

NHS Candidate Information session

Mrs. Profeta – NHS Faculty Advisor

What is NHS??

National Honor Society (NHS)

- We are The Blessed William Joseph Chaminade Chapter of the National Honor Society of North Catholic High School
- 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 recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character (nhs.org)
- As part of a national organization, we are bound by their national standards
 - Our chapter is allowed to define each element of membership in more detail

NHS at NC

It's not just something to put on your resume!

- Peer Tutoring during offered during study halls to all students in the school
- Service projects - conducted in both fall and spring
- Additional leadership opportunities through officer positions and service project management

Who are the key players?

The Faculty Advisor – Mrs. Profeta

- Appointed by the principal
- Determines initial eligibility based on grades
- Coordinates application process for candidates
- Presides over Faculty Council meetings
 - Makes sure NHS procedures are followed and facilitates discussion
 - Records the results of the council
 - DOES **NOT** VOTE ON CANDIDATES
- Sends out acceptance and rejection letters
- Runs the club during the year
- Checks that students' grades and service hours are compliant

The Faculty Council

- NHS's way to ensure impartial proceedings
- 5 anonymous teachers appointed by the principal
 - Their identity is kept anonymous to prevent influence or harassment
- They review each candidate application in detail
 - Students are evaluated based on the four characteristics of academic excellence, leadership, service, and character. They are not judged against one another. Theoretically, every candidate could get in. There is no limit.
 - Acceptance of a candidate is based on a majority vote by the Council
- They update the chapter by-laws each year

School Administrators


- The principal of the school:
 - Appoints the Faculty Advisor
 - Appoints the Faculty Council members
 - Gives final approval of the candidate list
 - Approves activities and decisions of the NHS chapter
 - Hears appeals in cases of pending dismissal of NHS members
- The vice-principals of the school:
 - Review the list of candidates and notify the Faculty Advisor of any reported academic integrity infractions or other character infractions including violations of the law or school regulations which would disqualify a candidate from eligibility
 - Works in conjunction with the Principal to approve activities and decisions of the NHS chapter

How do I apply??

Overview of Acceptance procedures

- After grades are finalized for the first semester, candidates are identified based on grades. Notification of candidacy is made via email.
 - 4.25 (weighted) minimum GPA required
 - No semester or quarterly grade lower than an 80% in the year of application
- Candidate Application Forms are submitted online – **DUE FEBRUARY 20th at 3:00pm**
- Faculty Candidate Evaluation forms are submitted by all faculty – input from faculty is not disclosed to the applicants
- Candidates are screened to ensure that all acceptance criteria is met. Those candidates meeting all criteria are invited to give a formal 2-minute presentation highlighting one leadership position and at least one service project.
- All data is reviewed by the Faculty Council. Candidates are approved for membership via a simple majority vote of the Faculty Council
- Acceptance and rejection letters are sent out.
- Induction – during Academic Awards Night (in May)

New this year – the online application!



NORTH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Directions - National Honor Society Candidate Form

Congratulations on meeting the cumulative grade point average requirement for the National Honor Society. In addition to meeting this requirement, your candidacy will be based on your demonstrated excellence in leadership, service, and character. In order for the Faculty Council to assess your candidacy, please complete the following application. **Note that once you begin this form, you will need to complete it in its entirety and submit it.** Please plan your time accordingly.

As you complete your form, please remember to be complete. Do not be modest! The Faculty Council will base its decision on the information listed in this form. Activities listed in the form will be assessed for applicability towards leadership and/or service by the Faculty Council. Activities you do not include in this form will not be used for consideration by the Faculty Council.

Completion of this form **DOES NOT** guarantee selection into the National Honor Society.

Name*

First Name Last Name

Enter your CURRENT grade level*

Grade 10

Address*

City State ZIP Code

Email*

Please use your North Catholic email address

- All candidates have been provided with the following link to the online application:

https://cwnc.formstack.com/forms/nhs_candidate_application

- Completed forms must be submitted by **Wednesday, February 20th at 3:00pm.**

Online Application Process

- Collect all data* needed for application ***prior*** to filling out the online application – you will not be able to save a partial application and return to complete and submit it.
- Do not be modest! When asked to describe your leadership and service, be clear. Make sure that the Faculty Council understands just how hard you worked!
- Request those letters of recommendation **NOW!** You will need three (3):
 - One from an adult who can attest to your leadership
 - One from an adult who can attest to at least one service activity
 - One from an adult who can attest to your character – **letters from the applicant's parents/guardians are not accepted**
- **Completion of the application does not guarantee selection to NHS**

Data Collection - The Four Characteristics

All accepted members of NHS must exhibit the following four characteristics.

- Scholarship
- Leadership
- Service
- Character

A weakness in one area cannot be overcome by a strength in another. All four characteristics must be met by each candidate.

Scholarship

- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 4.25 (weighted) for candidacy
- Students are expected to maintain this academic standard throughout their high school career
- No additional information is requested on the application to demonstrate scholarship.

