

## Odem Chapter of the National Honor Society

### Standards for Admission

The following information should be reviewed by students interested in membership in NHS, and by candidates and their parents. This has been taken from the *National Honor Society Handbook*, which is the guideline for all chapters across the nation.

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. The Honor Society member exhibits these characteristics and is willing to use these talents and skills for the betterment of society. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginnings in 1921.

Criteria for membership includes all 4 of the areas

**SCHOLARSHIP:** A student must have a minimum cumulative scholastic average of 88. Students meeting the scholarship criterion are invited to complete a Student Activity Information Form along with two teacher recommendation forms to be completed by teachers of the student's choice.

**LEADERSHIP-**The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in recognizing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions.
- Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities
- Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes and inspires positive behavior in others
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducts business efficiently and effectively, and is reliable and dependable without prodding
- Demonstrates leadership in the classroom, at work, and in school activities

SERVICE-The student who offers service:

- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude
- Participates in outside activity that demonstrates service to the community
- Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance
- Is gladly available and willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interschool competition
- Performs committee and staff work without complaint

CHARACTER- The student who:

- Takes criticism and accepts recommendations graciously
- Constantly exemplifies desirable qualities of personality (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside the classroom.
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoids cheating in school work, and shows unwillingness to profit by mistakes of others
- Actively helps to rid the school of negative influences or environment
- Attends school regularly (no excessive unexcused absences) , is punctual to classes and activities

Selection: Selection to the National Honor Society is an “honor recognized throughout the nation” and “is both public recognition of accomplishment and the private commitment to continued excellence on the part of the new member” (National Honor Society Handbook, 15<sup>th</sup> edition, p. 23) **Qualification to NHS is based upon outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service to the school and community.**

Students meeting the academic criteria will be invited to complete a Student Activity Form to support their candidacy for National Honor Society membership. By completing the form, students will have the opportunity to illustrate how they meet the other criteria for membership: leadership, service, and character.

Selection to the NHS is determined by the Odem Faculty Council, who are charged with carefully and objectively evaluating potential members. The council will review the activity forms and teacher recommendation forms for admission into NHS. A rubric is used to determine for the leadership and service portions of the evaluation.

Non Selection: Selection to NHS is a privilege, not a right.... "Membership is granted to those students selected by the Faculty Council in each school" (National Honor Society Handbook, 15<sup>th</sup> edition, p 23)

"Chapters are not legally or constitutionally obligated to share with parents and students information concerning specific students not selected for membership in the Society" (NHS handbook, p 34)

Appeals: The principal may listen to complaints from students or parents of students not selected. Following discussions, if the principal believes that some kind of technical mistake has been made, the principal may ask the Faculty Council to reconvene to review the situation. Technical errors might include the inadvertent omission of a student's name from the list of those qualified for induction, the erroneous averaging of grades, or the like.

In the absence of specific evidence to the contrary, however, the principal must assume that the members of the council made their decisions professionally, fairly, exercising their discretion in a legitimate manner and with the good faith expected of them.

It is important to uphold the integrity and standards of the Society.