

NHS Candidate Information and Eligibility Packet

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of National Honor Society. Please be aware that all deadlines are final and exceptions are not made. It is in your best interest not to wait until the last moment to complete your essays and turn in your packet. Please read through all of the provided material to enhance your chance of being selected for membership. It is very important that you understand the commitment you are making if you are selected for membership. Please do not turn in materials if you are not willing to perform the required community service or attend meetings. If meetings are a problem due to PSEO, please talk to Ms. Schuchmann about the issue. We may be able to work with you on this. The timeline for the process is as follows:

August: List of eligible students is posted and eligibility packets are made available.

Monday, September 19: Completed packets, including essays, are due in the main office **NO LATER THAN 2:45 P.M.**

September 20-October 21: Essays and activity sheets scored by the faculty council and information about character, service and leadership gathered from Armstrong staff. Faculty council will meet to select new members.

Tuesday, October 25: Letters sent to first hour class of eligible students notifying them of selection or non-selection.

Monday, November 14: New member induction, 7:00 p.m. in the Armstrong Auditorium. More information about the ceremony will be included in the letters of those students selected for membership.

Wednesday, November 2: First NHS meeting with new members. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 6:45 a.m. in the left balcony of the auditorium. Meetings are a mandatory part of membership. Please note that this meeting is before the Induction ceremony

NHS INFORMATION SHEET

The following information has been excerpted from the National Honor Society Handbook to assist you in understanding the purpose of the organization and to help in defining Leadership, Service, and Character, three of the four pillars of the Society.

Article I, Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. (NHS Constitution excerpt, p.5)

Selection. Students may not apply for membership in the National Honor Society. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the faculty council in each school. (p. 16)

Definitions of leadership, service, and character.

Leadership

The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions.
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities.
- Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals.
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- Is able to delegate responsibilities.
- Exemplifies positive attitudes.
- Inspires positive behavior in others.
- Demonstrates academic initiative.
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducting business effectively and efficiently, and without prodding, demonstrates reliability and dependability.
- Is a forerunner in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities.
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.

Service

The student who serves:

- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.
- Participates in some outside service activity: Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; church groups; volunteer 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
- Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and interscholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work without complaint
- 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, poise, 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 studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment

(p. 18-19)

Candidate Rating Information

Candidates will be scored and ranked in the following areas. The faculty council will then meet to select the new members for induction based on these rankings.

Scholarship: Grade point average

Character: Teacher input

Leadership: Essay and teacher input

Service: Essay and activities form

If you are inducted as a new member you are expected to perform 30 hours of community service this year, and if a junior, 40 hours in your senior year. If you are not willing to do this, please do not fill out the forms to be considered for membership.

NHS Candidate Personal Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Names: _____

Home phone number: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Please provide at least one phone number. Sometimes our officers need to reach members quickly about volunteer opportunities.

Email address: _____

We will have a list-serve to facilitate communication between officers and members. We also send out group email notifications. Please print your email address legibly.

Semester 1 Period 1 teacher: _____

For written notices and reminders. If you out of the building all day for college classes, please indicate this in the space above.

T-shirt size: _____

Armstrong High School National Honor Society Expectations

1. Selection process

In mid-June, junior and senior students with a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher are identified. A list of these "NHS Eligible" students is posted in the online and outside the school office. Students on this list who would like to be considered for membership need to fill out an eligibility packet, which is available in the office. The packet includes 2 essays and an activity information sheet. Students have until September 19th to complete the packet and return it to the office. Essays are scored by members of the NHS faculty council along with activity sheet. Teachers are provided with a list of students at this point and asked to rate them on character, leadership, and service. These scores are added to the essay and activity scores and a ranking is created. At this time the faculty council is provided with scores. A meeting is held and a decision is made regarding which students from the list will be selected for membership, based on scores and a discussion of any serious issues that come up in the teacher evaluations. All candidates are then notified, and an induction ceremony is held in November for new members and their families.

2. Continuing membership expectations

Members pay annual dues of \$25. Once these have been paid, all members receive a current year t-shirt to be worn to NHS sponsored service activities. Returning members are expected to perform 40 hours of community service during the year, and 10 of these must be NHS sponsored activities. New members need 30 hours, 10 being NHS hours. Members that sign up for activities are responsible for finding a substitute if they cannot show up. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 6:45 a.m. in the auditorium balcony. Attendance is required. Students with 2 or more unexcused absences are subject to a dismissal hearing. Students also need to maintain the 3.6 GPA, or may also face a dismissal hearing. Students are held to the highest behavior standards. Serious school rule violations, including chemical violations, will result in the student facing a dismissal hearing.