Leadership

Leadership is defined as a formal position, which has been earned or granted by an adult, in which a candidate is responsible for directing and motivating others. To meet the leadership criterion for NHS, a candidate must name at least one (1), but no more than three (3) leadership role(s), at school or in the community achieved since the ninth grade. A leadership position must go beyond your normal duties to family, school, and work. Babysitting does not count.

Leadership Application Data

- For each leadership position listed on the application you will need to provide:
 - A **description** of the leadership position, including dates, during which you performed the leadership role
 - **Contact information** for the person granting the leadership position to include
 - Name
 - Phone Number
 - Email address
- **One letter of recommendation** from an adult who can attest to your leadership. The letter should be on professional letterhead (where applicable) and signed by the person who wrote it. This should be scanned and uploaded in PDF form.

Service

Service activities are those that are done for or on behalf of others (not including immediate family members) for which no compensation (monetary or otherwise) has been given. To be selected as a member of our chapter, a candidate must demonstrate the completion of twenty (20) verifiable hours of service for each semester enrolled at NC or at least forty (40) hours per year. Hence, the standard sophomore requirement is 60 hours and the standard junior requirement is 100 hours. Service must go above and beyond what is expected of you as a student and family member.

- The service hours recorded for NHS may include those used to meet the school service requirement.
- Applicable service begins the day after the completion of the 8th grade year.
- Day-long and overnight service opportunities are limited to a maximum of 10 hours per day.

Service Application Data

- Up to ten (10) different service activities may be listed on the application form. For *each* service opportunity you will need to provide:
 - A **description** of the service performed, including dates and grade level(s) during which you performed the service
 - **Total number of hours** during which you performed the service
 - **Contact information** for the adult leading the service project including:
 - Name
 - Phone Number
 - Email address
- **One letter of recommendation** from an adult who can attest to your service. The letter should be on professional letterhead (where applicable) and signed by the person who wrote it. This should be scanned and uploaded in PDF form.

Service Application Data

Have more than 10 service projects to report?? Additional service data may be uploaded in a separate file. This file should contain all of service data previously described. The file should be saved and uploaded in PDF form.

Character

The student of character:

- Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability);
- Cooperates by complying with all school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct;
- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously;
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity*, and reliability;
- Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others;
- Complies with instructions and rules, and displays personal responsibility.

Character (continued)

- Character means that you are consistently a person of character, both during and after school. Article IV section 3 of the chapter's by-laws indicate: "Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal or in the withholding of induction of a member or candidate. These violations include, but are not limited to DUI, stealing, destruction of property, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Even if these offenses occur off of school grounds or not during the school day, members and candidates can still be held accountable. The prevention of induction can be made permanent based on the discretion of the faculty council."

Character Application Data

Character data will primarily be collected from the faculty. Administration will notify the Faculty Advisor of any reported academic integrity infractions or other character infractions including violations of the law or school regulations which would disqualify a candidate from eligibility

In addition to the faculty/administration input, each candidate must provide:

- **One letter of recommendation** from an adult who can attest to your character. The letter should be on professional letterhead (where applicable) and signed by the person who wrote it. This should be scanned and uploaded in PDF form.
 - Examples of those who can supply a character reference include church pastors, Girl Scout Leaders, Boy Scout Leaders, and teachers with whom the applicant has worked closely.

Academic Integrity

*A note about the meaning and expectations of academic integrity. Students should:

- Respect the rights and property of others;
- Complete homework independently and not allow it to be copied;
- Complete tests, reports, or other classroom activities without seeking help from another student or offering help without permission of the teacher;
- Realize that any assignment that carries their name is considered to be their own work and should not be plagiarized;
- Complete original research papers and projects and acknowledge another's contribution by citing the source and identifying the name;
- Recognize that grades are not commensurate with their self-worth;
- Act responsibly and accept the consequences, good or bad, for their actions;
- Not be satisfied with minimum performance but should strive for quality work.

Academic Integrity

- Students with a record of an academic integrity infraction from this school year will not be accepted into NHS
- Students committing an academic integrity infraction between now and induction will not be accepted into NHS
- Once you are inducted, if you commit an academic integrity infraction, you will be subject to disciplinary measures by the Faculty Council. This will likely result in removal from NHS.

Once accepted...

- You must maintain grades, academic integrity, leadership, and character throughout your time in the organization.
 - Failure to do so will result in disciplinary actions by the Faculty Council.
- Participate in the fall and spring service project(s)
- Participate in peer tutoring
- Pay a one-time \$15 dues

What if I don't get in?

- Rejection letters will be sent home with a brief description of why the council rejected your candidacy.
- Those rejected in the sophomore year may re-apply in their junior year if they meet the academic requirements of candidacy.
- Each of you has your own set of God-given gifts and talents. Rejection from NHS is not a reflection on your value as a precious child of God!

Myth: I can't get into college without NHS

- The guidance office says that it is not required for an college; it looks nice, but does not make-or-break your application. It is just a small piece.
- Some high schools do not offer NHS
- Many successful people were not in NHS:

