

OFFICIAL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY BYLAWS – EAGLES CHAPTER

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1—The name of this chapter shall be the Eagles Chapter of the National Honor Society of Trumbull High School.

Section 2—The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage, through model, the development of character in students of Trumbull High School.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1—Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2—Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 3—Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the junior class. (Candidates are inducted at the end of their junior year and are members for their senior year.)
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Trumbull High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.85 in unmodified course work. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1—The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of four faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisers shall be the fifth and sixth, nonvoting, ex officio members of the Faculty Council.

Section 2—Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Student Activity Information Form and write an essay for further consideration for selection.
- c. The faculty may be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form, essay and any applicable faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 3—The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the second semester (of junior year) of the school year.

Section 4—Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5—Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership. The standards include, but are not limited to all criteria used to evaluate the members' eligibility (character, leadership, scholarship and service). Members are required to complete community service and participate in fundraising activities as outlined in their signed obligation form.

Section 6—An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the principal or chapter adviser.

Section 7—An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his or her membership.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

Section 1—Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Eagles chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is a representative of the organization and its values within the school and the community. As such, a member's character should reflect the values. A member is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

National Honor Society Values include scholarship, service, leadership and character.

- Scholarship means a commitment to learning. A student is willing to spend hours in reading and study, knowing the lasting benefits of a cultivated mind. We should continue to learn even when formal education has ended, for education ends only with the end of life. Knowledge is one great element in life, which leads to the highest success, and it can be acquired in only one way—through diligence and effort. Learning furnishes the lamp by which we read the past, and the light that illuminates the future. Candidates have the charge to continually expand their world through the opportunities inherent in scholarship.
- Service can be described in various ways. In the routine of the day's work, many opportunities arise to help others. Willingness to work for the benefit of those in need, without monetary compensation or without recognition, is the quality we seek in our membership. We are committed to the idea of volunteering our time and abilities to the creation of a better tomorrow.
- Leadership should exert a wholesome influence on the school. In taking the initiative in class and school activities, the real leader strives to train and aid others to attain the same objective. The price of leadership is sacrifice—the willingness to yield one's personal interests for the interest of others. A leader has self-confidence and will go forward when others hesitate. No matter what power and resources may exist in a country, they are ineffectual without the guidance of a wise leader. Leadership is always needed; thus, to lead is a substantive charge to each of our members.
- Character is the force within each individual which distinguishes that person from others. It gives each of us our individuality. It is that without which no one can respect oneself, nor hope to attain the respect of others. It is this force of character that guides one through life and, when once developed, grows steadily. Character is achieved and not received. It is the product of constant action, striving daily to make the right choice. The problem of character is the problem of self-control. We must be in reality what we wish to appear to others. By demonstrating such qualities as respect, responsibility, trust- worthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship, we may hope to prove by example that we value character.

Section 2—If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected (3.85), he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement (a marking period). If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3—If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to dismissal from the chapter. (No warning period for the required group service project is available following the Semester 2 Parent Teacher Conferences.) If the obligation is unmet at the end of the year (April 1st or if April 1st falls on a weekend, the following Monday), the member will not receive honor cords or be recognized at graduation as a member of the National Honor Society.

Section 4—Violation of the law, school regulations or National Honor Society values can result in the dismissal rather than the probation of a member. Violations of the law are determined by those authorities. Violations of school regulations are outlined in the Trumbull High School handbook. National Honor Society violations are outlined in the bylaws and include any violation of organizational values. Violations include, but are not limited to, DWI; stealing/theft; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities.

Section 5—Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council, student, or parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6—In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. The member may only bring their parents to the hearing. The parents will only be allowed an opportunity to address the council at the end of the hearing. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems (NHS pin, membership card and certificate) to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district's discipline policy.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Honor Society.
- f. The member will receive written notification of dismissal from the adviser when membership obligations are unmet (April 1st for community service hours and required chapter service project). *Refer to Understanding agreement for details.

Section 7—In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1—The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2—Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

Section 3—A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter.

The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter:

Section 4—It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5—The officers shall keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6—The officers shall keep minutes of the meetings and report this to the members and advisers.

Section 7— The officers and advisers shall keep a record of all expenses.

Section 8 — An officer could be relieved of their duties (due to suspensions, etc.) in cases not involving dismissal from the chapter.

Section 9 —If an officer position opens during the year, an election shall be held for that position.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1—The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 2—The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1—Meetings of this chapter shall be announced to the members via email and school postings.

Section 2—This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3—All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings. Meetings are mandatory. Members must notify advisers of absences prior to meetings.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1—The chapter members shall complete service projects (40 hours per member: 20 THS/20 Community) each year. (Beginning with the class of 2016 – bylaws updated February 26, 2015)

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.

Section 4—Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in individual service projects that reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser (THS community).

Section 5—All members shall participate in a required group service project. Our group service project is volunteering for one session of the Parent Teacher Conferences (Semester 1/Semester 2). You will work with NHS for one conference. If you work with a teacher for additional service hours, you are responsible for getting your paperwork signed and submitted. When you work with NHS, you must check in/out to receive your service hours. Sign up for a day in advance and wear your t-shirt!

Section 6 —All members will participate in the required chapter fundraiser. The price established by the advisers must be adhered to and any variance from the price point will be grounds for dismissal from NHS.

Section 7—The chapter and its members shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM

Section 1—Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2—Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

ARTICLE X: DUES

Section 1—Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$20 (beginning with class of 2013).

Section 2—Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer and or advisers by September 30 of each school year.

ARTICLE XI: POWERS

Section 1—The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2—The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3—These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1—These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2—Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor

Society.

Updated: March 1, 2016