



**Vernon High School
National Honor Society
By-Laws**

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1 The name of the chapter shall be Vernon High School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, which appears as such on the charter (No. 00022891) granted in 1950 by the National Honor Society, duly signed by members of the National Council of the National Honor Society.

Section 2 The purpose of the chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in students of Vernon High School.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1 Membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and responsibility. Selection for membership shall be by a Faculty Council based upon scholarship, character, leadership and service. Once selected, it is the member's responsibility to continue to demonstrate at all times these four qualities. Membership is not a right. It is a privilege that the student acquires and has to maintain.

Section 2 Membership shall be known as Active, Graduate and Honorary. Candidates become active members when inducted at a special ceremony. The candidate must be present at the induction ceremony. Active members have a voice and vote in chapter affairs. Active members become graduate members upon graduation. Graduate members have no voice or vote in chapter activities. The Faculty Council shall reserve the right to grant honorary membership to individuals who have extended outstanding service to the school or community in keeping with the purposes of the National Honor Society. Honorary members are permitted to wear the official insignia. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3 To be eligible for selection to membership, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Vernon High School.

Section 4 Members of the sophomore, junior or senior class are eligible for selection. Candidates must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 4.5 or above. They must also maintain enrollment in a minimum of two AP, Pre-AP, dual credit or trade certification courses every semester. The scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who rise in scholarship to or above the standard may be considered for candidacy for selection to membership. Their eligibility shall then be considered on their character, leadership and service.

Section 5 An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter, upon receipt of membership acknowledgment from the previous school's principal. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one calendar semester (1st or 2nd Semester) in order to retain membership.

Section 6 Upon request, an active member of this chapter who transfers from this school will be given a letter, signed by the principal, indicating the status of this membership.

Section 7 An active member who falls below the required 4.5 GPA shall be placed on academic probation. He/she will be allowed one semester to bring his/her GPA into compliance with the scholarship standard or be considered for immediate removal from the NHS roll. A senior member who falls below the required GPA during the last semester shall also be put on probation. He or she has one six week term to bring his/her grades up. If he/she is not able to do so, he or she will also be considered for immediate dismissal. An active member who does not maintain enrollment in two AP, Pre-AP, dual credit or trade certification courses shall be immediately dismissed.

Section 8 An active member who commits an offense at or above the school's disciplinary conduct procedures or reflects poorly on the individual (in public) is not in compliance with the character standard that this organization requires and will be considered for immediate dismissal from the NHS roll. An active member who commits a disciplinary offense that is referred to the Administration and acted upon by the Administration, will be placed on probation for the remainder of the semester. If there is another disciplinary and/or academic offense during the semester or the school year, the student will be considered for immediate dismissal from the NHS roll.

Section 9 An active member is required to follow the attendance requirements of the school at all times. No unexcused absences are allowed.

Section 10 An active member must be involved in a certain number of hours of service (30/year) projects. Each student shall have the responsibility of choosing and participating in individual service projects which reflect his/her own particular talents and interests and 1 school project per semester. Graduating students, who have not completed the required service hours by the given date, will not be allowed to wear the Honor Society stole and Honor cords during the graduation ceremony.

Section 11 An active member who is on probation upon graduation is not allowed to wear his/her Honor stole and Honor cords during the graduation ceremony.

ARTICLE III

Selection of Members

Section 1 The selection of members to the National Honor Society shall be by Faculty Council. The Faculty Council shall consist of five voting members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter advisor shall be a non-voting, sixth member.

Section 2 Any Vernon High School student currently in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who has met the minimum scholastic requirement of 4.5 or above and has been enrolled in two AP, Pre-AP, dual credit or trade certification courses all semesters will be considered for membership into the Vernon High School National Honor Society Chapter.

Section 3 Discipline reports will be obtained from a student's assistant principal. VISD considers disciplinary infractions and lack of attendance to be serious issues. The Faculty Council takes very seriously any and all infractions of district policies, campus policies, and the law when considering students for membership. An enrolled school year documented disciplinary action such as a referral to DAEP, a suspension, or an expulsion, and/or more than three unexcused absences as documented on attendance records, as well as a current year's referral to ISS, will be cause for further review of the candidate without regard to the score on the candidate's evaluation and may be sufficient to disqualify a candidate.

Section 4 The membership selection process shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be published in the student handbook, faculty handbook, on the District website.

Section 5 The selection process shall take place during the spring semester to be followed by a formal induction ceremony. There will be only one selection period and induction ceremony each school year. Students nominated for induction must be present at the induction ceremony to become an active member.

Section 6 Questions about non-selection may be referred to the Chapter Advisor.

ARTICLE IV

Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1 A National Honor Society member must maintain the established standards and requirements for membership in order to maintain this membership. Any member who fails to maintain the standards and/or requirements under which he or she was inducted shall receive a written notification and be put on probation or dismissed from the Chapter. A member will be allowed only one probationary status between induction and graduation. A member has until the next semester of the school year to meet the scholastic standards for membership.

Discipline Procedures Regarding an Infraction for:

- a missed meeting (UIL/Medical excuses are granted upon presenting documentation to the sponsor within 3 days),
- Loss of 4.5 GPA requirement or non-enrollment in a minimum of two AP, Pre-AP, dual credit, or certification courses,
- Missing Mandatory Service Projects,
- Failure to fulfill obligations for Fall or Spring Service Hours by the due date
- Other violation of NHS By-Laws/ Membership Requirements incurs
 - o First Infraction = Probationary Status
 - o Second Infraction (Letter) = Dismissal Hearing Held by Faculty Council

Section 2 A senior member who falls below the required GPA during the last semester shall also be put on probation. He or she has one six week term to bring his/her grades up. A second warning will result in immediate dismissal.

