

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AHS CHAPTER BY-LAWS

(ratified fall 1997; revised spring 1998; revised spring 2000; revised spring 2001; revised spring 2002; revised spring 2003; revised spring 2006; revised spring 2010; revised spring 2012, [revised spring 2017](#); revised fall 2021)

Article IV: Local Chapters

Section 4. The annual dues for the AHS chapter shall be fifteen dollars. Dues must be paid by the end of their junior and senior year.

Article VII: Faculty Council

Section 1. The Faculty Council of the Asheville High chapter shall be known as the “Faculty Advisory Board.” It shall consist of members from a variety of disciplines (math, science, English, social studies, arts electives, CTE electives, and foreign languages) and counseling, with an effort made to recruit a representative from each department. Board members shall be recommended by academic departments, with the approval of the principal.

Article IX: Selection of Members

Section 1. To be eligible for membership in the AHS chapter, the candidate must be a member of the sophomore, junior or senior class. Selection shall be made after first semester grades are recorded; eligible sophomores and juniors will be inducted in a ceremony to be held in the spring. Seniors will only be eligible for the spring induction if they are academically eligible for the first time and if they have NOT previously been considered for membership.

Section 2. Candidates must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (unweighted) to be academically eligible for membership. A student with between a 2.5 and 3.0 can be eligible for membership with a character recommendation from a teacher OR from a community member.

Section 3. The Faculty Advisory Board shall make final decisions about the induction of new members, taking into consideration the recommendations of the faculty at large. Academic merit is necessary but not a sufficient criterion for membership. After scholarship, character is the next most important criterion to be considered in selecting new members. Any student who has received an administrative referral that resulted in suspension within the school year of academic eligibility will not be eligible for membership in the NHS.

To be considered for membership, prospective members (i.e., students who meet the academic requirement) must complete a prospective member survey describing character, leadership, and service qualities, and submit this form to the Advisory Board within a time period to be specified by the Board. The faculty and staff shall also be surveyed and asked to evaluate the suitability of the prospective member’s leadership, character, and service qualifications. Membership will be granted by a majority vote of the Faculty Advisory Board.

Article X: Dismissal

Section 1. Members of the AHS Chapter of the National Honor Society who have committed infractions of the requirements listed below will be notified in writing by the NHS Board. Except in cases of flagrant offenses, the first offense will result in a notice of probation, with the member retaining the right to appeal. A member who receives a notice of probation which is not successfully appealed will remain on probation for the rest of the school year. The second offense will result in a notice of impending dismissal from the NHS, again with the member retaining the right to appeal. If the impending dismissal is not successfully appealed, the member will be dismissed from the National Honor Society. The second offense will result in a hearing with the NHS Board. Based on the results of the hearing, the member may receive a written notice of impending dismissal. Notices of impending dismissal may be appealed to the Principal within two weeks of receipt of the written notice. If the impending dismissal is not successfully appealed within the two week period, the member will receive notice of dismissal from the National Honor Society.

SCHOLARSHIP requirements: Grades will be checked for eligibility each semester. Members who fall below the required academic average for the first semester will be notified in writing by the Faculty Advisory Board that they are on academic probation. These members will be given a probationary period of one grading period (nine weeks) to bring their grades up. If the grades stay below the required average after the probationary period is up, the member will be dismissed from the NHS. Members who are academically ineligible by the beginning of the fourth quarter of school will be dismissed from the National Honor Society.

SERVICE requirements: Juniors who are inducted in the spring are required to complete 25 hours of service to the school or the community during their senior year. Each member must complete 15 hours of approved service by the second Thursday in February. Failure to do so will result in a written notice of probation from the Board. Members may not earn more than 10 hours per weekend. Members may only earn 10 hours of service over the summer. The remaining required 10 hours of service must be proposed, approved, served, and turned in for documentation before the last Thursday in April. Failure to complete and document the required 25 service hours by the spring induction is grounds for dismissal from the National Honor Society.

Sophomores who are inducted in the spring are required to complete 15 hours of service to the school or the community during their junior year. Each member must complete 10 hours of approved service by the second Thursday in February. Failure to do so will result in a written notice of probation from the Board. Members may not earn more than 10 hours per weekend and may only document 10 hours of service over the summer. The remaining required 5 hours of service must be proposed, approved, served, and turned in for documentation before the last Thursday in April. Failure to complete and document the required 15 service hours by the spring induction is grounds for dismissal from the National Honor Society.

Seniors who are inducted in the spring (see Article IX, Section 1) must complete 12 hours of service by graduation.

All members are required to participate in one of the two annual group service activities (see Article XIV, Section 1).

CHARACTER requirements: Members are expected to demonstrate good character at all times during the year. Faculty or staff members who have concerns about the character of a member may raise those concerns in writing to the Faculty Advisory Board. The Board, at its discretion, may issue a notice of probation to the member, with the right to appeal.

Attendance in class: Any member with nine or more total absences in any one or more classes, will be put on probation. Students with medical reasons for 9+ absences will need to provide documentation from a doctor and a written explanation.

Any member who receives an administrative referral that results in suspension will be notified of probationary status, with the right to appeal. Except in the case of academic probation and payment of dues, all probation is irrevocable.

