

# National Honor Society Bylaws

## Hazleton Area High School

### **Article I: Name and Purpose**

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Hazleton Area High School, John J. Rabets chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools (NHS).
- Section 2. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in the students of Hazleton Area High School.
- Section 3. This organization is chartered by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and shall pay an annual fee to retain its affiliation.

### **Article II: Selection of Members**

- Section 1. The Hazleton Area High School Chapter of National Honor Society shall select and induct students once a year, in the spring.
- Section 2. Candidates must be juniors or seniors with a minimum GPA of 93. The only GPA calculation accepted is the one displayed on the official high school transcript.
- Section 3. The student must have attended Hazleton Area High School for at least one semester before s/he is eligible for selection. An exception shall be made for students transferring in their senior year.
- Section 4. The selection process shall be published on the NHS website.
- Section 5. All candidates who meet the academic eligibility requirement shall receive a letter inviting them to complete a selection packet and submit it by the published date. In addition to meeting academic eligibility, the candidate must have displayed the four characteristics of an NHS member throughout their high school tenure. Disciplinary records, regardless of the level of infraction, will be cause for elimination in the application process.
- Section 6. A five- member Staff Council, chosen by the High School Principal, shall review the completed selection packet. The Staff Council shall consider activities and information from the high school years of enrollment only. The Staff Council shall also consider input from all teachers regarding candidates.
- Section 7. The five-member Staff Council have the sole ability to amend or change the by-laws of John J. Rabets Chapter of the National Honor Society. Any changes will be done according to National rules of order.
- Section 8. The Staff Council shall notify the advisers of all accepted candidates.
- Section 9. The advisors shall notify the inductees with an invitation to the induction ceremony.
- Section 10. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to Hazleton High School will be accepted for membership in this chapter after the advisors have been shown a valid membership card or have called and verified the transfer student's NHS membership in his/her last school

of attendance. To maintain membership, the transfer member must meet all continued membership requirements in the Hazleton High School Chapter NHS.

Section 11. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Section 12. Appeals. Any student who would like to appeal the Council's decision may initiate the appellate process with the Principal. The Principal's decision is binding.

### **Article III: Continued Membership Requirements**

Section 1. All members must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 93%. The only GPA calculation accepted is the one displayed on the official high school transcript.

Section 2. All members can only miss one meeting per year and must attend their induction rehearsal and induction ceremony.

Section 3. To remain in good standing, a member must: meet the minimum service hours requirements as established by the Executive Committee for each academic year; maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 93% (the only GPA calculation accepted is the one displayed on the official high school transcript); only miss one meeting per year and attend their induction rehearsal and induction ceremony; exemplify positive leadership to the Society, the Hazleton Area High School community and the Hazleton Area community; and meet the standards of character that are the basis for selection into National Honor Society.

Section 4. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

### **Article IV: Meetings**

Section 1. General membership meetings shall be every semester and will be publicized.

Section 2. General membership social meetings shall be held at a date, time and location established by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Executive Committee may call special meetings.

Section 4. Executive Committee meetings shall be called by the President.

Section 5. The NHS adviser may excuse absences within two days of the scheduled meeting or activity. After that deadline excusals will not be accepted.

### **Article V: Cords**

Section 1. Cords may only be worn by seniors who: performed the minimum service hours for the academic year; meet the minimum cumulative GPA of 93% (the only GPA calculation accepted is the one displayed on the official high school transcript); only missed one meeting per year and attended their induction rehearsal and induction ceremony; exemplify positive leadership to the Society, the Hazleton Area High School community and

- the Hazleton Area community; continue to meet the standards of character that are the basis for selection into National Honor Society.
- Section 4. The NHS advisers reserve the right to make the final determination on the presentation of cords.

### **Article VI: Appointment of Officers**

- Section 1. At the beginning of each school year the senior NHS members will select a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2. Nominees may run unopposed.
- Section 3. Members will be notified of the appointments. .