Section 3 An active member who falls below the required 4.5 GPA shall be placed on academic probation. He/she will be allowed one semester to bring his/her GPA into compliance with the scholarship standard or be considered for immediate removal from the NHS roll. A senior member who falls below the required GPA during the last semester shall also be put on probation. He or she has one six week term to bring his/her grades up. If he/she is not able to do so, he or she will also be considered for immediate dismissal. An active member who does not maintain enrollment in a minimum of two AP, Pre-AP, dual credit or certification course shall be immediately dismissed.

Section 4 An active member who commits a violation of the law (whether at school or not) or school regulations is not in compliance with the character standard that this organization requires and can result in dismissal. These violations include, but are not limited to, DWI; MIP; stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, association with or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

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

Section 6 A member who is on scholastic probation and who commits a disciplinary offense during the same semester or school year, shall be immediately dismissed without prior warning. Once a member is dismissed, he/she is never again eligible for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 7 When a member is dismissed, he/she must be notified in writing and shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council. His/her emblem and membership card must be returned to the advisor or principal upon dismissal. A student who is dismissed is not allowed to wear the Honor Society stole or Honor cords during graduation.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 1 The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, historian, and a junior representative. All officers are responsible for attending all National Honor Society meetings, and the induction ceremony, helping organize all NHS activities, making contacts with community members concerning service projects, reviewing submitted service project forms, and being available to help with special projects which may arise.

Section 2 A majority of votes shall be necessary to elect any office of the chapter.

Section 3 Any member in good standing is eligible for any office. An application form must be submitted by the announced due date to be eligible.

Section 4 It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter. The president is also responsible for announcements to be submitted to the advisor for approval. He or she must also provide the advisor with an agenda before any meeting.

Section 5 The vice-president shall fill the chair of the president in his/her absence. The vice-president maintains attendance records.

Section 6 The chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, a record of all business and all records on file. The secretary writes all necessary correspondence.

Section 7 The treasurer shall receive all funds of the chapter and shall keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements in accordance with school regulations.

Section 8 The parliamentarian shall maintain order during meetings. He/she will also chair service projects and maintain records of all service projects for all senior members.

Section 9: The historian shall maintain a scrapbook of all events and activities during the school year.

Section 10 The junior representative will attend all meetings and maintain records of all service project hours submitted by junior members.

ARTICLE VI

Executive Committee

Section 1 The executive committee shall consist of the advisor and the officers of the chapter with the president acting as its chairman.

Section 2 The executive committee shall have general charge and supervision of the chapter.

Section 3 The activities of the chapter shall be subject to the approval of the advisor and the principal.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Section 1 The meetings of the chapter shall be held on days designated by the executive committee. The chapter must meet once a month.

Section 2 The officers of the chapter shall be elected at the last regular meeting of the year. The president and the advisor may call special meetings, approved by the executive committee.

Section 3 A drawing for a free service hour may be held during a regular meeting of the membership.

Section 4 All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the sponsorship of the advisor, or some faculty member selected by the principal.

Section 5 Members are required to attend each monthly meeting. If a member fails to attend two meetings in a row, he/she will be placed on probation and will be notified in writing. The same shall apply if a member misses a total of 3 meetings. If a member should miss another meeting after being placed on probation, he or shall be considered for immediate dismissal.

Section 6 The chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised in all points not expressly provided for in the constitution.

ARTICLE VIII

Activities

Section 1 The executive committee shall develop one or more service projects per year. The projects are to be publicized in a positive manner.

Section 2 All members shall regularly participate in the chapter's service projects. To be eligible to wear the NHS collar at graduation, service project hours must be up-to-date. Service project hours must be completed by April 1 for all seniors and May 1 for juniors and sophomores. All students must complete 30 service hours during 1 school year. 15 hours are due at the end of the fall semester and 15 hours are due at the end of the spring semester. Seniors who were inducted in the spring induction ceremony must complete 10 service hours before May 1 in order to be eligible to wear their Honor Society stole and Honor cords at graduation. Sophomores who were inducted in the spring induction ceremony must complete 10 service hours before May 1 in order to be in good standing.

Section 3 All members are required to fulfill 15 of the required hours within an NHS sponsored activity.

Section 4 All members shall regularly participate in individual service projects of the member's choice. Members must provide documentation of the hours. Hours that are considered eligible for credit are those that benefit the school or the community at large.

ARTICLE IX

Emblem

Section 1 Each member of the chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2 Any member who withdraws or is dismissed from the chapter will return the emblem (See Article IV, Section 7).

Section 3 Each member agrees that, whether the emblem comes to him/her as a gift, a personal purchase, or an award or from whatever source, the title of the emblem will rest with the chapter of which he/she is a member. The chapter council can, therefore, by a majority vote, request that any member return the emblem.

Section 4 All insignia must be procured from the national secretary of the National Honor Society, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091.

ARTICLE X

Induction Ceremony

Section 1 All active members must be present at the induction ceremony.

Section 2 All senior members shall have an active part in the induction ceremony.

Section 3 An active member who is on probation at the time of the induction shall be excluded from attending and participating in the induction ceremony.

ARTICLE XI

Dues

Section 1 The annual dues for each chapter will be subject to the approval of the executive committee of the chapter.

Section 2 Dues must be paid during the fall semester of classes. After the due date has passed, a late fee of \$5 will be added to what is owed to the chapter for each month it goes unpaid. Fees must be paid to be in good standing with the school. Once a due and late fee has been assessed and collected, the member will owe no further dues to the chapter.

Section 3 Dues must be paid by November 1 to be eligible to be in good standing. A member must be in good standing to wear the NHS stole and cords at graduation.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter provided the proposed amendment has been approved by the majority vote of the executive committee of the chapter. ByLaws will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Revised March 2017