



THE SARALAND ELEMENTARY NATIONAL ELEMENTARY HONOR SOCIETY CANDIDATE INVITATION

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Based on your child's self-nomination, he/she has been given an opportunity to join one of the nation's most prestigious organizations, the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS). Not everyone at Saraland is given this chance, so just getting this letter is an honor in itself. To be accepted as a member of the Saraland Elementary NEHS, one must meet further standards of good character, citizenship, leadership, and service. The Saraland NEHS Faculty Council will use the information provided in this application, their personal knowledge of the student, and information from other teachers in this selection process.

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Important Dates

Friday, January 27, 2017 Letter of Application Delivered

Friday, February 10, 2017 Completed Application Due by 3:00 PM to Mrs. Morrison

*****Double Check Page 4 for completion*****

Completed Application MUST include page 4 (Part 1) and your Personal Essay (Part 2)

Friday, March 10, 2017 Letter of Acceptance Delivered

Friday, March 24, 2017 Induction Ceremony

Please be aware that some students may not be selected for membership. This usually means the committee did not see enough evidence of one or more of the required traits. Applicants must earn 85% in order to be accepted. The information below may give you an idea of what the committee is looking for:

Scholarship (50%) Academic achievement is the hallmark of a National Elementary Honor Society member. Students must exceed standards in most areas of study to qualify. Students who receive this invitation have already qualified for their academic achievement and thus have already earned 50% of their application score.

Character (45%) Character is the force that guides your attitude and actions. It involves demonstrating reliability, honesty, and self-control. The Council will be looking for evidence that the applicant is trustworthy and is, in reality, what he/she wishes to appear to be to others.

Service & Leadership (5%) A potential candidate for the NEHS demonstrates the capacity for leadership and may have already served in key leadership positions as well as conducted service to their community.

Please be aware that some students may not be selected for membership. This usually means the committee did not see enough evidence of one or more of the required traits. Applicants must earn 85% in order to be accepted. The information below may give you an idea of what the committee is looking for:

Students who are not accepted for membership should honestly evaluate themselves in terms of service, leadership, and character, and use this as a challenge to develop their abilities to a higher degree. Many times, a student who is not accepted one year is accepted the following year after they have become more involved in leadership and service activities.

To begin the process, **the first step is to complete all of the sections of the enclosed form.** Be sure to read the directions for each section and answer each honestly including all information that you think is important. **NEATNESS COUNTS!** A committee of five (5) faculty members will then carefully read the forms, teacher recommendations, and activity reports to select the new members.

Each candidate needs to personally hand deliver his/her completed form to Mrs. Morrison no later than 3:00 p.m. on **Friday, February 10, 2017.** **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME! NO EXCEPTIONS!** Candidates will be notified of the committee's decision by March 10th via a letter home. If your child meets the criteria, his/her NEHS induction ceremony will take place the morning of **Friday, March 24, 2017** (formal invitation to follow). Inductees will have an informational rehearsal during school prior to the ceremony.

You need to know that members of NEHS must fulfill both in-and out-of-school service hours [1] (2 hours per year), [2] attend monthly meetings, [3] maintain a 3.2 cumulative grade point average (based on 1 [A]s and 4 [B]s in 5 core subjects, [4] show leadership throughout the year, and [5] pay an annual \$25 membership fee. Members who fail to do so may be put on probation or even removed from the organization itself.

I hope you take this opportunity seriously and consider filling out this form. Without the completed application and signature on the application cover page, the Faculty Council will not be able to consider your child's submission of materials for consideration of membership in the Saraland Elementary chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society. If you have any questions or need an electronic copy of this form, contact Mrs. Morrison at **amorrison@saralandboe.org**.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alicia Morrison
SES Chapter Advisor

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY HONOR SOCIETY CANDIDATES



Candidates will need to complete all three sections of this form.:

1. Essay:

Write an essay between 200-350 words to the Faculty Council explaining why you are a great candidate for NEHS. You may also include any information that you feel that this form does not cover but is important to your submission of data to the SES-NEHS Faculty Council. Your essay may contain information on an aspect of your background, such as family hardships or school transfers that may have limited your involvement in school or community activities, or may be used to clarify further how you fulfill the NEHS criteria of Service, Character, and Leadership. The beginning of the letter must include your name, and your signature must be included at the end of the letter.

