

Elias Bernstein Intermediate School 7
Dina Testa, Principal

School Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2024

In attendance: Dina Testa, Principal; Joseph Mennella, Gerianne Dalton, Anthony Tampa, PTA, Lisa Augustine-Martino, Kelly Cernigliaro, Salvatore Torcivia, Nicole Donniacuo

Absent: Vivienne Tsougros (Student Representative); Matthew Scheiper; Alex Nukho (Student Representative), Sylvie Liu (Student Representative); Dina Briscoe

Meeting began at 9:15AM. This meeting was voluntary to discuss Honor Society for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

Honor Society:

Appeal process: Administration proposed an appeal process, where parents would submit an appeal of the honor society decision in writing within a designated period of time, for the School Leadership to review, based on honor society requirements. Ms. Augustine-Martino brought up that some parents may not check Operoo in a timely manner, which may not give them enough time to submit a letter of appeal. Administration stated that a School wide message will be sent via the current school communication platform to notify families when honor society acceptances have been posted on Operoo. The School Leadership team voted to add this appeal process to the honor society procedures for the upcoming school year.

Viking society ceremony: Administration proposed for the Class of 2027, having a ceremony for Arista only; this is the current practice utilized by the other middle schools on Staten Island and is aligned with the National Honor Society practices. It was proposed that for students accepted into Viking Society, they will still be recognized with a certificate, invitation to the Honor Society trip and an in school celebration (ie: breakfast, lunch, etc.) This would not be implemented until the Class of 2027 8th grade year. SLT was in agreement with this change, as long as students are still recognized in some manner.

Review of the overall requirements: The team reviewed the current honor society requirements (see below from Family Guide). The Sugar Walk will be replaced with an IS 7 Color Run/Walk, which will take place in October on a weekday after school, to accommodate students who may have other commitments on the weekends. This will be one of the required school sanctioned events. All other honor society requirements will remain the same. The parent members agreed

that having one of the events during the week is very helpful to students and families trying to meet requirements. Lateness was discussed and remains a requirement for honor society (No more than 3 latenesses per marking period). There are current school systems in place for family contact when lateness is becoming an issue. Parents also inquired about more communication between families and teachers to notify when a student may be receiving an S in conduct (which is an honor society requirement); administration stated that they will work on communicating this with staff.

Section 15: Honor Society Requirements

15.1 Community Service and IS 7 Honor Societies

In alignment with the National Honor Society, any student who applies for any honor societies must complete **accredited community service hours** each school year prior to the submission deadline. IS 7 equates these hours to the following activities:

- Applicants must attend one of the following two school sanctioned community walks:
 - Making Strides (Breast Cancer Awareness)
 - IS 7 Sugar Walk (Animal Rescue)
- Applicants must attend one independent community walk and/or both school sanctioned walks
- Applicants must also volunteer **five hours of service** with a Not for Profit Organization and submit a letter of documentation
- All of the above requirements must be completed by April 1st of the current school year.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to take a photo to memorialize their time fulfilling each of their accredited hours of community service. These photos must be submitted along with their application for the Honor Society. Please note, at the Making Strides and/or IS 7 Sugar Walk, an applicant will be required to take a photo with a school representative. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to supervise their children during the community service walks and provide transportation to and from the event. Students must attend in-person community walks.

15.2 Arista Society Requirements:

Students can attain membership in Arista if they:

- Maintain an overall 92% average for each marking period during the current school year. In addition, they may not receive a grade in any subject below 80%
- Complete and submit documentation for their community service. (see above requirements)
- Maintain excellent punctuality each school year. (No more than 3 latenesses per marking period)
- Any suspension from class or school or a referral to grade supervisor for reasons of discipline, including Scholastic Dishonesty, may render the student ineligible for Arista
- An eligible student cannot receive an N or U in any one citizenship rating category

Students are required to maintain copies of all school issued marking period report cards to verify that the student has met the above criteria for Arista Society. Only one copy of each marking period report card is required if applying to multiple societies. Duplicate copies will not be provided by the school. Failure to submit report card copies with application will deem students ineligible for respective society.

15.3 Viking Society Requirements:

In recognition of outstanding citizenship, students are accepted into our Viking Society if they:

- Achieve an overall citizenship rating of Excellent for each marking period in the grade (no more than one S in each marking period.)
- Complete and submit documentation for their community service. (see above requirements)
- Earn **10 merits** in the current school year
- Maintain excellent punctuality each school year. (No more than 3 latenesses per marking period)

- Any suspension from class or school or a referral to grade supervisor for reasons of discipline, including Scholastic Dishonesty, may render the student ineligible for Viking Society status
- An eligible student cannot receive an N or U in any one citizenship rating category

Students are required to maintain copies of all school issued marking period report cards to verify that the student has met the above criteria for Viking Society. Only one copy of each marking period report card is required if applying to multiple societies. Duplicate copies will not be provided by the school. Failure to submit report card copies with application will deem student ineligible for respective society.

15.4 Maroon Key Society Requirements (8th Grade Only):

Any student is eligible for our Maroon Key Society if they:

- Meet the criteria for both Arista and Viking for three consecutive school years (6th, 7th and 8th grade).
- Volunteer at one Service to School event during 8th grade. Students will be notified of events that qualify at the beginning of 8th grade.
- Submit copies of 6th and 7th grade Viking and Arista certificates as proof of membership into these societies as part of their application into 8th grade Maroon Key. Copies will not be provided.

The IS 7 Honor Society ceremony is traditionally held in the Spring. Please note that students will not officially be inducted into the respective Honor Societies until the completion of the school year. Therefore, requirements must be maintained for all three periods for the child to be deemed eligible for the respective Honor Society and may directly impact their application for Maroon Key in the 8th grade.