



# National Honor Society



## Lakota East Chapter Bylaws

Rev. 3/19/18

*The following bylaws are a supplement to those of the NHS constitution.*

### Article I: Selection

1. Students will be selected for membership in NHS on the basis of the four tenets: scholarship, character, leadership, and service.
2. Students who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.5 (weighted) or higher by the spring of their junior year will be invited to submit themselves for consideration by the faculty council.
3. Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher as indicated in I.2 will meet the scholarship tenet.
4. Thirty service hours accrued for school and community in three separate activities since grade nine will meet the service tenet.
5. Two different organizational roles will meet the leadership tenet. Leadership is only valid since grade nine.
6. It will be for the faculty council to determine the extent to which the service and leadership accrued by the candidate meet the criteria for such set out in Article II and Article III.
7. The faculty of LEHS will be given the opportunity to object to the character of any candidate by means of a circulated roster and examination of school discipline records where necessary.
8. Objections by faculty (I.7) will be considered by the faculty council in its selection process.
9. The faculty council will be comprised of the five voting members and the non-voting NHS advisers.
10. Candidates' names will be released to the faculty council during the selection process.
11. The identities of the members of the faculty council will remain protected from students and from parents.
12. No candidates shall be considered by the faculty council after the submission deadline for packets set by the advisers.
13. In accordance with the national NHS Constitution, there is no automatic right of appeal in the case of non-selection. As has been established by the courts and by precedent, NHS membership is a privilege extended by the faculty to students it deems to have met a set of criteria, not a right to which non-selected students are being denied.
14. The principal may choose to ask the faculty council to reconsider a candidate only on the grounds that he or she determines that published selection procedures were not followed.
15. Candidates who were not selected for membership or who were unable/unwilling to present themselves to the faculty council in the spring will have another opportunity to be recognized in the fall, provided a GPA of 3.5 has been maintained/achieved at that time.
16. The faculty council will not consider leadership roles or service hours verified by a family member. All such must be independently verifiable.

### Article II: Service Hours

1. Service is defined as an altruistic act performed for school or community outside of class time.
2. All members will perform at least 30 hours of service:
  - a. At least 15 hours must be NHS Project hours.
    - i. At least 4 of those 15 hours must be NHS Fundraising Hours.
    - ii. 11 of those 15 hours may be NHS Fundraising Hours or NHS Project Hours
  - b. 15 hours may be Project, Fundraising, School, or Community Hours.
    - i. Up to 7 Community Hours may count towards the 30 hours.
    - ii. Up to 15 School Hours may count towards the 30 hours.
3. Hours of any category may still be submitted even after minimums are met.
4. School service is defined as that which serves an activity run by Lakota East High School or sponsored by an LEHS faculty member.

5. Service to activities sponsored by other schools in Lakota Local Schools will count as community service.
6. No more than five hours may be earned from any single activity.
7. Hours cannot be a requirement –implicit or actual–for another class or organization.
8. Hours will not benefit the member financially or in any other way.
9. Evidence of hour completion will be in the form of official letterhead stationary from the sponsoring organization and signed by an official of that organization or by a signed NHS hour verification form.
10. The signer indicated in II.9 will have no family relationship to the member.
11. Hours issued by faculty members of Lakota Local Schools may substitute an email in lieu of II.9.
12. NHS officers may personally verify hours in lieu of II.9
13. Members who do not complete the service requirement in the interval specified by the executive committee will remain members of the society; however, they will not receive chapter recognitions, an invitation to Induction, and their names will not appear on the National Honor Society school display.
14. Members selected in the spring are required to have ten service hours the December checkpoint. Failure to meet this requirement will incur a five hour supplement, with the result that 35 hours must be earned by the April checkpoint.

### **Article III: Leadership**

1. The Lakota East chapter of NHS defines leadership as any activity in which the student has had an organizational role.
2. Leadership may be demonstrated in the context of service, school or community activity, or paid position.

### **Article IV: Attendance**

1. NHS members will attend no less than seven of the nine general meetings, plus whatever special meetings may be deemed appropriate by the executive committee.
2. Absence from a meeting will be approved in advance on the hour checklist by a faculty adviser except in the case of emergency.
3. Members will be placed on probationary status and given written notification of the same upon a second absence.
4. Members missing more than two general meetings will be recommended to the faculty council for dismissal from the chapter.
5. Participation in school on sports teams, in sporting events, or other school clubs does not supersede attendance requirements.
6. Postsecondary / part-time students will not be exempt from the attendance policy.
7. Valid attendance at general meetings will be defined as arrival not later than five minutes after the start of the meeting.
8. Meetings will begin promptly at 2:45 P.M. After 2:50 the door will be locked.
9. Members may not leave the General Meeting earlier than 3:05 if the student is to be counted as present.
10. Members who arrive late or leave early will be deemed to have been in non-attendance.

### **Article V: Character**

1. NHS members will conduct themselves in a manner, both on and off the LEHS campus, compliant with the guidelines set down in the NHS Handbook.
2. Misconduct reported to the executive committee will be considered a violation of the character tenet and will be brought to the attention of the faculty council for possible action.
3. The faculty council will have at its disposal a variety of disciplinary measures, including but not limited to dismissal.
4. Dismissal cases brought before the faculty council will be decided by majority vote of the five members.

### **Article VI: Elections**

1. Officers will be selected by means of a rubric designed by the faculty advisers, a component of which will include a vote by eligible NHS members.
2. Only members recognized by NHS in the spring of their junior year shall be eligible to hold office.