

Membership in the National Honor Society High Point Regional High School

Selection as a member of the National Honor Society (NHS) is both a public recognition of accomplishment and a personal commitment to continued excellence. Selection to NHS is a privilege, not a right. Membership is open to members of the junior and senior classes only. Students do not apply for membership in the National Honor Society; instead, they provide information in the form of data sheets and letters of recommendation to be used by the Faculty Council to support their candidacy. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council. This is not an election, nor is membership automatically conveyed simply because a student has achieved a specified level of academic performance. NHS is more than just an honor roll as the other components of the selection process include leadership, service, and character.

Selection Process:

Cumulative, weighted grade point average determines the students eligible for membership in the NHS at High Point Regional High School. Seniors' cumulative, weighted GPA's are currently a combination of two grading systems. The GPA required under the system which was in effect until June 2007 was a 3.9. The GPA required under the current system is a 4.0. For the 2009-2010 school year, the following GPA's are necessary to be considered for NHS membership:

Seniors will need a **3.9666**. [$(3.9 + 4.0 + 4.0) / 3 = 3.9666$]

Juniors will need a **4.0** as their GPA is entirely calculated using the new system.

Grade point average is not rounded up. The Faculty Council will not evaluate a student's performance in the areas of leadership, service, and character or consider any student for membership in NHS who does not first meet the necessary grade point average.

Those students eligible for consideration based on their grade point averages will be called together for a special assembly in September. At this time, they will be given data sheets, directions for letters of recommendation, and the deadline for turning in both. Each student will sign a sheet stating that he/she attended the assembly and understands the procedure. The data sheets enable students to list their leadership and service accomplishments prior to the start of the current school year. The data sheets and all letters of recommendation must be turned in to the advisor on time. There will no exceptions to this policy. All submissions are final as of the deadline. Candidates are encouraged to consult with the Faculty Advisor if they have any questions throughout the process.

Each member of the Faculty Council separately evaluates the candidates' data sheets which are coded with numbers to conceal the students' identities. The elements that help to define leadership and service have been developed by the Faculty Council and are based on information in the National Honor Society Handbook. They have been outlined in the last section.

The Faculty Advisor will distribute a list of eligible students to the entire faculty and request input as to their character. A rating scale will be provided and each student will receive a composite score based on the faculty responses. Each student's coded score will be presented to the Faculty

Council at the selection meeting.

The Faculty Council will meet together to determine the status of each student based on his/her data sheets and character score. The Faculty Advisor will run the meeting, but is not allowed to vote. Only the Faculty Advisor knows the identity of the student number codes so that the process can be conducted anonymously. The Faculty Council may postpone a vote on a particular candidate for the purpose of clarifying information. The Faculty Council has the sole authority to request additional information for evaluation of a candidate.

The Faculty Advisor will send a letter to all candidates to notify them of the outcome of the selection process. Successful candidates will receive information regarding the induction ceremony. The Faculty Advisor will be available to meet with all unsuccessful candidates to discuss any questions or concerns they may have. Juniors who are not selected are particularly encouraged to meet with the Faculty Advisor as they will have an opportunity to be selected in their senior year provided they maintain the necessary academic standard.

After meeting with the Faculty Advisor, unsuccessful candidates may opt to file a letter of appeal. Upon learning the reason for the Faculty Council's decision, a student may believe that the information he/she submitted was not properly interpreted. The student may submit a letter to the Faculty Advisor explaining this perceived misunderstanding within ten calendar days of the date of the notification letter. New information will not be accepted; the purpose of the appeal process is to clarify information which was previously submitted. The Faculty Council will reconvene to consider the merit of all appeals, and a second notification letter will be sent.

Standards of the National Honor Society:

The LEADERSHIP standard is considered highly important for membership selection. The Faculty Council uses the student data sheets to interpret leadership in terms of the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations. The Faculty Council recognizes that leadership also exists outside of elected positions. This includes effective participation in extracurricular activities. *While activities in both the school and community are considered in this category, students are expected to have demonstrated a specific commitment to High Point Regional High School.*

The student who exercises leadership:

- holds school offices or other positions of responsibility;
- leads in the classroom, in extracurricular activities, and/or at work;
- participates in the classroom, in extracurricular activities, and/or at work;
- demonstrates a continuous commitment to any responsibility accepted.

SERVICE is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student that are done with or on behalf of others without direct financial or material compensation. The Faculty Council uses the student data sheet to interpret service in terms of the time commitment and the quality of the

service offered. Service to the community is a highly desirable component of service. Students must submit three letters of recommendation in support of their community service. No more than one letter may be from a member of the High Point Regional High School staff.

The student who serves:

volunteers and provides dependable, well-organized assistance especially to the community;
demonstrates an appropriate commitment to any responsibility accepted.

CHARACTER is demonstrated through the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The Faculty Council evaluates character primarily through the use of a confidential faculty poll.

The student who demonstrates good character:

consistently exemplifies the desirable qualities of good character as listed above;
demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability;
manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules and regulations in the school and in the community.

Probationary Status:

Once selected, members are expected to maintain the high standards of the National Honor Society. All members pledge to do so publicly, during the induction ceremony. The Faculty Council and the Administration will monitor student commitment to the standards of the National Honor Society. Members who fail to maintain the standards in any of the categories on which their eligibility was based will be placed on probationary status by the Chapter Advisor until further review. Such members will also be given a letter explaining the cause of their probationary status and the time of their next review. All members on probationary status will not be allowed to participate as a member of the National Honor Society in any activities sponsored or supported by the National Honor Society, nor will they be recognized as a member of the National Honor Society until their status has been restored.