

Chapter Bylaws
of the
Brigantine Community School
Chapter of the
National Junior Honor Society

SCHOLARSHIP – CITIZENSHIP – SERVICE – LEADERSHIP – CHARACTER

Article I
Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Brigantine Community School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, promote leadership, develop character, and encourage good citizenship in students of Brigantine Community School.

Section 3. The NJHS shall be under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091.

Article II
Powers

Section 1. This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NJHS. See www.njhs.us/constitutions. In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

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. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 4. The principal shall annually appoint chapter adviser(s), who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 5. The principal shall be part of the local school district appeal process for non-selection or dismissal cases.

Section 6. Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 7. 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, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

Article III

The Chapter Adviser(s)

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

Section 2. The Chapter adviser(s) shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter adviser(s) shall send the annual activity report to the national office.

Section 3. The chapter adviser(s) shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

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

Article IV

Faculty Council

Section 1. The faculty council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. No principal may be included on the faculty council.

Section 2. The term of the faculty council shall be one year. Members may be appointed for consecutive terms.

Section 3. The chapter adviser(s) shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the faculty council.

Section 4. The faculty council shall meet at least once a year to select members, consider dismissal, non-selection, and warning matters as they pertain to the BCS NJHS Chapter.

Article V

Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty 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 at graduation. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. The faculty council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NJHS advisers, or adults in recognition of outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purpose of the National Junior Honor Society.

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

Section 5. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be in the third marking period 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 marking period at Brigantine Community School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 92. The Scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy.
 - i. The cumulative average for 7th grade candidates will include the first, second, and third marking period of 7th grade. All classes earning a numeric grade are used in the calculation. Specials, Gym, and Health are averaged as one grade and then averaged in with the cumulative average of the rest of the student's subject areas to find their overall cumulative average.
 - ii. The cumulative average for 8th grade candidates will include all four marking periods of 7th grade and the first, second, and third marking period of 8th grade. All classes earning a numeric grade are used in calculation. Specials, Gym, and Health are averaged as one grade and then averaged in with the cumulative average of the rest of the student's subject areas to find their overall cumulative average.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, character, and citizenship. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. Documentation of the following volunteer hour requirements
 - ii. Successful completion of the required school points

Section 6. Any 7th grade student who applies for membership and is not accepted into the chapter may reapply in their 8th grade year if they meet the following criteria:

- a. A cumulative average of 92 for two years
 - i. The cumulative average will include all four marking periods of 7th grade and the first, second, and third marking period of 8th grade. All classes earning a numeric grade are used in the calculation. Specials, Gym, and Health are averaged as one grade and then averaged in with the cumulative average of the rest of the student's subject areas to find their overall cumulative average.
- b. Successful completion of the required school points
- c. Documentation of the following volunteer hour requirements.

Section 7. Any 7th or 8th grade student that meets the rigorous requirements of this chapter's eligibility requirements will receive a formal invitation to apply. A formal invitation is not an acceptance letter to the Brigantine Community School NJHS, but an invitation to submit an application for acceptance. 7th and 8th grade students must receive a formal invitation in order to be considered for acceptance.

Section 8. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the individual's NJHS membership status.

Section 9. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one marking period to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain membership status.

Article VI

Selection of Members

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council which consists of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser(s) shall be an additional, nonvoting, ex officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held once a year after the third marking period 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 (i.e. candidates) shall be notified and invited to complete and submit the candidate application for further consideration for selection.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official input form provided by the chapter adviser(s).

- d. The Faculty Council shall review the candidate application, faculty input, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4. The National Council and the NASSP shall not review the judgement of the faculty council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

Article VII

Obligations of Members

Section 1. There shall be no annual dues for this chapter.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 3. Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 4. Chapter members who are 8th graders in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords or other insignia adopted at the local level at the promotional ceremony.

Section 5. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter and are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Article VIII

Nomination and Election of Officers

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Brigantine Community School Chapter.

Section 3. All returning members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

Section 4. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter, and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 6. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 7. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 8. The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 9. Should an officer be placed on probation, dismissed, or vacate the office, the member with the next highest vote count will serve as a replacement for the probationary period. If the member meets the requirements after probation, they will be reinstated to their position. If the member does not meet the requirements after their probationary period, the replacement member will keep the office.

Section 10. Officers and faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

Article IX

Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Special meetings can be called by the president with the approval of the adviser.

Section 2. This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.

Article X

Activities

Section 1. Each member shall have the responsibility of completing service points per school year.

- a. Members are able to earn points by participating in both chapter service projects and their own individual service projects.
- b. All service points completed must have the correct documentation submitted to verify participation.

- c. If a member earns more than the required amount of service points, surplus points may roll over into the next marking period.

Section 2. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year. The executive committee will select and schedule the service projects.

- a. All members who opt to participate in these chapter service projects will earn service points for their correctly documented participation.
- b. These chapter service 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, and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 3. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in at least one individual service project which has been approved by the chapter adviser(s).

- a. These individual service projects shall have the following characteristics: continue to serve the community, take place over the course of the school year, and reflect the student's particular talents and interests.
- b. Individual service projects must be chosen and approved by the chapter's posted due date.
- c. Members must keep a well-documented record of their time and activity devoted to their individual service projects.

Section 4. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE XI

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 Brigantine Community School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member of the National Junior Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected, he /she will be given a written warning and one marking period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership and/or activities, the member will be given a written warning and one marking period for improvement. If the obligations remain unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will

be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member. 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 5. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (faculty council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal. The member could be considered for dismissal depending on the severity of the initial violation of the code of conduct.

Section 6. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 7. In all cases of pending dismissal:

a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser(s)/Faculty Council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.

b. The member has the right to respond to the charge(s) against him/her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to any vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, the Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.

c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser(s).

d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal afterward according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.

e. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 8. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE XII

RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, and REVIEW

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

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

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. 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 Articles V, VI, and XI, which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Approved on October 1st, 2021

Chapter President: Jodi-Lynn Pereira

Chapter Secretary: Harper Petigout

Advisers: Mrs. Allison Walkley and Mr. Ron DeFelice

Superintendent/Principal: Mr. Glenn Robbins