

Chapter Bylaws of Germantown High School National Honor Society

Article 1. Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization is the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2. The primary purpose of this organization is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Germantown High School. We also strive to honor students who demonstrate the high standards of the National Honor Society and contribute to the betterment of individuals, the school, and the community.

Article 2. The National Council

Section 1. The control of this organization shall be vested in the National Council.

Section 2. This organization conforms to the National Constitution as set forth by the National Council.

Section 3. Annual affiliation fee shall be paid yearly to the National Council.

Article 3. The Principal

Section 1. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2. The principal shall appoint a member of the faculty as chapter adviser.

Section 3. The principal shall appoint a Faculty Council composed of members of the school's faculty.

Section 4. The principal shall receive appeals in cases of discipline, dismissal, or non-selection. The principal shall be the final arbiter in all cases associated with NHS disciplinary procedures.

Article 4. The Chapter Adviser

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

Article 5. Faculty Council

Section 1. The Faculty Council shall consist of one representative from each of the four academic departments (math, science, social studies, and English) plus an additional member selected from the other departments on a rotating basis. The chapter adviser shall be a non-voting member of the Faculty Council.

Article 6. Chapter Officers

Section 1. Three officers will be elected annually: president, vice-president, and secretary.

Section 2. The president will preside at all chapter meetings.

Section 3. The vice-president will preside in the absence of the president and be responsible for relaying the minutes to the membership after chapter meetings.

Section 4. The secretary will take minutes at the meeting and maintain attendance records.

Article 7. Selection of Members

Section 1. To be eligible for membership in the Thomas Jefferson NHS Chapter, a student must be a member of the junior or senior class and have a cumulative grade point average of a 3.25 or higher.

Section 2. To be eligible for membership in the Thomas Jefferson NHS Chapter, a student must have a minimum of ten hours of documented authentic volunteer work prior to induction during their high school career. Verification of this work must be handed in with the student's application.

Section 3. The list of eligible students is then distributed to the faculty, who recommend for membership those students who are outstanding in character, leadership and service.

Section 4. At the same time, current members of NHS are also given the list of eligible students and asked to provide comments on the character, leadership, and service of those students they know. While current NHS members are not permitted to be a part of the actual selection, the Faculty Council may use these comments to help them decide when a candidate's credentials are inconclusive.

Section 5: The list of eligible students is also examined with respect to prior co-curricular and disciplinary violations. Because character and leadership are strong components of NHS membership, violations in either the co-curricular code or discipline issued through the high school administrative staff may make potential students ineligible for further consideration of membership in NHS.

Section 6. The results of the faculty ballots are tallied numerically and all comments compiled. The same is done for comments from current NHS members. All data is then presented to the Faculty Council for use in their deliberations. The names of the candidates do not appear in this data; each student has a code number, and the Faculty Council discusses each candidate without knowing the identity of the student.

Section 7. The Faculty Council, using the tallied recommendations and comments, plus the application forms prepared by the candidates (also coded, without names), discusses the available information on each student, and then votes. A majority of YES votes are required for membership. An NHS adviser chairs the committee and is responsible for protecting the confidentiality of its deliberations; the adviser does not vote. Using the final votes from the Faculty Council the NHS adviser prepares the list of students to be formally inducted into the local chapter. Letters are sent to each student's home, notifying him or her of the results of the Faculty Council.

Article 8. Members' Obligations

Section 1. Members must attend the regular chapter meetings held the second Wednesday of each month. A valid excused absence, as determined by the Germantown School District board policy and Germantown High School policies and procedures, may be excused by the National Honor Society adviser. In the event of pre-planned absences, notify the adviser of the absence as soon as possible. Members who have more than one unexcused absence per semester shall receive a letter sent home notifying them of their right to a hearing before the NHS Faculty Council. Students may have an advocate present at the hearing (such as a parent or other representative). The hearing can have a variety of outcomes including but not limited to probation or dismissal from NHS. Please note: the procedures are both separate and different from the co-curricular handbook.

Section 2. Members must donate ten hours of service work each semester. Failure to do so will result in a letter sent home notifying them of their right to a hearing before the NHS Faculty Council. Students may have an advocate present at the hearing (such as a parent or other representative). The hearing can have a variety of outcomes including but not limited to probation or dismissal from NHS. Please note: the procedures are both separate and different from the co-curricular handbook.

Section 3. Members must continuously maintain and demonstrate the appropriate standards of scholarship, leadership, service, and character under which they were selected.

Article 9. Disciplinary Actions

Section 1. As in article 8, students who miss more than one NHS meeting per semester or who do not donate a minimum of ten hours of service work each semester will receive a letter sent home notifying them of their right to a hearing before the NHS Faculty Council. Students may have an advocate present at the hearing (such as a parent or other representative). The hearing can have a variety of outcomes such as probation or dismissal from NHS. Please note: the procedures are both separate and different from the co-curricular handbook.

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards, that were the basis for their selection, shall have a right to a hearing before the NHS Faculty Council. Any violation of the Germantown High School Co-curricular Code (A.O.D.A., assault, theft, vandalism, academic dishonesty, or any other unbecoming conduct) will result in a hearing in front of the NHS Faculty Council. Students may have an advocate present at the hearing (such as a parent or other representative). The hearing can have a variety of outcomes such as probation or dismissal from NHS. Please note: the procedures are both different and separate of the co-curricular handbook.

Section 3. If removed from NHS the student has 10 calendar days to appeal the decision in writing to the GHS principal. The GHS principal then has 10 calendar days to review the decision and will send a letter by certified mail informing the student of the final decision.

Section 4. The District Administrator and School Board will not hear appeals.

Section 5. If a student is removed from NHS, for any reason, he/she is not eligible to reapply.

Article 10. Bylaws and Policies and Procedures

Section 1. The NHS bylaws shall be approved by the existing officers, adviser, Faculty Council, and principal of Germantown High School.

Section 2. The NHS members in good standing shall be given copies of the bylaws, policies and procedures, and subsequent proposed revisions to review and discuss. All issues shall be discussed at an informational meeting. All policies and procedures are subject to approval by the principal and Faculty Council.

Section 3. Policies and Procedures of the NHS may be written by the principal, Faculty Council, adviser, executive committee, or by a member committee appointed for this purpose. Revised policies and procedures must be presented for discussion at least one meeting prior to their effective date.

Article 11. Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the National Honor Society by a majority vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting. All amendments must be approved by the Faculty Council and the principal of Germantown High School.