

By-laws
The High School of Saint Thomas More Chapter
of the
National Honor Society of Secondary Schools

Article I

Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be The High School of Saint Thomas More Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2. The object of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of The High School of Saint Thomas More.

Article II

Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. The graduate members have no vote.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

Section 3. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at The High School of Saint Thomas More.

Section 4. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.20 (out of 4.0; unweighted grade point average). This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such a standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership. Their eligibility shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

Article III

Selection of Members

Section 1. The final selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, non-voting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically shall be notified and asked to attend an informational meeting to acquire and begin completing the *NHS Candidate Information Form* for selection consideration.
- c. Students will need to gather the required information and signatures.
- d. Students will need to submit their completed *NHS Candidate Information Form* to the NHS Chapter Adviser by the given deadline.
- e. A list of prospective members will be distributed to the faculty to affirm that each faculty member agrees that each student on the list meets the NHS standards of character. Each faculty member will have the opportunity to voice praises or concerns of those seeking membership.
- f. Office Administration will look over disciplinary records and relay any pertinent information to the Faculty Council for selection consideration.
- g. The *NHS Candidate Information Form* shall be reviewed by the Faculty Council. Selection of members is by majority vote of the Council, using the *NHS Candidate Information Form* as a guideline.

Section 3. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the first semester of the school year.

Section 4. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the Principal.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. This transfer member will attain within *one semester* and then maintain the membership requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

Article IV

Dismissal

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from The High School of Saint Thomas More Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the national Honor Society is expected to maintain an active role in service and leadership in his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (3.20), he/she will be given written warning and allowed one semester for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below 3.20 at the end of the warning period, the student may be dismissed from the chapter.

Section 3. Violation of criminal law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities.

Section 4. 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 (Faculty Council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of school conduct code, the member may be dismissed.

Section 5. All active members will be required to participate in a minimum of two events each semester. Participation will count in either the planning or taking an active role in the event. Failure to meet these standards will result in a written warning and allowed one semester for improvement. If improvement is not made after the warning period, the student will go before the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council will then determine the student's membership status.

Section 6. All active members are required to attend biweekly meetings. Each missed meeting will result in notification from adviser. Member(s) will need to meet with the adviser upon notification. If four meetings in a semester are missed, a written warning will be issued and member(s) will be allowed one semester for improvement. If improvement is not made after the warning period, the student will go before the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council will then determine the student's membership status.

Section 7. If the case of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification of the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser/Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference.
- b. The member will be offered a hearing with the Faculty Council prior to dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in the National Constitution). The present member has the opportunity to present his/her defense. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss.
- c. A letter of dismissal will be sent to the principal, student, and parents if the student is dismissed. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The member may appeal the Faculty Council's decision to the Principal. "He or she shall follow the local district appeals process. Decisions made should be based on adequacy and fairness of the Faculty Council procedures." (NHS Handbook pg. 58)
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 6. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Article V

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and historian.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year with all current members still active (i.e. prior to senior graduation). All returning members are eligible to run for a position as an officer.

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 preside at the meeting for this chapter. It shall be the duty of the vice-president to preside in the absence of the president. It shall be the duty of the secretary to provide minutes of the meetings. It shall be the duty of the historian to document and keep information up-to-date on the message board.

Article VI

Emblem

Section 1. Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Article VII

Dues

Section 1. All members inducted into NHS will need to pay a onetime fee of \$20.

Section 2. Dues collected will go towards the charter fee and NHS supplies.

Article VIII

Amendments

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 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 Articles III and IV which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.*

Section 2. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.

Section 3. Requirements for membership selection and execution of all chapter activities for the first year (2002-2003) are subject to change under the discretion of the Faculty Council and the advisement of the Principal.