

ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL: NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Stepney-Stiles Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Section 2. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of Rocky Hill High School.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the junior or senior class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Rocky Hill High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of **3.67**. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to *candidacy* for selection to membership.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, non-voting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser shall review with the principal the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations.

Section 2. Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Candidate Form for further consideration for selection.
- b. Eligible students must complete 5 hours of Rocky Hill Public Schools service and 5 hours of student choice community service prior to completing the Candidate Form.
- d. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- e. The Faculty Council shall review the Candidate Form, disciplinary records and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 3. The selection of new, active members shall be held once a year during the 1st semester of the school year in the fall. (*Alternative or additional selection periods may be added.*)

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony. If members are not inducted via this special ceremonies then they are not members-attendance at the induction ceremony is mandatory.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the Principal [*alt., adviser*].

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be *automatically* accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership

Article IV: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Stepney-Stiles Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard (3.4) in effect when he/she was selected, he /she will be given a written warning and a time period (usually one semester) for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities, bullying, ethnic intimidation, posting offensive images or text on social media, sexual harassment (see student handbook for extensive list).

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be dismissed.

Section 5. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser/Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him/her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in **Article X** of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or in writing. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal, and then if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 6. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning active members in good standing are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

Section 3. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. The chapter will use plurality in determining the outcome of the elections.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep the record of chapter expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 8. If an officer cannot fulfill their commitments and/or are expelled, suspended etc. then the person who received the second highest number of votes in the election will take their position.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 2. The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly (first Tuesday of the month) after school.

Section 2. This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3. All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly-scheduled chapter meetings.

Section 4. The Executive Committee will meet once each week

Section 5. Members are allowed to have no more than three (3) unexcused absences, if a member has three (3) or more unexcused absences the member will have to go before the Faculty Council for possible dismissal. Three tardies are equal to one absence.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year. Members must participate in 2 NHS sponsored events per year.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3. These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community, have the support of the administration and the faculty, be appropriate and educationally defensible, and be well-planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member must complete 10 hours of community service between September 1st and December 31st of the calendar year, and 10 hours between January 1st and May 1st, for a total of 20 hours per year. Each member must keep a log of their community service hours and submit it to the chapter adviser in January and May respectively. This is in addition to chapter projects in which all members participate.

Section 5. The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM

Section 1. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society (*Article XV, Section 3 of the national constitution*).

Section 2. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter. If the members purchased such emblems, the chapter is obligated to reimburse the student for said expense if the member resigns or is dismissed.

Section 3. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords [*or other insignia adopted at the local level*] at graduation.

ARTICLE X: DUES

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$10.00.

Section 2. Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer or faculty adviser by February 1st of the current school year. Newly inducted members must pay their dues before the end of the current school year.

ARTICLE XI: POWERS

Section 1. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3: These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the National Constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the National Constitution in all activities it undertakes.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles II, III, IV (selection and discipline), and VIII, which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.

Date: ~~December 9, 2016~~ April 1st, 2020

Non-discrimination. The Chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex (gender), and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.