



National Honor Society

Villa Angela St. Joseph High School Chapter

Criteria for Membership

Scholarship

The scholarship requirement is based on a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA). The phrase "cumulative grade point average" refers to the total academic performance as demonstrated by the grades received by the student while in attendance at the school where the chapter is found. While students may be initially selected during their sophomore year, grades from the ninth grade on are used to compute the scholastic average.

An NHS member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter adviser to the new school adviser shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer students will normally be accepted for membership into the chapter if they are able to meet this chapter's standards within one semester.

The minimum GPA allowable is a 3.5 average on a 4.0 scale. The Faculty Selection Committee (FSC) may raise the required academic requirements with the principal's approval. If any criteria are changed, previously inducted members will be "grandfathered" into the new standard.

Sophomore, junior, and senior students who meet the scholarship requirement for membership (and are not already members) are eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. Leadership extends beyond the offices a student has held in school or community organizations. Leadership also exists outside elected positions including effective participation in positions of responsibility or other activities offered on campus such as athletic team captains, section leaders in band and chorus, committee chairs in student groups, etc.

Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified. Leadership can also be defined through the following criteria. For example, the student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative 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
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities
- Is dependable in any responsibility accepted

Following a holistic approach to the exercise of leadership within the chapter, members are strongly encouraged to assist and take responsible roles in the many projects and activities offered and sponsored through the school and community.

Service

Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service. In considering service, the contributions the candidate has made to school, classmates, and community, as well as the student's attitude toward service will be considered.

VASJ members must be current with service requirements.

The following (non-inclusive) descriptors may be used to describe acceptable standards for service. The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work without complaint
- Participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Boy Scouts, religious groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

Following a holistic approach toward fostering an attitude of habitual service within the Chapter, members are strongly encouraged to assist with and take responsible roles in the many projects and activities offered and sponsored through the school and community.

Character

Character deals with issues of respect, caring, gentleness, trustworthiness, and responsibility.

In addition, it can be said that the student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and is faithful both inside and outside the classroom
- Has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment

A candidate must be able to demonstrate an outstanding record of conduct and behavior with regard to school and community rules, guidelines, and policies (e.g., the Student Handbook and local traffic laws) or be able to demonstrate sufficient growth and improvement to compensate for previous inadequacies.

Faculty and staff members are invited to provide input and make comments on the candidates regarding issue of character. The moderator serves as the link between the Faculty Selection Committee (FSC) and the faculty and staff and may conduct informal interviews with those teachers/school personnel who indicate below-average ratings.

Such evaluations and recommendations are to be used only by the FSC, the moderator, and the principal and are considered confidential. It is left to the discretion of the principal and/or the moderator with the advice of the FSC as to how much of this information is to be shared with the candidate (or his parents) not selected for membership.

Continued Membership

Once selected, a member's obligation is to maintain the same standard by which he or she was selected. Substandard performance in scholarship, leadership, service, or character, including flagrant or continued violations of school rules or the law, will be treated with a warning or probationary period followed by consideration of possible dismissal if the performance does not improve (see Discipline and Dismissal in the Villa Angela St. Joseph NHS Bylaws). In cases of flagrant violations of school rules or the law, a member does not have to be warned.