

National Honor Society

St. Thomas More Chapter

St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic High School

By-Laws

Introductory Statement:

The National Honor Society (NHS) is a nationwide association sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). It is dedicated to promoting academic excellence and fostering qualities of character, leadership and service. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. The following by-laws are consistent with the NHS Constitution.

Article I Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this chapter shall be the St. Thomas More Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools which appears on the charter granted to the National Council of the National Honor Society duly signed by the National Secretary.

Section 2: The object of this charter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students at St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic High School.

Article II The Principal

Section 1: The Principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2: The Principal shall appoint the chapter Advisor(s) and shall appoint the members of the Faculty Council.

Section 3: The Principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

Article III The Faculty Council

- Section 1: The Faculty Council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed by the Principal. Appointments are made at the end of the school year for the following year.
- Section 2: The Faculty Council is responsible for the election of new members according to the National Honor Society selection procedure. Council members are chosen for their ability to be objective and fair in the decision-making process.
- Section 3: The Faculty Council shall meet as necessary to select members and also to consider dismissal and probationary cases.
- Section 4: The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.
- Section 5: The Faculty Council should meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and to consider non-selection, dismissal, and other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

Article IV Faculty Advisor

- Section 1: The Faculty Advisor is responsible for the daily activities of the chapter and acts as a liaison between faculty, administrators, students and the community.
- Section 2: The Faculty Advisor must chair meetings of the Faculty Council and communicate National Honor Society decisions to chapter members. The Advisor is a non-voting member of the Faculty Council.
- Section 3: The Faculty Advisor maintains files of membership, chapter history, activities and financial transactions. The Advisor shall send the annual report to the national office.
- Section 4: It shall be the duty of the Faculty Advisor to distribute and process the application forms of those students meeting eligibility.
- Section 5: It shall be the duty of the Faculty Advisor to maintain records of service hours performed by each member and to inform members of possible probationary actions due to failure to perform responsibilities in being a National Honor Society member.
- Section 6: The Faculty Advisor shall regularly review each members for compliance with society standards and obligations.

Article V Membership

- Section 1: Membership in this chapter shall be based on scholarship, character, leadership, and service.
- Section 2: Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. Graduate members have no vote in chapter policy or elections.
- Section 3: Candidates shall have spent at least one and one-half years at the high school level of St. Peter-Marian, unless a transfer is made from an honor society of another school.
- Section 4: Candidates for membership shall be elected once a year. Juniors, and seniors are eligible for full membership. Inductions are held in the spring.
- Section 5: The academic criteria for membership will be a unweighted grade point average of **86**. The average will be cumulative through the current Mid-Term Exams.

It should be the candidate's responsibility to obtain from the NHS Advisor the necessary forms for admission consideration.

These forms must be obtained, completed, and returned to the NHS Advisor in the time described within the forms.

The forms will then be reviewed by the Faculty Council. All decisions on induction made by the Faculty Council are final.

- Section 6: Any candidate for membership whose cumulative adjusted GPA falls below that required for admission, between the date of selection and the date of induction shall be deemed not academically qualified, and will not be granted membership.

Candidates not granted membership under this condition may be considered for membership in the following year without prejudice.

Article VI Installation/Recognition

- Section 1: New members will be inducted into the chapter at a public ceremony. All present members of the NHS are required to attend. The Principal and Faculty Advisor shall determine the specific date of such induction ceremony.
- Section 2: The ceremony shall be conducted by the officers and members of the chapter. The ceremony shall stress the qualities of scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

Section 3: Each inducted member shall be entitled to a membership card and certificate upon induction.

Section 4: Each active member, unless on probation, shall be entitled to wear appropriate NHS decoration at graduation.

Any member who withdraws, or is dropped, from the Chapter shall forfeit the right to wear the NHS emblem or insignia.

Article VII Membership Requirements

Section 1: Each chapter member plays a key role in the school community. Adherence to school rules is required at all school functions on and off school property.

Section 2: Each chapter member must maintain the cumulative scholastic unweighted average of 86 and continue to demonstrate high standards of character, leadership, and service in order to remain in the National Honor Society.

Section 3: The National Honor Society encourages the involvement in a variety of service activities. *Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service.* (NHS National Constitution). Members must perform **20 hours of individual service each year** to be split to a minimum of 10 per semester. It shall be the responsibility of each member to document and report hours each semester. In addition, each member is required to participate in and contribute a minimum of **seven group service hours each year**. Semester hours are due by the conclusion of the final Mid-Term Exam for the first semester and by April 30 for seniors and May 31 for juniors.

Section 4: Failure to perform service hours or failure to fulfill responsibilities assigned may result in the member being placed on probation. Continued failure to fulfill responsibilities required of charter members shall result in the member's name being brought to the Faculty Council for dismissal consideration.

Section 5: Any member who is also a member of other organizations which require completion of service hours (CCD, school service, youth groups, etc.) may not overlap the two requirements.

Section 6: Each member will pay yearly dues of \$10 payable in May.

Article VIII Discipline/Dismissal

Section 1: A member can be dismissed when performance falls below the level of standards by which the student was selected.

Section 2: Any active member whose cumulative adjusted grade point average falls below **86** shall be given a single probationary period of one marking quarter to bring the adjusted GPA up to that required of maintenance of membership.

Should the member once again obtain a cumulative adjusted GPA below that required for maintenance of membership, after having been restored to active membership, shall be immediately dismissed from the NHS.

Any member of the NHS who has been dismissed or has resigned may not be reconsidered for membership.

Section 3: Any student who is suspended from school or accumulates a significant amount of in-house suspensions shall be placed on probation for one semester. If a second incident of school discipline occurs the student shall be subject to dismissal. This will be a decision of the Faculty Council.

Section 4: Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating on any academic assignment, quiz, test or essay may be subject to immediate removal from the NHS.

Section 5: In the case of a second semester senior member who is suspended or disciplined by the Faculty Council, the senior will not be allowed to be designated as an NHS member during graduation exercises.

Section 6: Any member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the Principal.

Article IX Officers

Section 1: Officers of this chapter shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President and Vice President are offices open to seniors only.

Section 2: Elections will be held in the spring. Self-nominations are to be made to the Advisor in advance of the election meeting. The majority of votes cast by the members shall be necessary to elect any officer.

- Section 3: The President of the chapter shall preside over the meetings and confer with the Advisor on any problems that concern the membership as a whole. The President shall be the representative of the chapter whenever a representative is needed.
- Section 4: The Vice President shall assist the President and preside in the President's absence. The Vice President will also be the coordinator of Group Service Projects.
- Section 5: The Secretary shall record attendance and proceedings and attend to clerical duties.
- Section 6: The Treasurer shall keep record of all financial matters. The Treasurer will be the collector of dues and will be responsible with the Advisor for accounting of all accounts.
- Section 7: Newly elected officers shall receive the NHS pin with the symbol of their office.

Article X Meetings

- Section 1: The chapter shall meet monthly at a time and location to be chosen by the Advisor and the officers. Special meetings may be called.
- Section 2: Members who abstain from three meetings without just cause may be suspended from active membership for the rest of the school year. This suspension will be voted on by the officers and may be appealed to the Faculty Council.
- Section 3: Special meetings, approved by the officers, may be called by the President.
- Section 4: All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the direction of the Advisor.

Article XI Amendments

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present at a meeting called for that purpose, provided that the proposed amendment has been approved by the officers, and that the amendment has been presented to the membership at least one meeting prior to the meeting at which it has been voted on.