
“Parents and students must understand that no student has the right to be selected for membership in a chapter of the National Honor Society, and that the Election Council is entrusted with making selections decisions . . .”
“Schools are not obliged to share with parents and students information concerning non-selection of specific students. According to NASSP (National Association of Secondary School Principals) legal counsel, no constitutional due process requirements apply in non-selection cases.”
“The National Council and NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.”
If parents or students are unsatisfied with the decision of non-selection into NHS, the parents or students should speak to the principal. “The principal should, of course, listen to the concerns of students not selected, or from the parents of such students. Following such discussions, if the principal believes that some kind of technical or procedural mistake has been made, the principal may ask the Election Council to reconvene to review the situation.”

“If a non-selected student or his/her parents wish to challenge the principal’s decision they should follow the local school system complaint procedure.”

*All quotes were directly take from the National Honor Society Handbook and Constitution, Edition 15, updated in 1997, pages 34-35.*