

Bylaws of the Wilkes Central High School Chapter of the National Honor Society

Article I: Mission/Purpose

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Wilkes Central High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Section 2: The purpose of the organization shall be to create interest in and enthusiasm for scholarship; the rendering of service; promotion of leadership; and the development of character.

Article II: Faculty Council

Section 1: A Faculty Council of five members shall make decisions regarding membership in, and dismissal from, the organization. An additional faculty member, or members, will function as advisor, or advisors, to the organization and will be non-voting members of the Council.

Section 2: Members of the Faculty Council shall be appointed by the principal.

Section 3: The principal shall retain veto authority over decisions made by the Faculty Council.

Article III: Selection of Members

Section 1: Membership in the WCHS Chapter of NHS will be based on the students' ability to provide evidence of scholarship, leadership, character, and service.

Section 2: The scholarship requirement will be a weighted grade point average (GPA) of 3.75 or higher.

Section 3: Potential members shall be drawn from students in grades 10 and 11 at WCHS in the second semester of the school year.

Section 4: Students who meet the GPA requirement will be asked to submit a Student Activity Form and two teacher referrals. The Faculty Council will use this form in order to assess leadership and service. Failure to submit the forms by the due date will result in the end of further consideration for membership. Information supplied should be verifiable. All information should be submitted within 15 school days of the announced date to be considered.

Section 5: Leadership and service judgments will be based upon documentation of school and community activities.

Section 6: Faculty inputs may be used regarding character evaluations. Negative inputs will require documentation and/or verification.

Article IV: General Organizational Procedures

Section 1: Chapter meetings should occur at least twice per month with additional meetings as necessary and/or desired. Member attendance is required.

Section 2: Most meetings will be predetermined at the beginning of each semester during an officers' meeting. Of the predetermined meetings, members are allowed to miss only one during a semester without following the procedures to excuse the absence before disciplinary actions are implemented. Additional meetings and activities will be called by the officers throughout the semester. Members may miss two of this second type of meeting or activity without following the procedures to make these absences excused before disciplinary actions are implemented. A student who is on probation may not miss any type of meeting without following through with the procedures to excuse their absence.

Section 3: Sophomore and Junior inductees must supply their induction RSVP card and their club dues to the National Honor Society no later than one week before the induction ceremony. Failure to do so will result in the immediate cancelation of membership offer. NHS membership is an offer which can be accepted by students if and only if they provide the club with the induction RSVP card and their club dues no later than one week before the induction ceremony. Students who have successfully completed a membership year will be required to follow the same process detailed above in order to continue as an NHS members. The annual membership dues will range from ten to twenty dollars, an amount which will be decided by the rising officers.

Article V: Chapter Officers (Executive Committee)

Section 1: The Chapter Officers will consist of a president, vice-president, and secretary. They will be appointed by either a majority election of NHS members OR by direct choice of the NHS advisor(s) by the end of the physical school year.

Section 2: The responsibilities of the officers include, but are not limited to, the following:

President: Plan and conduct meetings, organize, activities, plan induction ceremony for new

inductees.

Vice-President: Act as and represent the president when he or she is unable to perform duties assist the president in organization and planning functions.

Secretary: Take attendance at meetings and activities, keep accurate records of meetings and events.

Section 3: The chapter advisor, or advisors, will function as a liaison between the student membership, faculty, administration, and community. The Faculty Council may remove an officer from office if duties are not being performed, or if they are not upholding the NHS standards as stated in Article I, Section II. Such vacancies, if they occur will be filled by the advisor/faculty council.

Section 4: A Leadership Council meeting will be held in junction with an Officers meeting, where any member may attend. Any member may be on the leadership council and attend the Officer's meetings and have a say in club procedures, but may not vote in voting situations. Any member planning on running for an Officer's position in the next school year should miss no more than one meeting throughout the school year.

Article VI: Bylaws

Section 1: Approval/ ratification of these bylaws will be by a majority vote by the Faculty Council or the principal.

Section 2: The bylaws may be amended by majority approval of the chapter membership, the Faculty Council, or the principal on an as needed basis.

Article VII: Activities

Section 1: Members shall participate in approved and organized chapter service projects and should have individual service activities as well. The officers will decide upon a set number of community service hours each member must complete in order to remain a member.

Section 2: These projects/activities should have the following characteristics: fulfillment of a legitimate school or community need; support of the administration and council; appropriateness; and be well planned, organized, executed.

Section 3: Individual services activities will be the responsibility of the member so that he or she can choose an activity or project that reflects personal interest and ability.

Article VIII: Disciplinary Procedures

Section 1: Members who fall below the standards required for membership will be placed on probation and provided with a strict set of guidelines dictating the terms which the individual must meet and uphold throughout the probationary period in order to be reinstated as a full member. Probations terms will vary based on the reason the individual has been placed on probation. A letter explaining the terms and expectations of a member's probation will be provided to that member. Failure to meet or uphold the terms of probations will result in the immediate termination of membership. Failure to pay club dues will not result in probation because students are not NHS members until these dues are paid. Probation is only available to members once. Any member found to be in violation of the club bylaws after being placed on probation once will be immediately terminated as a member. Flagrant violations of school rules, being charged and/or cited with a criminal behavior, and/or violations of civil law may result in removal from the organization without such warning.

Section 2: Chapter probation and dismissal may be imposed by the advisor/ council. Examples of conduct resulting in probation include:

- a. PP8 form resulting in ASD, OSS, and/or ISS (when available)
- b. Failure to maintain the GPA requirement
- c. Failure to participate in chapter meetings and/or activities
- d. Failure to complete required community service hours as determined by the officers at the beginning of the school year.

(Note: Failure to pay club dues by the due date will not result in probation as the student is not technically a member until he or she pays those dues. The offer of membership expires the day after the due date.)

Section 3: Chapter dismissal/removal may be imposed by majority vote of the Faculty

Council. Examples of conduct resulting in immediate dismissal include:

- a. Out of School Suspension
- b. Additional offenses occurring during a probationary period
- c. Failure to pay club dues by the set due date, although technically this is not dismissal but the cancelation of the offer for membership as it expires on the day after the due date.
- d. Possession, consumption, and/or distribution of a Stage 1, 2, or 3 drug(s)
- e. Possession, consumption, and/or distribution of alcohol
- f. Being charged with any Misdemeanor or Felonious crime

Section 4: A member dismissed by the faculty council shall have the right to a hearing before the council. Appeals of the council's decisions may be made under the same rules that govern the disciplinary appeals process of WCHS. An appeal must be filed within one week of the incident in writing in order to be considered.

Official Bylaws of the WCHS Chapter of the National Honor Society

Revised: July 2015

I have read and understand the bylaws governing the Wilkes Central Chapter of the National Honor Society. I am agreeing to abide by the portions of these bylaws that pertain to me and agree to respect the expectations as defined in this document.

Member Name: _____

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Parent or Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent or Guardian Contact Information:

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

** In the event that you are placed on probation or considered for dismissal, your parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified.*

Please sign and return this portion of the packet, keeping the bylaws for your records. Failure to sign off on the bylaws is seen as an indication that you do not agree to the terms of membership. If membership terms cannot be agreed to, then membership cannot exist.

If you have suggestions for clarifying certain aspects of the bylaws or have questions, please list them below. The officers will review your suggestions and submit them to the faculty council for their consideration. Questions will be reviewed by Mr. Tulburt and Ms. Sappington, and an answer will be provided to you as soon as possible either via phone call, an email, or a face-to-face meeting.