

**Thomas E. Harrington Middle School
National Junior Honor Society
Bylaws**

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Thomas E. Harrington Middle School 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 service, to promote leadership, to develop character, and to encourage good citizenship in the students of Thomas E. Harrington Middle School.

Section 3. NJHS is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit association.

ARTICLE II: MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. The cumulative scholastic criterion for eligibility for all members is minimum 3.25 or higher on a 4 point scale in all subject areas each marking period.

Section 2. Eligible members must show/maintain a clear disciplinary file (i.e. no detention, suspension, or expulsion).

Section 3. Eligible members must maintain outstanding attendance record per school marking period.

Section 4. All members are required to participate in chapter service projects, in addition to choosing and participating in one additional individual service project per year that reflects his or her particular talents and interests.

Section 5. Each member is subject to a quarterly review by Faculty Advisor and Faculty Council, as requisite by the NJHS Constitution, Article VI, Section 3 and Article VIII, Section 1. [Also see NJHS Constitution, Article X, regarding discipline and dismissal from local chapter.] If any member fails to meet eligibility requirements for a quarter, that member will automatically be placed on membership probation for a period of one scholastic quarter, at which time eligibility requirements must be met in order to maintain membership status.

Section 6. All requirements for eligibility must be met and reviewed on a quarterly basis. If a student renounces or disavows any specific accountability of academic or social distinction at any time, that student's eligibility status may be subject for review by the Faculty Council.

Section 7. Each member will be required to pay dues of \$5 yearly (based on specific school year) to the local chapter. All member dues must be paid in full by the 30th day of the school year. Discontinuation of membership may be considered and reviewed by Faculty Council if member fails to pay dues by due date.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Seventh and eighth grade students who meet eligibility requirements above are invited to be considered for selection into the chapter by completing an application and submitting two letters.

Section 2. Students are asked to submit two letters, one written by the applicant that outlines their strengths related to each of the five standards of the National Junior Honor Society (leadership, citizenship, service, scholarship, and character) and one written by a non-family member who has worked with student-candidates and can vouch for his or her ability to demonstrate each of the five standards.

Section 3. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter advisers.

Section 4. The Faculty Council, consisting of the faculty advisors and the principal, shall review the candidates' letters and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 5. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL

Section 1. The Faculty Council in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Junior Honor Society shall determine the procedure for dismissal. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards, for membership such as

compliance with school rules, shall be promptly notified by the chapter advisor or principal that the situation will/may be reviewed by the faculty council for consideration of disciplinary action. The member may be given a reasonable amount of time 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 and may be recommended for dismissal.

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

Section 4. In all cases that may result in probation or dismissal, a member shall have the right to a hearing before the faculty council.

Section 5. For the purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the faculty council is required.

Section 6. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the faculty council to the principal.

Section 7. If a member's marking period average falls below the local chapter standard for a marking period he/she will be given a written warning and time period for improvement equal to one marking period. If the member's marking period average remains below the local chapter's standard at the end of the probationary period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that may include dismissal from the chapter or a ten week extension of the probationary period. If a member is placed on probation for a second time during the school year the member is subject to dismissal. The member also has the right to resign prior to the dismissal.

Section 8. NASSP shall hear no appeals in dismissal cases.

ARTICLE V: THE CHAPTER ADVISERS

Section 1. The chapter advisers 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 advisers shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter adviser shall send the annual activity report to the national office.

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

Section 4. The chapter advisers shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

Section 5. The chapter advisers shall be an ex-officio, nonvoting, sixth/seventh member of the Faculty Council.

ARTICLE VI: THE FACULTY COUNCIL

Section 1. The Faculty Council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. No principal or assistant principal may 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 adviser shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council.

Section 4. The Faculty Council shall put on probation those students who fall below the membership standards determined by the Faculty Council. Students on probation cannot attend meetings, activities, etc. until their achievement meets the standards. They will receive counsel and support from the advisers.

Section 5. The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to select members and to consider dismissal, non-selection, and warning cases.

Section 6. The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with the national guidelines.

ARTICLE VII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. Each chapter shall determine one or more 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; be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her particular talents and

interests. This is in addition to the chapter project(s) to which all members contribute.

Section 5. Each chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.