If a member commits a school offense resulting in out of school suspension or police involvement, or any other offense deemed a flagrant offense by the school administration, s/he will receive a notification of impending dismissal, with the right to appeal.

DUES. Members who have not paid dues by the specified deadline will be given a notice of probation. Members who have not paid dues by the spring induction ceremony will be dismissed from the National Honor Society.

MEETING ATTENDANCE. Members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings. Attendance will be taken at all meetings. At least one make-up meeting opportunity will be available and communicated. Absences beyond one required meeting will result in notice of probation.

Section 2. All warnings of disciplinary action shall be issued in writing within a week of the date that they are raised before the Faculty Advisory Board.

Section 3. Any written notice of warning from the Faculty Advisory Board will result in probation. Except in the case of academic probation and payment of dues, all probation is irrevocable.

Section 6. A member who has received a notification of impending dismissal may request a hearing before the Faculty Advisory Board. Hearing requests must be received by the Board in writing within two weeks of notification of impending dismissal. The hearing will be granted within two weeks of the receipt of the request. If a member fails to file a written appeal within two weeks of receiving a notification of impending dismissal, the member will forfeit his/her right to appeal and will receive a written notification of dismissal.

A member who has been dismissed may appeal to the principal of the school. This appeal must be submitted in writing within a week of written notification of dismissal. The principal is the final avenue of appeal for a dismissed member.

ARTICLE XI: CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1. The PRESIDENT shall be responsible for presiding over all NHS meetings. S/he shall, in concert with the Vice President and the Chapter Adviser, determine the agenda for the meetings and the

frequency of the meetings. The President shall also serve as the liaison for the two Group Service Projects (Campus Clean-Ups), working with the PTO to organize those events.

The VICE PRESIDENT shall preside over any meetings which cannot be attended by the President. S/he shall help to determine the agenda for the meetings, and shall assist the President in any executive actions. The Vice President shall also be responsible for maintaining and updating the NHS Bulletin Board on a weekly basis, and will serve as the liaison for Manna Food Bank.

The SERVICE CHAIR shall be the liaison for all at-large community service projects (i.e., those not pre-approved by the AHS Chapter). S/he will be the contact person for community organizations who are looking for volunteers, and will, in coordination with the President and the Chapter Adviser, be responsible for publicizing service opportunities. (Examples of at-large projects include Kids Voting, the Special Olympics, Habitat house, neighborhood clean-ups, etc.)

The SECRETARY shall be responsible for taking attendance at all NHS meetings. S/he shall also be responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings, and making those minutes available in a timely fashion to the Chapter Adviser and the other officers.

The PARLIAMENTARIAN shall be responsible for making sure that all NHS meetings are conducted in an orderly manner, according to the Constitution, the Chapter By-Laws, and Robert's Rules of Order. S/he shall also serve as the liaison for the tutoring service program (working closely with the AHS volunteer coordinator and the Asheville City Schools Foundation's tutoring coordinator).

Each officer will serve as a liaison between a group of members and their Faculty Board members. The officer is responsible for communicating announcements to that group of members via school e-mail.

Selection of Officers: Nominations shall be submitted to the Chapter Adviser with the name and signature of the nominee, the name and signature of the nominator, and the name and signature of a second. No one may nominate more than one candidate for the same office. The Chapter Adviser shall create a ballot based on all nominations received within the designated nomination period, and shall make ballots available to all members in a manner to be determined by the Advisory Board. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority.

Removal of Officers: Officers may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Advisory Board for the following reasons: a) failure to fulfill the duties of the office, or b) failure to uphold the criteria of the National Honor Society, as described in the National Honor Society Handbook and in these by-laws.

An officer who has been removed may appeal his removal to the principal of the school. This appeal must be submitted in writing within a week of notification of the officer's removal. The principal is the final avenue of appeal for a removed officer. Removal from office does not constitute dismissal from the National Honor Society.

If an officer is removed from office, a special election will be held to fill the vacant office. The procedure for the special election shall be the same as the procedure for the general election.

ARTICLE XIII: MEETINGS.

Section 1. There shall be a meeting of new members at the end of the academic year for the selection of new officers.

There shall be a meeting in the first month of school for the purpose of explaining the service requirement, and for presenting service opportunities in the community.

Subsequent meetings shall be held as needed. A meeting may be called at the request of the Chapter Adviser, the Faculty Advisory Board, or the President. Attendance of all members is expected at all National Honor Society meetings. (see Article X, Section 1, "Meetings".)

Section 3. The induction ceremony in the spring is a required meeting. Students who cannot attend must submit notification in writing to the Faculty Advisory Board at least a week before the ceremony. The Faculty Advisory Board shall judge the validity of the reason for missing the meeting. Failure to attend the induction ceremony without following this procedure will forfeit the member's right to wear a gold honor cord at graduation.

ARTICLE XIV: ACTIVITIES.

Section 1. There shall be two group service activities for the Asheville High Chapter of the National Honor Society; members are required to participate in one of the two.

Section 3. As noted in Article X, all members are required to complete independent service. Proposals for independent service must be submitted to the Faculty Advisory Board to whom the member has been assigned. These proposals must be approved by the Faculty Advisory Board, and all service must be completed by the induction ceremony in the spring.