3. Dismissal hearings

These are meetings held with the faculty council. The involved student is notified and may attend the meeting and bring parents along for support. If the student chooses not to attend the hearing, he or she may provide a written statement regarding the issue. The council discusses the issue and can dismiss the student from NHS, or in some cases, decide to put the student on probation with expectations to be followed. If the student fails to follow through on those expectations, then dismissal will occur. All students and parents are notified of these events in writing.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY ELIGIBILITY 2016-17 COVER SHEET

Name (print):

Student ID #

Grade:

Per. 1 Teacher:

STUDENT STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

I am eligible to submit selection materials to the NHS Faculty Council for their consideration of my selection to National Honor Society. I meet the criteria listed below.

1. I have earned an accumulative GPA of 3.60 or above
2. I have attended Armstrong High School for at least one semester, or I am a transfer student who has been approved by the NHS Faculty Council for selection.
3. I am currently a student in grade 11 or 12, or in a post-secondary program.
4. I have returned the required selection materials by **2:45 p.m. on Monday, September 19, 2016**

I also certify that the information I have provided is true and correct and is my own work. Additionally, I understand that the materials I provided become the property of the NHS Faculty Council and will be destroyed after the selection process is complete. **I also understand that the decision of the Faculty Council is final.**

Student signature

Date

GPA

DIRECTIONS TO THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT:

1. Read the handout, **NHS INFORMATION SHEET**, provided to you in the packet. This handout provides information about NHS and the components of leadership, service, and character.
2. Carefully read the instructions for the two essays (on the essay sheets). Before composing your essay responses, read each scoring rubric so you understand how your essays will be rated. Print your typed essay on the back of the scoring rubric. **Essays should not be more than 1 page long.** DO NOT write your name on the essays, only on the cover sheet. Place your student ID # in the upper right-hand corner of your essays.
3. For each essay, secure signatures from two adults who are NOT related to you who can confirm your good character and achievements described in your essays. Each essay must have confirmation from different individuals. You will have a total of **four** adults confirming your work and character.
4. Complete the Activities/Involvement/Awards sheet, listing your accomplishments and/or awards received to date.
5. **Turn in your packet by 2:45 p.m. on Monday, September 19, 2016.** Your packet should have a cover sheet, scoring rubrics with the essays on the back, and a completed activities sheet. Also include a completed copy of your student contact sheet. **Paper clip** your materials together and place them in the basket in the main office. **LATE PACKETS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED!**
6. Failure to follow directions will have a negative effect on your chances for selection for NHS.

Student I.D. #

DIRECTIONS FOR ESSAY #2 LEADERSHIP

1. Record your student I.D. number in the upper right corner of this page.
2. Type or word-process your essay response on the reverse side of this page. Limit your response to one page.
3. Do not refer to yourself by name on this sheet.
4. Gather signatures and phone numbers (or email addresses) from two individuals who have read your essay and can confirm that your response is consistent with their knowledge of you. The signer should also indicate their relationship to you (teacher, coach, pastor, neighbor, etc.) on the indicated line

Essay #2

Like service, character, and scholarship, leadership is one of the four pillars of the National Honor Society. In a carefully crafted two paragraph essay, discuss first the question: What makes for positive leadership? Then, in your second paragraph, discuss a project or situation in either school or the community in which you demonstrated the very qualities you believe are essential to leadership.

Type or word-process your essay on the reverse side of this page.

Confirmation signatures

I have read this essay and find that it is consistent with my knowledge of the candidate.

Signature

relationship

phone # or email

Signature

relationship

phone # or email

Scoring Rubric (Office use only)

Topic

Shows a sound understanding of what positive leadership is

Possible

0-5 possible

Essay score

Demonstrates the essential aspects of positive leadership

0-5 possible

Total score

/10

Student ID#

School Activities	9 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade	Offices/leadership positions
<i>Athletics</i>					
Football					
Volleyball					
Cross Country					
Soccer					
Tennis					
Swimming					
Basketball					
Gymnastics					
Wrestling					
Alpine Skiing					
Nordic Skiing					
Hockey					
Softball					
Baseball					
Lacrosse					
Golf					
Track & Field					
Dance Team					
Cheerleading					
<i>Music</i>					
Madrigal Singers					
Diva Voce					
Chamber Singers					
Chamber Strings					
Marching Band					
Jazz Ensemble					
Jazz Band					
Pep Band					
Drum Line					
<i>Other</i>					
Ultimate Frisbee					
Rugby					
Intramurals					
Student Council					
SAB					
Link Crew					
Drama/Plays					
Speech					
Yearbook					
Newspaper					
Future Problem Solving					
<i>Academic Awards</i>					
Academic Letter					
Language Honor Society					
Other Academic					

Outside Activities	9 th grade	10 th grade	11 th Grade	12 th grade	Office/Leadership Positions, describe activity, hours per week
Scouting					
Religious group					
Club Sports					
Volunteerism					
Employment					
Any other activities -use remaining boxes to list all other activities					