

## **FAQ's ABOUT NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY AND HOW THE REVIEW PROCESS WORKS**

*The National Junior Honor Society was established to recognize outstanding middle-level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS honors students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.*

### **When are students selected for membership?**

- Seventh and eighth grade students who have a middle school grade percentage of 93.5% or higher are invited to apply. Invitations to apply are extended during the third quarter of the school year.

### **What are the criteria for selection?**

- Students are evaluated in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

### **What is meant by leadership?**

- Leadership includes elected or appointed positions in which the student was directly responsible for motivating or directing others. Examples would be elected student council officer, club-elected officers, team captains, committee chairperson, and so on.
- Students can also exhibit leadership within the classroom and community

### **What things are included in service/volunteer/extracurricular activities?**

- Any volunteer activities within the community such as church, school-related, etc. that benefit the community and occur on a regular basis
- Being a member of an extracurricular group such as athletics, clubs, and organizations in school or in the community
- Work-related experiences – volunteer or paid

### **What qualities are used to evaluate character?**

- Attendance, tardies, dress code violations, demerits; merits
- Academic honesty – has the student ever been caught cheating, sharing answers, copying another student's homework or allowing someone to copy theirs, plagiarizing from the Internet or other sources?
- Is the student polite and respectful to faculty, staff, and peers? Are they willing to help others? Do they volunteer to assist others without being asked?

## **How does the committee decide on membership?**

**Step 1:** Student is invited to complete the NJHS application and turns it in on-time. Student also asks a core teacher (Religion, math, science, social studies, or language arts) to complete the Teacher Recommendation form. The application form must be signed by both the student and parent. Applications that are not signed will not be considered.

Invited students will attend a mandatory NJHS Application Meeting (date to be announced).

**NOTE:** The NJHS application must be completed by the student, not the parent. If the student does not fill out the application on his or her own, the application will be automatically voided, and the student will not be considered for NJHS membership. **Also, completion of the NJHS application does not guarantee admission.**

**Step 2:** A committee of 5 to 7 faculty members review the applications. NJHS moderators are *not* part of the review process. Applications are scored based on a rubric system that reviews co-curricular activities, leadership positions, service activities, other community activities, work experience/recognition/awards, teacher recommendation, and student essay. Non-accepted students are personally notified; accepted students will receive an acceptance letter.

**Step 3:** Accepted students will attend a mandatory Induction Ceremony rehearsal (date to be announced). Accepted students will also pay a \$25 club fee (fee includes official NJHS pin, certificate, decorations, refreshments, chapter membership renewal, and activity costs throughout the year).

## **My student was invited to apply for NJHS but was not accepted. What can he or she do to improve his or her chances for selection next year?**

- Don't be shy when completing the application! The Faculty Committee will use every bit of information to determine membership.
- Volunteer within the community and document all hours with signatures.
- Get involved at school! Choir, mentoring, student council, athletics, clubs – pick a couple of activities and devote your time to that.
- Look for chances to show leadership – don't join 7 groups and barely participate in any.

## **What can my 6<sup>th</sup> grader do to become a better candidate for NJHS in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades?**

One of the best things a 6<sup>th</sup> grader can do is to have really strong grades. Students should work hard every day in school because as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade inductee, you will qualify in the area of scholarship based on your grades in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and the first semester of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Also, students can become involved in school clubs and activities, accept leadership positions, follow all school rules, and be great role models for other students! In addition, outside of school, students can volunteer in the community in order to strengthen their NJHS application.