

Lakes Community High School

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

CANDIDATE CONTRACT

Membership in the National Honor Society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a student. Membership in NHS brings the accomplishments of students who possess outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, and character to the attention of parents, teachers, peers, and the community. Membership is an honor conveyed upon students; it is not a right earned.

Standards

The four ideals that are the criteria used for selection to NHS are **scholarship, leadership, service, and character**. The National Honor Society strives to recognize the total student— one who excels in all of these areas. To be eligible for membership in this group, a student must be at least a sophomore who has been in attendance at LCHS the equivalent of at least one semester and who meets the following criteria:

1. **Scholarship:** Must have a cumulative grade point average of at least **3.6 or better** on a 4.0 scale. Note: An individual's grade point average must be 3.6 without mathematical rounding.

2. **Leadership:** Must demonstrate leadership.

The student who exercises leadership:

- Exemplifies a positive attitude
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Is a role model in the classroom, at work, in clubs and activities, and in community activities
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducting business effectively and efficiently
- Demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Exercises a positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and rules
- Is able to delegate responsibilities

3. **Service:** Must participate actively in school and/or community activities to the extent that the individual is involved in providing service throughout the year in several different ways. Service is defined as those actions undertaken to benefit others without any direct financial, material, or personal compensation, gain, or position.

The student who serves:

- Works well with others and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Participates in activities outside the school in a volunteer capacity
- Volunteers and provides service that is dependable and of quality
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students
- Is willing to represent the class or school (clubs, activities, inter-scholastic competition)

4. **Character:** "The National Honor Society is a member of the Character Counts!SM Coalition. A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship."

A Student of Character:

- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, cooperation, and respect for others
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Is a moral and ethical person
- Takes constructive criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Follows the rules and regulations regarding attendance and discipline as outlined in the Student Handbook
- Is self-disciplined
- Illustrates truthfulness by avoiding cheating, acknowledging wrongdoing, and showing an unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and is faithful both inside and outside the classroom

Selection Procedures

Students are selected for NHS based on the above standards.

Step one: Any sophomore or junior who has a cumulative average of 3.6 at the end of their first full semester at Lakes will be invited to apply by letter.

Step two: Students must submit a completed NHS Application Form and an essay by the deadlines established. The NHS Application Form will be completed online. Along with the NHS Application Form, a NHS Signature Page will need to be turned in to verify all activities. Failure to turn in these materials by the designated deadline will indicate to the NHS Faculty Council that the student does not wish to be considered for membership.

Step three: Names of those candidates who have completed steps one and two will be submitted to the faculty as a whole. The faculty will rate the candidates in the areas of leadership and character.

Step four: The NHS Faculty Council, appointed by the Principal, will review the NHS Application Form and Signature Page, essays, and the faculty rating data. They will select as inductees, by a majority vote, those students who demonstrate that they meet all four standards.

Step five: Students will be notified of their selection. They and their parents/guardians, family, and friends will be invited to an induction ceremony. Students must take part in the induction ceremony in order to become a member.

MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS POLICY:

Membership is more than an honor. It incurs an obligation to continue to demonstrate the outstanding qualities that were considered for selection. It also incurs a responsibility to attend the NHS meetings, to volunteer community service hours, and to participate in the activities (required service projects and fundraising) sponsored by the NHS members. **ANY STUDENT FAILING TO MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS UNDER WHICH HE OR SHE WAS ACCEPTED MAY FACE PROBATION AND/OR DISMISSAL FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY AS PER THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.**

The LCHS National Honor Society chapter has the responsibility of assuring the maintenance of the standards by which its members were selected.

LCHS NHS members are expected to maintain the standards of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and

Character by which they were selected.

All members and the parents of the members of the LCHS National Honor Society are hereby notified that each member's service, academic, and behavioral records will be reviewed by the adviser(s) and violations will be reported to LCHS NHS Faculty Council.

- **Scholarship** - maintenance will be determined by reviewing the members' cumulative grade point average (GPA) at the end of each semester. Students must maintain the scholarship standards set forth in the LCHS NHS By-laws.
- **Leadership and Service** - maintenance will be determined by reviewing their records of community service, and their records of attendance at NHS meetings.
 - ◆ Members are required to perform a **minimum total of 40 hours** of community/school service as members of NHS no matter when inducted.
 - ◇ If inducted as a **sophomore**, the minimum requirement is **10 hours a semester**
 - ◇ If inducted as a **junior**, the minimum requirement is **20 hours a semester**
 - ◆ Members are required to attend monthly meetings which are scheduled by the Executive Committee at the beginning of each school year.
- **Character** - maintenance will be determined by reviewing any action taken by the Principal, Assistant Principals, Deans, Athletic Director or Coaches.
 - ◆ Members are required to take part in various service projects and fundraisers as voted on by the entire membership. This may include, but not limited to raising a certain amount of money or donating time above and beyond the required number of service hours or both each semester.

The NHS advisers will perform the following:

A. Review each active member's:

- Academic record at the end of each semester.
- Discipline record at the end of each semester or when warranted.
- Attendance at NHS meetings.
- Participation in LCHS NHS sponsored activities.
- Record of community service hours.

B. Follow up on reports of member violations as they are received from other outside sources.

C. Submit findings of violations to the Faculty Council for further action.

D. Send out written warnings to members who are in danger of falling short of any standard(s).

The LCHS chapter of the NHS will follow the guidelines as written in the National Honor Society's Handbook Article X "Dismissal":

- a. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.
- b. Members who fall below the standards which were the basis of their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by email or letter sent home by the Chapter Advisers and give a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency.
- c. In the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a member does not necessarily have to be warned before dismissal.
- d. The Faculty Council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.
- e. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the NHS Advisers and Faculty Council.
- f. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision to the Principal.