

NHS Bylaws of the Wayne Webb Chapter

Dexter High School

Updated March 2024

I. Name of Chapter:

Wayne Webb Chapter of the National Honor Society of Dexter High School

II. Purpose of the Organization:

- A. To recognize well rounded students that have achieved high standards in scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship.
- B. To encourage continued growth in these five areas:
 - 1. Scholarship – members must build on what they have already achieved and continue to achieve academic excellence for post-secondary work.
 - 2. Leadership – members should be involved in the school and community and be positive role models in and out of class.
 - 3. Service – members must give back to their school and community through positive service activities.
 - 4. Character – members should be honorable citizens of the school and community. This combines leadership, service and scholarship.
 - 5. Citizenship – members should accept their place and role in their community.

III. Powers of the Organization

Membership and Dismissal- All members may take part in activities if they maintain their 3.5 or higher GPA per semester and maintain “Good Standing” within the DHS Discipline Policy and Attendance Policy as well as the NHS Constitution Standards.

The NHS Constitution states that membership in the NHS is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character, and Citizenship. Members who do not demonstrate these qualities will immediately be placed on probation or dismissed after a faculty committee review. The student is guaranteed “due process” and will have the opportunity to respond either in writing or orally. The gold cord and honors recognitions are privileges of membership and will only be allowed among members in “Good Standing.”

IV. Definition and Qualifications of Membership:

- A. Scholarship: A cumulative GPA of 3.5 is the minimum GPA requirement.

- B. Leadership: The student must be resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions. Students must also demonstrate that they show initiative in promoting school activities and must contribute ideas that improve the civic life of the school. A student who wishes to be in the Dexter High School Wayne Webb Chapter of NHS must show that they are a leader in the classroom, at work, and in community activities.
- C. Service: A student who wishes for membership must volunteer their time to serve the school and community. The student should do this without payment or compensation in any way. Each NHS member must place a priority on their service projects. Continued Membership requires that students gain at least 5 hours of service during their first partial semester of their membership, and then 20 hours of service per semester for each complete semester per full year of membership.
- D. Character: A student must also demonstrate all of these six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship to be considered for admission and retention to the Dexter High School Wayne Webb Chapter of NHS. A student must also demonstrate Academic Honesty, represented by not plagiarizing, not cheating, and not colluding. All discipline records will be verified by the Administration.
- E. Citizenship: A student must accept their place and role in the community and seek to understand the concerns and strengths of that community. The National Honor Society gives students an opportunity to be educated about and to demonstrate care for the issues that impact our schools, our cities and townships, as well as our state and nation. NHS members work toward developing and understanding people from different communities without borders and boundaries, with the hope of becoming Global Citizens.

V. Selection of Members:

Members will be invited in the spring of their sophomore year and will be selected on the basis of their GPA (cumulative), leadership, service, character, and citizenship. To be eligible for NHS, a student must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher, have a teacher recommendation, and complete an application. The applications are evaluated using a rubric and are read by a minimum of 3 members of the Membership Committee. All applications that have borderline scores may be invited to an interview to better explain their application responses.

Faculty will determine the final recommendations for membership based on the character and qualifications as listed in these bylaws and the NHS Constitution. An induction ceremony will be held to induct the new members and say farewell to the current members. Juniors not inducted as sophomores, who meet the eligibility requirements, will be considered for their senior year.

VI. Frequency of Meetings:

The General Membership will have a monthly mandatory meeting, on the first Wednesday of each month. Students who are members of an NHS committee are also expected to attend their mandatory committee meetings.

Officers and Committee Chairs will have at least one additional mandatory meeting each month to plan for the month's activities and meetings. All meetings will be posted on the Canvas Google Calendar and will be verified by the Officers or Committee Chairs electronically.

VII. Discipline and Dismissal:

If a student's GPA dips below the minimum requirement of 3.5 at any time during their membership, the student will be considered ineligible and won't be able to participate in any service or leadership activities through the NHS. A student who is ineligible must reclaim their grades by the end of the next quarter. If the student is unable to meet the minimum GPA at the next quarter, they will be dismissed from the National Honor Society.

