



Chapter Bylaws  
of the  
Horizon Middle School Chapter  
of the  
National Junior Honor Society  
Adopted: March 3, 2017

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Horizon Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

In keeping with our school's mission "to develop self-confident and creative students willing to take risks within a challenging and innovative environment," the purpose of this chapter shall be to promote and encourage the five pillars of the National Junior Honor Society: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship in students of Horizon Middle School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NJHS. See [www.njhs.us/constitutions](http://www.njhs.us/constitutions). In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

Section 2. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 3: Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 4: Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NJHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. 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, character, and citizenship.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.



### Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be in the second semester of sixth grade or members of the seventh or eighth grade class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Horizon Middle School.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall meet the required cumulative GPA standard of at least 85 percent. This is the minimum standard as outlined in the National Constitution.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

## ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council which consists of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, nonvoting, *ex officio* member of the faculty council.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

Section 3. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the *Candidate Information Form* for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the Faculty Input Form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The faculty council shall review the *Candidate Information Forms*, faculty input, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

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

Section 5. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National Junior 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/her membership.



## ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. No annual dues will be required from any member of this chapter.

Section 2. Article VIII, section 4 of the National Constitution indicates that all members must be inducted at a special ceremony to become active members of the chapter. A student remains a “successfully selected candidate” until he or she participates in this ceremony.

Section 3. Once selected, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected. Members will be well informed about selection standards, and are subject to regular review by the chapter adviser.

Section 4. Chapter meetings will be held regularly and well publicized. Active members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.

Section 5. All chapters are required to sponsor at least one chapter service project, and all members are required to participate. The project must meet the criteria as outlined in the constitution. (NJHS Constitution Article XIV, sections 1–3)

Section 6. Individual Service Projects:

- a. In addition to the chapter service project, members must engage in additional service to reflect their own talents and interests.
- b. Therefore, once inducted, members are expected to devote volunteer hours as follows: 10 hours by the end of the first semester, and 5 hours by the end of the second semester.
- c. Hours may be earned through in school service or community service activities. Volunteer service may include tutoring students or working for a charitable organization (without pay).
- d. Hours earned in the summer may be included for the fall semester deadline.
- e. A NJHS Community Service Verification form must be completed each semester to verify participation in any community service activities.
- f. Verification forms do not need to be submitted for projects sponsored by the chapter where attendance/hours are recorded.

Section 7. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 8. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

## ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

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



Section 2. Student officers shall be elected during the second chapter meeting of each new school year. All returning members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter, and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 5. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 8. All officers shall serve a term of one year, and must be re-elected if they wish to serve additional terms. If the office of president is vacated, then the vice president shall assume that position for the remainder of that term. Any other vacated officer position will require a special election to be concluded within two chapter meetings. Officers selected through special elections shall only serve for the remainder of a one year term.

Section 9. Any officer wishing to be relieved of their role and duties must inform the chapter adviser in person in a timely manner. The officer must then write a letter of resignation that includes the reason(s) for leaving their position, and the signature of a parent/guardian.

Section 10. Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and 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 VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be twice monthly beginning September 2017. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser.

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

Section 3. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.



## ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The 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; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project which reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 5. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

## ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL of MEMBERS

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, character, or citizenship may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Horizon Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member of the National Junior Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the cumulative GPA standard of at least 85 percent in effect when he/she was selected, he /she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member (see Section 7). These violations include, but are not limited to stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 4. Any instance of a member receiving an In School Suspension (ISS) or Out of School Suspension (OSS) as the result of an office referral for any level infraction may be dismissed from the Horizon Middle School chapter.

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



Section 7. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 8. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive **written notification** from the adviser/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. The member has the **right** to respond to the charge(s) against him/her at a **hearing** before the faculty council prior to any vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following 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 presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- e. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 9. In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

#### ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, and REVIEW.

Section 1: These bylaws will be **approved** upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the administration.

Section 2: These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

#### ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

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 V and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal (selection and discipline).



Approved on March 3, 2017 by:

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Naytashka Boluffer  
Faculty Council Member

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Frances DiCesare  
Faculty Council Member

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David Holland  
Faculty Council Member

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Alicia Nunez-Duran  
Faculty Council Member

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Tim Schumacher  
Faculty Council Member

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Chapter President

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Chapter Secretary

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Sherlene Woodall  
Chapter Adviser

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Michael Ballone  
Principal of Horizon Middle School