

Bylaws for the Wayne Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society

Adopted: 2019-2020 School Year

Approved by Derek DeMass. Principal: August 12, 2019

Approved by Faculty Council members: September 2, 2019

Approved by chapter members: October 4, 2019

Reviewed: 2024-2025 School Year

Next Review: 2029-2030 School Year

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Wayne Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter 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 and citizenship in students of Wayne Middle School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1. This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the NJHS National Constitution.

<https://www.njhs.us/about/constitution-governance/njhs-national-constitution/>

Section 2. The chapter adviser(s) is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 3. Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 4. Our chapter of NJHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, gender identity, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty council and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members after successful completion of eighth grade. Honorary members are selected at the discretion of the faculty council. Alumni and honorary members have no vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be in the second semester of seventh grade or members of the eighth-grade class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Wayne Middle School. Students that have not been at the school for 6 consecutive quarters must have achieved a 90% average at their previous school if records are available. If records are not available but the student is maintaining a 90% average for the first two quarters of the school year, they may be invited to apply.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum **cumulative** GPA of 90% for 6 consecutive quarters. *Note: the national guidelines is a minimum GPA of 85%.*
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be invited to apply for membership. Students must complete and submit a complete application. All applications must be submitted in person by the student at the specified location no later than the posted deadline. There will be no exceptions to the deadline for submission of an application. This application further explores a student's involvement, service, leadership, character, and citizenship achievements.

Section 4. There are no dues required for membership in the Wayne Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 5. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be granted the privilege to claim membership in National Junior Honor Society.

Section 6. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter is no longer able to claim membership to the chapter.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of the members to this chapter shall be determined by a faculty council and the NJHS adviser(s). The faculty council should be made up of a minimum of 5 staff members from Wayne Middle School. They shall meet a minimum of once a year to review NJHS policies and procedures and once a year to select members. Additional meetings may be called if needed.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

Section 3. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.

b. All students who are eligible scholastically shall be notified by letter and asked to complete and submit the candidate information form for further consideration.

c. The faculty council shall review each candidate's information: forms, essays, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4. Candidates become active members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The adviser(s) shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

ARTICLE VI: LEADERSHIP TEAM

Section 1. The Leadership Team will be a maximum of eight eighth grade students who volunteer to be on the team. The Leadership Team shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter. All decisions made by the Leadership Team shall be reported to chapter members.

Section 2. All eighth grade members in good standing at the beginning of the school year are eligible to apply for a leadership role on the Leadership Team.

Section 3. Selection for the team will be determined by an application and sign up process that emphasizes job interest, commitment and leadership potential.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the meeting leader(s) to preside at the meetings of the chapter, and serve as the official representatives of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 5. Additional leadership roles will be determined by the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Special meetings can be called by the Leadership Team with approval of the adviser(s).

Section 2. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings. If a member misses more than 2 meetings in a semester, they will be required to meet with an adviser. Any student that misses more than 4 meetings in a year is subject to review and/or dismissal by the Leadership Team and NJHS Advisers.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall implement one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2. All members are required to participate in these projects.

Section 3. These projects shall have the following characteristics:

- fulfill a need within the school or community
- have the support of the administration and the faculty
- be appropriate and educationally defensible
- be well planned, organized, and executed

Section 4. Each member inducted in seventh grade shall have the responsibility for completing 20 community service hours - at least 5 in school, at least 5 out of school, at least 10 from either category. Each member inducted in eighth grade shall have the responsibility of completing 4 community service hours - 2 in school and 2 out of school. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members must contribute.

Section 5. Any volunteer hours that are incurred during NJHS meetings do not count towards individual hours.

Section 6. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE IX: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, character, or citizenship may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Wayne Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership in his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's **cumulative** GPA falls below 90% (the standard in effect when he/she was selected), he/she will be required to meet with an NJHS adviser to complete an action plan that includes steps and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action that could include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Violations of the law or school regulations may result in probation or immediate dismissal of a member depending on the severity of the incident based on Wayne Middle School's Code of Conduct. These violations include, but are not limited to stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 4. Offenders of Wayne Middle School's Code of Conduct (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness) will be required to meet with an NJHS adviser and complete an action plan. If the member is involved in another violation of the school's code of conduct, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 5. Members in leadership, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the adviser(s) and the faculty council.

Section 6. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member and parent will receive written notification indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. The member and parent have the right to respond to the charge(s) prior to any dismissal. The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense at an in-person hearing or via a written statement. Following the hearing, the faculty council will vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the faculty council vote will be presented to the principal(s) for review, then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the Principal(s) and in accordance to the Athletic and Extracurricular Activities Code of Conduct for Wayne Central School District.
- e. A member who is dismissed may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 7. In lieu of dismissal, the NJHS adviser(s), Faculty Council and Principal(s) may impose disciplinary action upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Section 8: In all cases of voluntary student resignation:

- a. If a student chooses to resign from membership, they must complete a resignation document stating the reason they are choosing to leave NJHS.
- b. The document requires signatures from both the student and a parent.
- c. Students who resign will no longer be recognized as a member at Wayne Middle School.
- d. A member who is dismissed may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.
- e. Resigning membership in National Junior Honor Society does not make a person ineligible for membership in the National Honor Society in High School.

ARTICLE X: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, AND REVIEW.

Section 1. These bylaws will be approved upon receiving approval from the principal, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter.

Section 2. These bylaws shall be reviewed and, if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

Article XI: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are article V and article IX (selection and discipline) which are developed by the Faculty Council and approved by the principal. These requirements may be suspended or changed for a period of one year by vote of the faculty council when there are extenuating circumstances.