2. 3 References of Recommendation:

What adults say about you carries much weight and influences the Faculty Council's decision. You must secure references from at least 2 different adults who have been your advisor, coach, or other mentor. References must be signed, as well as have a phone number and address. References CANNOT be written by family members or teachers that completed your rating scale. Also, be courteous of the person writing your reference. Give them at least a week's notice.

3. Leadership and Service:

Include any experiences you have had providing service to your community or leadership in organizations. This criteria of the application can help your application, but is only worth 5%. Since you only need 85% to be admitted, your application could succeed without any leadership or service documented.

Return the completed application form to Mrs. Morrison by:

3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10, 2017

Late forms will NOT be accepted.

Part 1 Application Cover Page

Student Name: _____

Application Score _____

Completed by Faculty Council

PARENT/GUARDIAN AND STUDENT STATEMENT

If I am elected to membership, I agree in National Elementary Honor Society activities and to abide by the scholarship, leadership, character, service and citizenship standards of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS). My signature indicates I accept the role of active membership which includes attendance at meetings, the \$20 membership payment, and volunteering my time for other NEHS programs and activities.

I further certify and attest by my signature below that all of the information included in this packet is 100% accurate and that all of the signatures from the advisors are indeed from the advisors of the listed organizations/institutions.

Printed/Typed Name of Saraland Elementary Student	Signature of Student
Printed/Typed Name of Parent/Guardian	Signature of Parent/Guardian

A score of 85% out of 100% on the application is required for admittance:

- **Earn a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 80% or higher; (50%)**
 - As determined by 2nd quarter report card (80% derived from minimum of 1 [A] letter grades and maximum of 4 [B] letter grades)
- **Responsibility Demonstrated Through Character... (45%)**
 - Character & Citizenship; Students who demonstrate good character by upholding morality, ethics, and honesty while showing courtesy and concern for other individuals
 - Assessed through letters of recommendation and 2 teacher rating scales
- **Leadership & Service (worth 5%)*see note**
 - Students who demonstrate examples of *voluntary* contributions made to the school or community without compensation
 - Students who demonstrate defined leadership roles and/or responsibilities in a school related activity such as a sport or club, or in a community organization or project
- **Application: (3 parts) When your application is ready, please turn submit it in this order:**
 - Part 1: A completed application that is neat, clear, and comprehensive. The required components include: parent signature
 - Part 2: Personal essay is well organized, clearly presents ideas and content, is grammatically and mechanically correct, neatly written, and is relatively error free.
 - Part 3: Two references from advisors or coaches and leadership role activities form and two teacher rating scales. (Letters submitted by family members or teacher's that completed your rating scales will NOT be accepted.) All references must provide phone numbers, address, and be signed.

*note: There is a minimal expectation for service and leadership for NEHS candidate.



PART 2

The Saraland Elementary National Elementary Honor Society Personal Essay Form_

Essay Instructions:

Below you will find a description of qualities that are reflective of students in the National Elementary Honor Society. **Write a 200-350 word (1 to 2 pages) essay on how you personally believe that you have exhibited each of the four characteristics listed below.** Each area should be covered in a complete paragraph with the appropriate heading of the topic being covered. In the fifth paragraph, explain why you feel you would like to be a member of the National Elementary Honor Society.

You may also include any information that you feel that this application form does not cover but is important to your submission of data to the SES-NEHS Faculty Council such as an aspect of your background, like family hardships or school transfers that may have limited your involvement in school or community activities, or may be used to clarify further how you fulfill the NEHS criteria of Service, Character, and Leadership.

Your essay must be neatly written, **NOT TYPED**. Neatness, grammar and sentence fluency do count! The end of the letter must have your name and your signature. **Please be specific and provide details.** Don't be shy when explaining your accomplishments; be proud of what you have done!

Essay Details

1. Scholarship (Academic Successes): Write about your work ethic, determination and commitment to your studies.

2. Citizenship & Character: Citizenship is your commitment to your community, city, state, and/or nation.

Character is who you are when no one is looking. How have you demonstrated courtesy, concern, and respect toward each and every individual, regardless of differences? Do you consistently exemplify the desirable qualities of positivity, helpfulness, friendliness, trustworthiness, and fairness?