Attendance at meetings is mandatory, and missed meetings will result in an absence. Missing a commitment to a service project, without finding a replacement, will result in an absence. A student with 2 or more unexcused absences will be dismissed from the National Honor Society. A student with 3 absences of any kind must complete an additional two service hours and an additional hour for every further absence throughout their time in NHS.

Students not making their required semester progress in hours of service will be dismissed from the National Honor Society. Students who are in danger of dismissal from the National Honor Society will be given a warning letter explaining their status, the reason for possible dismissal, and how to begin the appeal process. Hours may be banked and students may need to do extra hours in one semester to ensure they meet the minimum requirements for each year.

Members of the chapter should understand fully that they are subject to dismissal if they do not maintain the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and honesty. Faculty Councils can discipline a member by placing them on warning or probation, during which time they are considered "not in good standing" and can be required to rectify the situation that caused them to be placed on probation by a certain date. In case of a flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a warning is not required for dismissal, but a hearing must be held, as every student is guaranteed the right of due process, as identified by the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution.

Students may appeal their dismissal using the Appeal Form, and their appeal will be decided by the elected executive board. Students may appeal the decision by the board to the Faculty Council for a final decision.

VIII. Duties of the Officers:

Officers, Committee Chairs, and Advisors will meet prior to each monthly general meeting. The location and time will be announced.

President (Senior): The president will oversee the smooth functioning of the chapter by meeting with the advisor on a regularly planned schedule. The president will help plan and conduct meetings and the yearly induction ceremony, prepare the senior farewell reflection speech and the graduation welcome, and delegate duties to other officers.

President-Elect (Junior): The president-elect will oversee the calendar, attend officer meetings, and delegate duties. The president should be able to depend on the president-elect at all times. ***The president-elect will be a junior and will become the president when they are a senior.***

Members At Large (Senior and Junior): The Members at Large will ensure that all annual membership dues are paid each Spring with the help of the Advisor and the district's online payment platform. The Members at Large will also distribute the NHS t-shirts in the fall. Finally, the Members at Large will verify service hours, determine which members are in danger of expulsion, and aid members in graduating with honors from NHS. ***The Member at Large who is a junior will remain in the position during their senior year.***

Secretary: The secretary will attend officer meetings, keep correspondence within the school and to the community, and help the president with the overall duties of the officers by creating meeting agendas and taking minutes. The secretary will also track attendance at each monthly mandatory meeting, send out warning letters when members are in danger of losing their NHS status, and send out a notification of dismissal if necessary.

IX. Procedure of Elections:

The role of the President-Elect and junior Member at Large will be filled via an election process. The Secretary may either be appointed by the NHS Advisor or elected. During the first organizational meeting, members will nominate themselves to uphold the Officer Responsibilities of their prospective position and a secret ballot will take place. No majority is needed, just most total votes. Officers will be elected by the membership based on:

1. Ability to contribute to the office

2. Commitment to the organization's themes of leadership, scholarship, service, character, and citizenship
3. Ability to maintain a leadership role within the NHS and DHS student population
4. Each office is elected one at a time

Students will give a 1-2 minute speech (they may yield time to peers to speak on their behalf during that time) explaining why they should be elected to that specific position.

All members in good standing will be allowed to vote for the officer and committee chair positions.

X. Membership Fees:

To be a member in DHS-NHS students are asked to pay an annual membership fee of \$30, which will cover the cost of the NHS T-Shirt (\$15), as well as cover their dues (\$15).

Members must wear their NHS T-Shirt to help other people identify them as the service group at activities.

XI. Service Projects:

To be a sanctioned service project or activity, the service must be available to all NHS members in good standing, unpaid, bipartisan* and secular**. All sanctioned service projects must support the school, the school district, the city and/or the community at large. To have a service project considered for sanctioning, members in good standing must fill out the [NHS Service Sanction Request](#) form a minimum of 2 weeks prior to a proposed service project or activity. The NHS Board will rule on all requests within 5 school days of submission.

* Bipartisan is defined as not associated with any specific political party.

** Secular is defined as not associated with any specific church, congregation, or religion.