### **Article VII: Duties of Officers**

- Section 1. The President of the chapter will provide leadership and support to the executive council, communicate frequently and clearly with the advisors and officers, schedule all meetings, create agendas for the general chapter meetings and executive council meetings, delegate tasks and organize the executive council, aid in planning and directing the induction ceremony, help the secretary keep attendance records, and direct the executive council and general membership towards achieving the goals of the chapter.
- Section 2. The Secretary shall record attendance, keep minutes and email them to the other members of the Executive council, keep record of the events and meetings, keep track of the calendar, record members eligibility status for continued membership and write and revise the bylaws.
- Section 6. The Treasurer
- Section 7. The Executive Council shall be the President, the Vice-President the Secretary, and the Treasurer
- Section 12. The Executive Committee shall determine the yearly schedule.

### **Article VIII: Dismissal**

- Section 1. Failure to maintain a 93% cumulative GPA is grounds for dismissal. The only GPA calculation accepted is the one displayed on the official high school transcript.
- Section 2. Failure to earn the minimum service hours requirements to remain a member in good standing is grounds for dismissal.
- Section 3. Missing more than one of the general meetings per year or missing one's own induction rehearsal or induction ceremony is grounds for dismissal.
- Section 4. A member shall be subject to dismissal on character issues that include but are not limited to: cheating; alcohol and drugs; weapons; fights; and disrespect for property (graffiti, vandalism, etc.), faculty, administration, staff and students.
- Section 5. A member shall be subject to dismissal for failure to exemplify positive leadership to the Society, the Hazleton Area High School community or the Hazleton Area community.

Section 6. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

## **Article IX: Disciplinary Procedures and Dismissal Procedures**

Section 1. Reasons for disciplinary action of dismissal include but are not limited to: failure to maintain a 93% cumulative GPA (the only GPA calculation accepted is the one displayed on the official high school transcript), failure to earn the minimum service hours requirements to remain a member in good standing, missing more than one of the general meetings per year or missing one's own induction rehearsal or induction ceremony, failure to meet the standards of character that are the basis for selection into National Honor Society; or failure to provide a positive leadership role to the Society, the Hazleton Area High School community or the Hazleton Area community.

Section 2. A member shall be given one semester to remedy: failure to maintain a 93% cumulative GPA (the only GPA calculation accepted is the one displayed on the official high school transcript), failure to earn the minimum service points and hours requirements to remain a member in good standing, missing more than one of the general meetings per year or missing one's own induction rehearsal or induction ceremony, failure to meet the standards of character that are the basis for selection into National Honor Society; or failure to provide a positive leadership role to the Society, the Hazleton Area High School community or the Hazleton Area community.

Section 3. The member, the member's parent/guardian, and the principal shall be notified in writing of: the deficiencies; the advisers' suggested remedies for the deficiencies; the advisers' request for a conference with the member; and of the one semester given to address the deficiencies.

Section 4. Approximately nine weeks into the semester the advisers shall notify in writing the member, the member's parent/guardian and the principal of the progress or lack of progress made in remedying the deficiencies. If there is a lack of progress the advisers shall request a second conference.

Section 5. Approximately four weeks before the end of the semester the advisers shall notify in writing the member, the member's parent/guardian and the principal of the progress or lack of progress made in remedying the deficiencies. If there is a lack of progress the advisers shall request a second conference

Section 6. If after one semester the deficiencies are not remedied, the advisers may request the Staff Council to consider the dismissal of the Honor Society member.

Section 7. If the Staff Council finds dismissal may be warranted, the member shall be notified in writing of the violation and the possibility of dismissal.

Section 8. The Staff Council shall schedule a hearing.

Section 9. A member's parent/guardian may be present but the primary focus of the hearing shall be to allow the member to present his or her case.

- Section 10. If a member is dismissed, written notice of the decision shall be sent to the member, the member's parent/guardian, and the principal. The member must then surrender the NHS emblem. If the member is unwilling to do this, the matter shall be treated as a school discipline matter.
- Section 11. The dismissed member may appeal, under the rules governing discipline in the school district, following the normal channels for the district complaint process and inform the next level if not resolved.
- Section 12. In the case of dismissal appeals, the principal shall follow the district complaint process and inform the next level if not resolved.
- Section 13. The National Council and the NASSP shall not hear or make any decisions regarding appeals in dismissal cases.
- Section 14. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

### **Article X: Activities**

- Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more community service projects for each year.
- Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.
- Section 3. 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; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

**All Chapter procedures not specified in the chapter bylaws shall follow the National Constitution.**