



Dear O. Henry Students and Families,

We are excited that you are interested in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) for the 2026-27 school year. Here is some important information to consider before applying:



Basic Information about NJHS

What is the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)?

The National Junior Honor Society is a national organization which recognizes students in middle school for their achievements in academic scholarship, leadership, service, and character. O. Henry Middle School was granted a charter in October 1999 and is obligated to follow the national standards, not expectations set by the school district or this campus. NJHS is not the same as an honor roll, but recognizes excellence in several areas.

NJHS at O. Henry

At O. Henry Middle School, NJHS members (8th graders) and candidates (7th graders interested in NJHS) participate in many service activities to benefit their campus and community. In the past, O. Henry NJHS has collected winter wear for the Coats for Kids Drive; collected and organized distribution for the Blue Santa Toy Drive; gathered food for organizations such as the Capital Area Food Bank, and participated in many clean up opportunities for our campus, just to name a few. Other volunteer opportunities include helping teachers throughout the school year on professional development days for things such as setting up classrooms in August. We also celebrate Earth Day with a Keep O. Henry Beautiful Day. We encourage you to be thoughtful and creative in choosing how you want to catalog your hours. For the 2026-27 school year, we will also be encouraging students to come up with a project-based learning opportunity of their choosing. Students must verify with advisors before they begin the project to ensure that it meets NJHS standards.

Requirements for Applying to NJHS

In order to be eligible for membership in NJHS, seventh grade students must fulfill the following requirements in the following categories:

Scholarship

To be inducted, students must have received a 90 overall average, and no failing grades(below 70) the previous or current grading period. Additional points are not added for high school credit courses, as we expect students to be performing at a high standard class status. Elective courses are also counted in figuring the

cumulative average. After induction, students must maintain the scholastic requirements to retain membership.



Service and Leadership

Students are expected to be role models on and off campus. Candidates must acquire at least five service hours prior to turning in their applications. Hours may be earned for campus or community service, for a leadership position, and for NJHS-sponsored events. Candidates must log hours and document appropriate supervisors or adult verification on the NJHS Service Log Form. This form is part of the application. You must have an adult sign off on each of your hours.

Character and Citizenship

In addition to scholarship, service, and leadership, NJHS students are expected to exhibit strong character and citizenship. Any student who shows disrespect or untruthfulness will not be eligible for induction. The student of character and citizenship:

- takes criticism willingly and graciously
- exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior
- upholds ethical principles
- demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- actively helps to rid the school of negative influences
- demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement

Applications and Induction

Students have the opportunity to complete an application and Service Log to apply for NJHS. **Applications will be available through BLEND.**

Completed applications are due on May 6th INCLUDING
Service Logs (The 5 service hours can be accrued Aug 20, 2025 - May 6, 2026)

NO late applications will be accepted. All applications will be reviewed and students will receive notification by email prior to the induction ceremony on **May 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

What do I do now?

Follow the link to the Blend Class and Application

- Students can self-enroll in the course with this URL:
<https://aisdblend.instructure.com/enroll/RFTGCX>
- General student information form
- Write your statement of Honor
 - o The statement of honor for the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) typically requires a 300- to 400-word essay that showcases your commitment and accomplishments in the following pillars:



- **Scholarship:** Demonstrate your academic excellence and dedication to learning.
 - **Leadership:** Highlight your leadership roles and how you have inspired others.
 - **Service:** Share your contributions to your school and community, focusing on volunteer work and service activities.
 - **Character:** Illustrate your values and integrity through personal stories and experiences.
 - **Citizenship:** Discuss your involvement in school activities and your commitment to contributing to the school community.
 - **Make sure to structure your essay effectively, using specific examples to support your claims. Students must create their own essay - academic honesty expectations apply.**
 - **[Submit your Statement of Honor to the form linked here.](#)**
- Document student activities in service log: <https://forms.gle/F5QgYwkiFPtUrExGA>
 - Complete 5 service hours - Work on your [Service Log\(5 hours\)](#) -Seek out opportunities in your community to become involved. You might offer to babysit for free (paid service does not earn hours), or do yard work for an elderly person, or walk a neighbor's pet. You and a group of friends can volunteer at a food bank. You can volunteer at the O. Henry Garden Day on Saturday, April 18th starting at 8:30 am.
 - Calculate GPA - ensure that your cumulative average is at or above a 90.00 and no failing grades. (see example of how to calculate below). Please do not ask the Counseling Office to calculate your averages. Students are expected to do this.
 - Make sure that your behavior is consistent with the requirements of NJHS.
 - If you have ANY questions, please have the STUDENT contact Mr Kevin Gaffney at at kevin.gaffney@austinisd.org or Mr. Michael Jurkovic at michael.jurkovic@austinisd.org
- Important Dates**

- May 6: Applications due
- May 6: Service Log due (5 hours)
- May 20 at 6:00: Induction/Farewell ceremony at O. Henry Middle School Cafeteria

How to Calculate Cumulative Average:

- To be in NJHS you must have an overall average of 90.00 and no failing grades through the 3rd nine weeks of your 8th or 7th grade report card.
Please confirm you qualify before applying [Grade Check Form](#)
1. Add up your Report Card grades for each class through the 3rd nine weeks then divide this by 3. Repeat for the rest of your classes.
 2. **Then ADD the average for all of your classes together and divide by 8.**
This is your overall average.



Example: (Avg. of 3 report cards)

Math = 90
English = 97
Science = 94
Social Studies = 89
Spanish I = 92
PE = 98
Theatre Arts = 90
STEM= 92

$90 + 97 + 94 + 89 + 92 + 98 + 90 = 742$

$742 / 8 = 92.75$ is your cumulative average