

## **NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY EXPLANATION OF SELECTION POLICY**

The following is an explanation of the National Junior Honor Society's selection policy.

The National guidelines for selection are quite specific that members should never be considered on the basis of grades alone. Consistent with this philosophy, St. Francis Xavier School will invite academically eligible students to apply only if they demonstrate behavior consistent with both the school's policies and the NJHS guidelines for leadership, service, character, and citizenship. The faculty council and school administration determine which students will be invited to apply for membership. Membership is granted to those students selected by the faculty council in each school.



The following criteria will be used to identify those who qualify for possible membership:

1. Only those students in the school the equivalent of one semester may be considered for membership.
2. Membership may be open to qualified **SEVENTH and EIGHTH Graders.**
3. The academic requirement set by the National Council is based on a student's cumulative grade point average for the first two quarters of the current school year and the last two quarters of the previous school year. The minimum grade point average is 93 percent, a 4.0 or the equivalent standard of excellence. Students who have 4's or 5's in conduct are not eligible for consideration.

In all cases, only those students who have a cumulative grade point average of 93 percent (4.0) meet the scholarship requirement for membership in NJHS. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of leadership, service, character and citizenship. (Schools that select members solely on the basis of scholarship are violating the Constitution of the Society).

4. The faculty council will survey academically eligible students to determine interest in membership and to obtain information regarding character. Service, leadership, and citizenship activities will also be considered. Students so surveyed should understand that such surveys are not applicable for membership, and that review of information gathered does not guarantee selection.

### Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection.

The student who exercises leadership:

- Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities
- Exercises influence on peers on upholding school ideals
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducting business efficiently and effectively, and without prodding, demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Demonstrates leadership in the classroom and in school or community activities.

### Service

The student who serves:

- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude
- Participates in some outside activities:  
Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; church groups; volunteers services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged; family duties
- Volunteers 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
- Does committee and staff work uncomplainingly
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

### Character

The student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior, (cheerfulness, friendliness, praise, 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
- Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside the classroom
- Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to students
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influence and environment

## 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 government
- Demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations, and school clubs

## Dismissal of Members

A member is never automatically dismissed for failing to maintain standards, but members should fully understand that they are liable for dismissal if they do not maintain the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship that were used as the basis for their selection. They are also informed by this document that they are allowed limited warnings (2) during their membership but that in the case of a flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a warning is not necessarily required. Furthermore a student who is dismissed or who resigns may never again become a National Junior Honor Society member.

Members of the National Junior Honor Society are not automatically eligible for the National Honor Society. Once they are in high school they must be selected for the National Honor Society. (Student records that are sent to the high schools will show that a student has been a NJHS member).

## The Principal

At the local level, the principal reserves the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter. This authority extends to selection and dismissal of members. The principal appoints and works closely with the chapter advisor and the faculty council.

## The Chapter Advisor

The chapter advisor must be a faculty member and is appointed by the principal. The advisor promotes chapter activities and attends all meetings and functions. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the faculty council.

## Faculty Council

The advisor works with the faculty council in selecting or dismissing members. The faculty council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. No principal or assistant principal may be on the faculty council.

## Membership

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship.

## New Selection

Not selecting a student who is academically eligible is always a possibility. This is why the criteria have been presented in this document. This is our special effort to explain the selection process so that it is clearly understood. Chapters are not obliged, however, to share with parents and students information concerning specific students not selected for membership in the society. Parents and guardians and students must understand that no student has a right to be selected for membership in a chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. (Appendix I NJHS Handbook)

“Selection of anything implies that one is not only within a range of eligibility by whatever criteria are applicable, but that the person must be chosen from among those eligible. In this respect, selection for membership in NJHS is not very different from other situations in life such as employment, acceptance for college, or making the track team.” (Handbook NJHS)

After a designated time the faculty council will be identifying those students who meet the academic requirement. (Criterion #3).

- 1) Students who meet Criterion #3 will be notified.
- 2) Identified students must ask for and complete the Student Activity Information Form.
- 3) Faculty members from Grades 4-8 and special subject teachers will be invited to write their comments on the candidates. Actual selection is made by the five-member faculty council.
- 4) The Student Activity Information Form will be reviewed by the faculty council, along with any other verifiable information about each candidate.
- 5) The faculty council may choose to interview the candidates personally, and require a hand written (200-350) word essay entitled, “Why I should be considered for NJHS.”
- 6) Students selected for membership will be notified by letter from the principal.