



# National Honor Society

## Villa Angela St Joseph High School Chapter

### Bylaws

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#### **Selection Process:**

The below criteria and selection process represent the guidelines found in the national constitution of the National Honor Society (NHS).

#### **Criteria:**

Four criteria are required of the student for consideration: scholarship, leadership, character, and service. For definitions, see Villa Angela St Joseph NHS Criteria for Membership.

Selection to the NHS is a privilege, not a right. Students who apply for membership in the NHS provide information to be used by the Faculty Selection Committee (FSC) to support their candidacy for membership. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the FSC on the condition of their having met the standards for selection.

#### **Prerequisite:**

Only sophomore, junior, and senior year students with a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA), is current with VASJ service requirements, and exhibits evidence of upholding the pillars of NHS will be considered eligible. Students must demonstrate a commitment to maintaining a rigorous academic schedule. Should the GPA requirement be raised in the future, previously accepted students will be “grandfathered” in.

#### **Notification of Eligibility:**

A list of seniors, juniors, and sophomores meeting the GPA requirement will be provided to the moderator at the end of the first semester. The moderator will prepare application packages and distribute them to these candidate students along with information about the deadline for applications

## **Application Procedure:**

A meeting will be held for all eligible candidates. They will receive the application package. This includes the application form, on which they outline their activities and accomplishments within the school and outside of the school, as well as describing areas where they demonstrate leadership and service. Also included are leadership/service verification forms and a description of the NHS traits of character, leadership, and service. Candidates need to provide a minimum of four leadership/service forms completed by activity moderators, coaches, and other responsible persons who can vouch for the leadership and service of the candidate within their organization. The moderator walks through the entire application form with these candidates, explaining the requirements for each step. The moderator also explains the method used by the Faculty Selection Committee to evaluate character, leadership, and service.

## **Faculty/Staff Consultation:**

In addition to consideration of the information provided by the candidate on the application form, faculty and staff members will be invited to provide input and make comments offering evaluation of the candidates with respect to the selection criteria of character, leadership, and service.

## **Composition of the Faculty Selection Committee (FSC):**

FSC membership is by invitation of the moderator with principal approval. The moderator is a, non-voting, member of the FSC, unless required to break a tie. The principal may also choose to appoint members to the FSC.

## **Responsibilities of the FSC:**

The FSC will review the candidates' applications along with any other verifiable information about the candidates relevant to their consideration for membership. These may include, but are not restricted to, detention records, school suspension records, and input from faculty and staff.

## **Voting of the FSC:**

After due deliberation by the FSC on each candidate, those candidates receiving a majority vote (of all members present) will be invited for induction into the chapter. If there should be a tie, the moderator will vote to break the tie. Those candidates who do not receive the majority vote of the FSC will be notified personally by the moderator. The moderator will provide the unsuccessful candidates with suggestions for fulfilling unmet requirements in time for the next application process.

All input from individual FSC members and teaching/staff personnel will remain confidential.

The decisions of the FSC are final.

## **Notification of parents:**

Formal notification of all selected candidates and their parents will be made in writing, to include the timing of the induction ceremony.

## **Discipline and Dismissal:**

Since a cumulative 3.5 GPA is required for membership consideration, any member who fails to maintain a 3.5 GPA will be notified by the moderator and granted a probationary semester to restore their GPA to the acceptable level for membership. Failure to do so could, upon a majority decision of the FSC, result in dismissal from the chapter.

In addition to academic excellence, leadership, character, and service are also significant components of membership. Members who fall below the standards that were the basis of their selection, including neglect of VASJ service requirements or flagrant or continued violations of school rules or the law, shall be warned by the moderator and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. In cases of flagrant violations of school rules or the law, a member does not have to be warned.

If such deficiency is not corrected, the FSC, upon the moderator's request, shall determine by majority vote whether the member should be disciplined. The moderator will notify the member of such discipline, which may include withdrawal of selection or dismissal from the chapter. A proper regard for adolescent growth and behavior improvement will be considered.

In all cases of pending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the FSC and the FSC is responsible for the final decision on the matter. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the FSC through the moderator to the principal. The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) does not hear appeals in cases of dismissal.

## **Service Requirement:**

Each year the chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year. All members shall regularly participate in these projects. These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; be well planned, organized, and executed.

Each member promises to participate in all service projects determined for VASJ NHS members.