**National Junior Honor Society
Homer Middle Schools

Information for NJHS Candidates**

Eighth grade students who have achieved the minimum GPA requirement of 3.5 or higher are invited to apply for NJHS membership. Membership in NJHS is not only an honor but an opportunity, as well. NJHS members develop the habits and standards important to success in high school, college, and a career, and practice strategies for becoming an engaged and responsible citizen. As an NJHS member, you’ll have access to many tools and resources, including college admission and financial aid planning, financial awards for college savings, and leadership development opportunities.

1. **Obligations of Membership**

All members of NJHS must maintain the high standards by which they were selected. They must maintain a quarterly grade point average of 3.5 or higher, and an outstanding record of conduct. Members are expected to attend a minimum of 80% of scheduled meetings and all NJHS events. Members are expected to “dress for success” for meetings and for other appropriate NJHS activities. Please note that most NJHS meetings and events will take place outside of school hours (either before school or after sports).

Members are also required to participate in two community service assignments. One assignment will be ongoing and served with the committee as a whole during regularly scheduled meetings. The other assignment will be served by each member independently and outside of school hours. This assignment requires members to complete a minimum of two hours of individually selected community service per school quarter.

1. **The Application Process**

Eighth grade students who have been fully enrolled in all grade level classes for at least one semester and who have attained the qualifying GPA will receive an invitation to apply to NJHS. Application forms will be presented to candidates.

Applications require a parent signature and are due to Ms. Jason by 4:00 on February 2nd.

The application form highlights the five pillars of NJHS: Scholarship, Leadership, Character, Citizenship, and Service. All five parts are examined to determine if a candidate should be inducted into the HMS Chapter of NJHS.

***Scholarship***
As a NJHS candidate, you must meet the minimum GPA criteria (3.5), however, a high GPA means little to the NJHS Faculty Council if you are not also an active, positive influence in the classroom. Continuation of your positive classroom influence and demonstration of excellent scholarship are qualities that must be maintained for continued membership in NJHS.

***Leadership***
NJHS candidates must provide evidence of leadership experience. While leadership can be demonstrated by the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations, it can also include leadership roles within the classroom as well as other school activities such as athletic teams and clubs. Taking initiative to lead in an informal way is considered equally important to elected positions. Leadership in activities outside of school (4-H, church, scouts, etc.) should be included in a candidate’s application.

***Character and Citizenship***
A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: responsibility, citizenship, exemplary behavior, initiative, truthfulness, and teamwork. Your character and citizenship are demonstrated daily by the way you carry yourself in and out of the classroom, the way you interact with those around you, the respect you show teachers, peers, and community members, and how you handle both positive and negative situations. For your application, you will ask two teachers, as well as one adult from the community at large, to complete character reference forms. You will also complete a short summary describing your activities and achievements.

***Service***
Service is considered to be actions done for others in our school or community without any financial or material compensation. As a candidate for membership, you should have a previously demonstrated interest in service. NJHS membership will provide further service opportunities. For your application, you will be asked to provide evidence of volunteer service. Examples might include tutoring other students, visiting nursing homes, working in soup kitchens, caring for animals at the shelter, or in some way giving back to an organization.

1. **The Selection Process**

**The Faculty Council and The Selection Procedures**
The Faculty Council is made up of five teachers from our school. This group reviews candidate information packets and gives the final recommendation of a candidate for induction. During the review process, the Faculty Council works to recognize all five pillars of NJHS. Shortly after the packets are due, the Faculty Council meets to discuss the qualifications and standards that indicate a strong candidate. Faculty council members read through each packet, scoring each of the four areas according to the scale below and then adding them for a total score.

* Scholarship

Not scored – already assessed via 3.5 GPA requirement

* Leadership

4=highly qualified; multiple clearly documented leadership experiences/characteristics
3=well qualified; typical documented leadership experiences/characteristics
2=possibly qualified; few documented leadership experiences/characteristics
1=not qualified; little or no documented leadership experiences/characteristics

* Character and Citizenship
4=highly qualified; much demonstrated evidence of strong character and citizenship
3=well qualified; good demonstrated evidence of strong character and citizenship
2= possibly qualified; little demonstrated evidence of strong character and citizenship
1=not qualified; virtually no evidence of strong character and citizenship
* Service
4=highly qualified; multiple clearly documented experiences
3=well qualified; typical documented service experiences
2= possibly qualified; lacks multiple demonstrated service experiences
1=not qualified; little or no service experiences

The Faculty Council works very hard to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Throughout all meetings, the group discusses the scoring process and standards to help ensure a fair outcome. No one beyond the principal, the NJSH advisor, and Faculty Council members are allowed to see packets or scores, including the candidates or parents. There are no quotas for either number or percentage of candidates that are recommended for induction. The Faculty Council’s mindset is to review the information packets searching for reasons to recommend a student. The list of those candidates the Faculty Council recommends for induction is given to the principal who makes sure that each candidate is a citizen in good standing. Students are then notified of their status via personal letter.

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Confirmation Form**

Congratulations on your high level of achievement!

Membership in NJHS is not only an honor and an opportunity, but a responsibility as well.

Please sign this form to indicate that you and your parents have read and discussed the information provided in this packet, and agree to all of the requirements of membership.

*Attach this form to the cover of your application, and return the completed packet to Ms. Jason no later than 4:00 on February 2nd.*

Please understand that completing and submitting an application form does not guarantee selection to NJHS.

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Student signature Parent signature

On behalf of the school community, we appreciate your hard work and commitment.