

## Frequently Asked questions in NHS application process

### What is the basis of NHS membership?

For NHS, membership is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have attended the school for the equivalent of one semester and who have a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.5 or higher. Students need to also be active in 3 school sponsored clubs or activities (sports, clubs, one-act, pep band, etc.) Additionally, students need to be active in 1 outside organization that is not affiliated with school (youth group, karate, club sports, dance, guitar lessons, volunteering at St. Vincent De Paul, etc.) Outside organization should meet monthly.

### How will I know I can apply?

Seniors: Letters will be sent out to all seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher in the late fall. They can apply for membership for the second semester.

Juniors/Sophomores: Letters will be sent out to all Juniors/Sophomores with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher in the spring. They can apply for membership for the following academic year, i.e. sophomores will be inducted in late spring and be a member for their junior year.

### Can my attendance affect selection?

Yes. All absences need to be excused. Frequent tardies can impact a selection decision. All unexcused absences over 30 days at time of selection can be a reason for non-selection.

### What constitutes leadership?

Please note the following descriptors we use for our standard of leadership. This list is **NOT** a checklist for this criterion.

A student exercises leadership when he or she:

- Demonstrates initiatives 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.
- Inspires positive behaviors in others.
- Demonstrates academic initiative.
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility.

**What constitutes character?**

All NHS members must be DPHS code approved. NHS character attributes include presenting one's self, interacting with peers, and interacting with staff with positive actions and words. This extends to all classrooms and co-curricular activities. College and Career readiness scores are taken into account by the selection committee.

**Must all chapters perform service?**

YES. Article XIV of the national constitution mandates service projects as one of the main chapter activities each year and a basic criterion for membership. Basic criterion includes 20 community service hours from within the last 12 month verified with signatures. Signatures cannot be family members. Five hours of community service needs to be OUTSIDE of school clubs and activities.

Once selected, members must participate in Individual Service Projects to continue to maintain their service criterion. Students complete a minimum of 30 hours of service as a member. Since its beginning, NHS have supported the participation in service projects as a way for students to learn the value of service, provide needed resources for the school or community, help the school maintain a positive image in the community, and to reinforce the curriculum through involvement.

Students who meet the attendance and scholastic requirements are then evaluated by the faculty council on the basis of leadership, service, and character. Once selected and inducted, members must maintain these standards.

**Does a completed application guarantee membership?**

According to the official guidelines of National Honor Society in the national constitution, there is no right to membership, it is a privilege bestowed upon a student by the faculty of the school. There is a staff selection committee that will evaluate your performance in school. Staff evaluations of CURRENT teachers and coaches will be utilized. Students will be evaluated on academic leadership and character in the school. In addition students will be evaluated on essays that are required on leadership and character. It is not only who you are on paper that matters. It is your daily and regular practice of service, academic and community leadership and character that are evaluated. That is what is important to the DPHS chapter of NHS.

**Are quotas or percentages used to limit chapter size?**

NO. As stated in the handbook, quotas or percentages may not be set to limit membership or chapter size. Historical note: In the early history of NHS, quotas in the form of percentages of grade level populations did exist in the selection criteria. These guidelines were ruled as fundamentally unfair in decisions made by the National Council (the governing body for the Honor Societies), and thus are no longer valid and acceptable guidelines for chapter selection procedures.