

## **What is the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)?**

As stated on the NJHS website:

The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1929.

Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in official Honor Society activities. NHS and NJHS chapters are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. territories, and Canada. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

### **History**

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) officially established NJHS in 1929, eight years after it founded National Honor Society for high school students. Under the leadership of Dr. Edward Rynearson, principal of the Fifth Avenue High School in Pittsburgh, the organization grew from the original Alpha Chapter at the Fifth Avenue School to more than 1,000 chapters by 1930. Equipped with a constitution, an emblem and motto, and a group of dedicated principals as coordinators, the new NJHS organization quickly developed into one of the country's leading educational groups.

Five main purposes have guided chapters of NJHS from the beginning: to create enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to render service; to promote leadership; to encourage responsible citizenship; and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. These purposes also translate into the criteria used for membership selection in each local chapter.

### **Understanding the Obligations of Membership**

Students who accept membership and are inducted into the chapter should be aware of the time and commitment involved with this honor. For example, there will be chapter meetings. The chapter bylaws should articulate the yearly meeting schedule and member attendance obligations. Members also must participate in chapter and individual service projects to benefit the school and community. Contact the chapter adviser to obtain a full list of the obligations of membership for the school's chapter.

The St. Patrick Catholic School NJHS bylaws can be found on the school web site.

## **St. Patrick Catholic School NJHS**

The purpose of this organization is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, promote leadership, develop character, and encourage citizenship in students of Saint Patrick Catholic School. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by majority vote of the faculty council and is based on the outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, service, and citizenship during the middle school years. Candidates become members at a special induction ceremony scheduled during the academic school year. Specific criteria for selection of members are disseminated to parents and students in the fall of each academic year. Transfer students entering Saint Patrick Catholic School who have already been inducted into a NJHS, may submit a letter from their NJHS moderator and transfer their membership.

### **Pledge:**

I pledge myself  
Always to seek the light of truth,  
To hold scholarly habits,  
To engage in worthy service,  
And to lead forward in all things  
That shall advance the welfare of the school.

## **Bylaws**

### Article I

#### Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Saint Patrick Catholic School of Fredericksburg Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render services, to promote leadership, to develop character, and to encourage citizenship in students of Saint Patrick Catholic School .

Section 3. The National Junior Honor Society (hereinafter "NJHS") shall be under the sponsorship of the National Association of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (hereinafter "NASSP").

### Article II

#### The Principal

Section 1. The principal or assistant principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2. The principal and/or assistant principal shall annually appoint a chapter advisor, who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3. The principal or assistant principal shall be a part of the local school appeal process for non-selection or dismissal cases.

### Article III

#### The Chapter Advisor

Section 1. The chapter advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students and community.

Section 2. The chapter advisor shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions.

Section 3. The chapter advisor shall regularly review each member for compliance with society standards and obligations.

### Article IV

#### Faculty Council

Section 1. The faculty council shall consist of three voting members. The principal may not be included on the faculty council.

Section 2. The term of the faculty council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section 3. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, fourth member of the faculty council.

Section 4. The faculty council shall meet at least once a year to select members and to consider dismissal, non-selection, and warning cases.

### Article V

#### Membership

Section 1. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a majority vote of the faculty council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, service, and citizenship.

Section 2. The faculty council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NJHS advisors, or adults in recognition of outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purpose of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 3. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 4. A National Junior Honor Society member who transfers to Saint Patrick Catholic School and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter advisor or presents their NJHS membership card to the NJHS Advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member of this chapter. Additionally, transfer members must meet all of the standards of the Saint Patrick Catholic School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society in order to retain membership.

Section 5. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

## Article VI

### Selection of Members

Section 1. To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of the seventh or eighth grades.

#### Section 2. Scholastic Achievement

Candidates must have a cumulative middle school scholastic average of 93% or above as calculated from the following subjects: Religion, English, Literature, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The cumulative middle school average will consist of all grades in the above mentioned subjects beginning with the first quarter grades of the seventh grade year. Candidates shall then be evaluated in the basis of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

#### Section 3. 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 faculty council will review the contributions this candidate has made to school, classmates, and community, as well as, the student's attitude toward 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 competitions;
- Does committee and staff work without complaint;
- Participates in some activity outside of school; for example, Girl Scouts, 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.

#### Section 4. Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified.

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;
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school;
- Is able to delegate responsibilities;
- Exemplifies positive initiative;
- Fully participates (singing, responding, etc.) in liturgical services;
- Successfully holds student offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, and in other school community activities;
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted;
- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a positive school attitude;
- Wears the school uniform according to the Parent/Student Handbook

#### Section 5. Character

The National Junior Honor Society is a member of Character Counts! Through this activity, the society supports and recommends the use of a multi-faceted definition of character known as the "Six Pillars of Character." A person demonstrates the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. In addition, it can also be said that the student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously;
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior; such as, cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, and 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 faithful both inside and outside the classroom;
- Has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and applies to studies in core and encore subjects;
- 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 environments.

#### Section 6. Citizenship

The student who demonstrates citizenship:

- Understands the importance of civic involvement;
- Has a high regard for freedom, justice, and respect of the American form of representative government;
- Demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as Scouting, community organizations, and school clubs.

Section 7. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council.

Section 8. A description of the selection procedure shall be published on the Saint Patrick Catholic School web site and/or the Parent/Student Handbook. The selection procedure shall be determined by the faculty council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 9. The National Council and the NASSP shall not review the judgment of the faculty council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

### Article VII

#### Discipline/Dismissal

Section 1. A description of the discipline/dismissal procedure shall be available to the members of the chapter.

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards, which were the basis for their selection, shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter advisor and given one grading period (quarter) to correct the deficiency. In the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a member does not, necessarily, have to be warned.

Section 3. The faculty council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

Section 4. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have the right to written notification of the charges and a hearing before the faculty council. Any member who withdraws or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the principal or advisor.

Section 5. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the faculty council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the diocese and school district.

Section 6. The National Council and the NASSP shall hear no appeals in dismissal cases.

### Article VIII

#### Meetings

Section 1. Saint Patrick Catholic School Chapter shall meet at a minimum of once a month.

Section 2. The advisor may call special meetings approved by the executive committee.

### Article IX

#### Activities

Section 1. The chapter shall be involved in one or more service projects during the school year.

Section 2. Each member shall be involved in an individual service projects as approved by the chapter advisor.

Section 3. Each member shall engage in ten (10) service hours in the first semester and ten (10) service hours in the second semester.

### Article X

#### Amendments

Section 1. These by laws, with the exception of Article VI, Selection of Members, may be amended only by the super majority vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the chapter members. Article VI, Selection of Members, can only be amended by the super majority vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the faculty council, the principal and/or vice principal.