

STEM School Highlands Ranch Selection Process

The National Junior Honor Society chapter of the STEM School Highlands Ranch is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization. Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in five areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character. Standards for selection are established by the national office of NJHS and have been revised to meet our local chapter needs. Students are selected to be members by a five member Faculty Council, appointed by the principal, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school each January/February.

Students in the second semester of sixth grade or grades seventh grade are eligible for membership.

For the scholarship criterion, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or better on a 4.0 scale. Those students who meet this criterion are invited to complete a Student Activity Information Form that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's leadership and service. A history of leadership experiences and participation in school or community service is also required. To evaluate a candidate's character, the Faculty Council uses two forms of input. First, school disciplinary records are reviewed. Second, members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional reflections on a candidate's service activities, character, citizenship, and leadership. These forms and the Student Activity Information Forms are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. A majority vote of the Council is necessary for selection. Candidates are notified regarding selection or non--selection according to a predetermined schedule.

Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all the newly selected members. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance (or better) in all five criteria that led to their selection. This obligation includes regular attendance at chapter meetings held monthly (and occasionally additional meetings as needed) during the school year, participation in each semester's chapter service project, and participation in an individual service project. Students or parents who have questions regarding the selection process or membership obligations can contact the chapter advisers, Mr .Haydel at ian.haydel@stemk12.org or Ms.Alfaro at maggie.alfaro@stemk12.org

While evaluating the qualifications of potential NJHS members, the amount of service hours, leadership opportunities, etc., is taken into account based on grade level. 6th graders for example, would not be expected to have as many leadership positions as an 8th grader. Keep in mind that we have a very large pool of extremely qualified students. Many will not be accepted for membership in NJHS.

Below you may find some guidance on what the Faculty committee is looking for in potential candidates, based on last year's experience with selecting membership. Keep in mind that meeting this

list does not guarantee admittance. Candidates are evaluated both as an individual, and also in comparison to his or her peer group.

6th Grade

GPA – 3.75

Leadership – At least 1 formal or informal leadership position

Service – 10 hours of community service

Activities and Organizations – Participation in co-curricular or extracurricular activities, such as TSA, Rocket Club, sports teams, orchestra, Boy and Girl Scouts, religious group volunteering, etc.

Character – Highly recommended by teaching staff at STEM School

*Note – breadth of activities is not necessarily more important than depth of commitment to a single activity

7th Grade

GPA – 3.75

Leadership – At least 1 formal leadership position, other informal leadership positions

Service – 20 hours of community service

Activities and Organizations – Continued responsibility and involvement in co-curricular or extracurricular activities, such as TSA, Rocket Club, sports teams, orchestra, Boy and Girl Scouts, religious group volunteering, etc.

Character – Highly recommended by teaching staff at STEM School

Recognition – Awards in co-curricular, extracurricular, and external activities

*Note – breadth of activities is not necessarily more important than depth of commitment to a single activity

Membership Requirements and Responsibilities

Students who are selected to the NJHS and accept membership are required to uphold the same ideals that they were selected upon: scholarship (3.75 GPA), leadership, service, citizenship, and character. Students are also required to be actively involved in NJHS, by attending all scheduled NJHS meetings (1 per month, after school, usually the first Friday of the month), participate in all chapter service projects (1 per semester), and complete an individual service project (1 per year of 20 hours - approved by the Chapter Advisor).