3. Participation & Leadership: Include all school clubs, teams, performance groups, and extracurricular activities in which you are involved; also include any activities sponsored by community or religious group or other youth groups and include any work experiences. Finally be sure to include your accomplishments and achievements while participating in each of these activities. **Emphasize your leadership experience. Remember that you do not have to be in charge of an activity in order to demonstrate leadership qualities.**

4. Service Organizations and activities for which you have volunteered your time to benefit others not including family. Tell how you have demonstrated a willingness to volunteer, to gladly take on tasks that benefit the school and/or the community, to assist others enthusiastically whenever called upon to do so.

5. Why do you want to become a member of the National Elementary Honor Society?

****Double check your student information sheet to make sure you have covered all of the criteria.***

The Saraland Elementary National Elementary Honor Society Service & Leadership-Role Activities Instructions

Service Criteria:

- willingness to uphold scholarship and maintain good school spirit
- participates in some outside activity: Girls Scouts, Boys Scouts; community and/or religious groups, volunteer services for aged, poor, disadvantaged; family duties
- volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance; is available on his own time and is sacrificing (without compensation including grades or pay)
- works well with others and is willing to take on difficulty or inconspicuous responsibilities
- willingness to render cheerfully and enthusiastically any requested service to the school
- willingness to represent his class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition
- readiness to show courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers and students

Procedure: List any *service-oriented* activity in school or in the community in which you have participated starting the summer prior to fourth grade. **Service is *voluntary* work performed to help or benefit others.** Service to school and/or community is a requirement for consideration for acceptance in Amana Academy NEHS. Do NOT list academic honors as these do not count for service. Service-oriented activities that are listed but do not bear an advisor's signature will NOT be considered.

Leadership Criteria:

- is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles and making suggestions
- demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities, exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals, organizes and motivates peers to achieve a common goal
- contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- is able to delegate responsibilities
- exemplifies positive qualities
- inspires positive behavior in others
- demonstrates academic initiative
- successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducts business efficiently and effectively, and is reliable and dependable without prodding
- demonstrates leadership in classroom, at work, and in school activities
- is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility he/she accepts

Procedure: List any *leadership-role* activity in school or in the community in which you have participated. Examples include: captain of the soccer team, Girl Scout troop president, Community Circle organizer, project coordinator, etc. For each leadership-role activity have the advisor/sponsor/teacher signatures to verify. Leadership-role activities that do not bear signatures will NOT be considered (Family members are NOT eligible to sign as references).

**The Saraland National Elementary Honor Society
 Leadership- Role Activities Form
 The Saraland National Elementary Honor Society
 Leadership- Role Activities Form**

EXAMPLE

Activity: Methodist Youth Fellowship	Advisor's Name: <i>Fergus Magoo Higgins</i>
Grades of Participation: 3-5	Start/End Date: Aug. 2010- Sept. 2015
Description of Activity and Service Rendered: MYF is a youth group that meets weekly. We play games such as basketball, as well as participate in Bible Study.	
As a part of MYF, I have participated in the following projects: hunger walk(2010, 2011), soup kitchen (2010), caroling at Senior Citizens Facility, and neighborhood clean up (2011).	
Did you receive any compensation for this activity Y/N	Total Number of Hours of Service: 25 hours
	In Service Activity
Advisor's Signature:	Out of Service Activity

**The Saraland National Elementary Honor Society
 Leadership- Role Activities Form
 The Saraland National Elementary Honor Society
 Leadership- Role Activities Form**

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

YOUR TITLE/ROLE:	Advisor's Name:	
Grade/s of participation:		
Description of Leadership Activity:		
Advisor's Signature:	<input type="checkbox"/>	In- School Activity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of School Activity
YOUR TITLE/ROLE:	Advisor's Name:	
Grade/s of participation:		
Description of Leadership Activity:		
Advisor's Signature:	<input type="checkbox"/>	In- School Activity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of School Activity
YOUR TITLE/ROLE:	Advisor's Name:	
Grade/s of participation:		
Description of Leadership Activity:		
Advisor's Signature:	<input type="checkbox"/>	In- School Activity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of School Activity

YOUR TITLE/ROLE:	Advisor's Name:	
Grade/s of participation:		
Description of Leadership Activity:		
Advisor's Signature:		In- School Activity
		Out of School Activity
YOUR TITLE/ROLE:	Advisor's Name:	
Grade/s of participation:		
Description of Leadership Activity:		
Advisor's Signature:		In- School Activity
		Out of School Activity