



WESTCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

BYLAWS

I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Westchester Middle School National Junior Honor Society

Section 2. The purpose of this organization is 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.

Section 3. Students who meet the criteria will be challenged to expand on their skills of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

II. THE PRINCIPAL/ ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Section 1. The principal and/or assistant principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2. The principal and/or assistant principal shall appoint a member of the faculty as chapter adviser.

Section 3. The principal and/or assistant principal shall receive appeals in case of non-selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

III. THE CHAPTER ADVISER

Section 1. The chapter adviser shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as a liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

Section 2. The chapter adviser shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, and financial transactions.

Section 3. The chapter adviser shall regularly review member compliance with the NJHS standards and obligations.

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

Section 5. The chapter adviser shall be a member of the faculty.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is based on outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 3. Members who resign or who are dismissed are never again eligible for membership.

Section 4. Active members have a voice and vote in elections. Active members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected.

Section 5. Members must complete a minimum of 12 hours of community service during the school year to be considered active members. Six of the twelve service hours may be completed through activities outside of school (service).

Section 6. All service hours must be completed by the deadline set by the adviser.

Section 7. Members must submit the completed service hours form(s) to the adviser by the deadline set by the adviser. No extension will be granted to the deadline.

Section 8. Members must demonstrate responsibility in clubs and have a positive influence on peers (leadership).

Section 9. Members must exhibit six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Behavior will be observed and taken into consideration (character).

Section 10. Members must demonstrate an understanding of the importance of

civic involvement, have a high regard for freedom, justice, and respect of the American form of government (citizenship).

Section 11. Members are responsible for maintaining a 3.75 GPA. The GPA is an average of the previous 3 trimesters. Members who fall below the required GPA will be given a warning in writing and put on probation for one trimester. (scholarship). Example:
 $T1+T2+T3/3=3.75$ or higher

V. SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a member Westchester Middle School for one full school year, 3 trimesters. Membership is open to 7th grade and 8th grade students.

Section 2. The minimum standard of excellence shall be a cumulative scholastic average of 3.75. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Section 3. A description of the selection procedure shall be widely available to all students and parents of the school.

Section 4. Transfer grades will not be accepted for membership.

Section 5. Admission to the NJHS is by invitation only.

Section 6. Students must meet the requirements and apply to be considered for membership. Application

for membership does not guarantee acceptance.

Section 7. Students must submit a completed application, a recommendation from a teacher, and a personal statement to be considered for selection by the deadline set by the adviser.

VI. DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

Section 1. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the charter adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except that in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a member does not necessarily have to be warned.

Section 3. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision to the principal and thereafter under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

VII. PROBATION

Section 1. Probation-a membership status of "not in good standing" for a probationary time.

Section 2. During probationary period, member will refrain from participation in council meetings, to include election voting.

Section 3. During probationary period, member will remain true to pledge to the society.

Section 4. Member will regain all membership status at the end of the probationary period.

VIII. APPEAL

Section 1. Appeals of dismissal are to be handled by the adviser and the principal and/or assistant principal.

Section 2. Written notice will be sent to the member and parent or guardian.

Section 3. Decisions will be made based on adequacy and fairness, and the data presented for the situation.

IX. CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter, their duties, and the method of their election, shall be determined by the members of the chapter as described.

Section 2. New officers shall be installed at a meeting.

Section 3. Officer positions: president, vice president, secretary, 7th grade liaison, 8th grade liaison.

Section 4. For all officer election systems, democratic principles of operation shall be used, with an emphasis on fairness in conducting all procedures.

Section 5: Officers who do not perform their duties will be warned and possibly removed from office.

X. MEETINGS

Section 1. Each chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year on days designated by the adviser and in accordance with school policy.

Section 2. The regularity of the meetings shall be designated by the adviser.

Section 3. The chapter adviser may call special meetings.

Section 4. Attendance is mandatory for the induction ceremony meeting date.

Section 5. It is highly recommended that the officers attend all meetings.

XI. COMMITTEE WORK

Section 1. Each member will sign-up to work on a committee to challenge and expand the core values of the organization.

Section 2. Volunteer hours for committee work will count towards service hour requirements.

Section 3. Current committees: Junior Best Buddies, Audio Recordings, Service Committee, and Cultural Committee.

Section 4. New committees may be developed to challenge the core values of the organization, subject to approval by the adviser and administration.

XII. ACTIVITIES

Section 1. Each chapter shall determine one service project for each year.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in meetings and the project.

Section 3. The project shall fulfill a need within the school or community, have the support of the administration, be appropriate and educationally defensible, and be organized.

XIII. EXPECTATIONS

Section 1. Students are expected to make a commitment to their club activity.

Section 2. Students are expected to be on time to their club activity.

Section 3. Students are responsible for their own behavior.

Section 4. Students are expected to respect others.

Section 5. Students must pay their activity fee prior to participating in the club activity. The activity fee is \$35.00 for 8th grade, \$25.00 for 7th grade.

Section 6. Students must have a signed permission slip prior to participating in club activities.

Section 7. Failure to exhibit appropriate behavior will result in removal from the club activity. One central detention will result in a one-month probation. During the probation time, any further altercations will result in dismissal from club. Any central detentions after probationary period has ended will result in dismissal from club.

Section 8. The club fee is not refundable due to dismissal or non-completion of requirements.

XIV. GRADUATION

Section 1. Members who have successfully maintained membership and completed all required service hours will receive graduation cords to be worn during the graduation ceremony.

Section 2. Students will have their names recognized in the graduation program by an asterisk.

Section 3. All service hours must be completed and forms must be turned in to the adviser by the deadline.

Section 4. Members will be dismissed from the organization and members will not be recognized at the graduation ceremony if membership was not maintained.

(August 2011)