

Mt. Pleasant High School
National Honor Society
Constitution

Mt. Pleasant High School Chapter
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY CONSTITUTION TABLE OF CONTENTS

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It is the policy of the Mount Pleasant Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its educational and career and technology education programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

HISTORY

The original proposal for a National Honor Society was made in 1919 by J. G. Masters at the annual convention of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Edward Rynearson, often considered the founder and father of the National Honor Society, supported Masters' proposal and was awarded the first charter for membership in 1921.

The National Honor Society was regarded as a way to promote high academic standards, a means of ensuring the continuation of democracy, and an instrument for the betterment of the individual and the school.

The Society has flourished; today more than 20,000 chapters are chartered. The National Junior Honor Society, founded in 1929, has also experienced encouraging development. Mount Pleasant now has a National Junior Honor Society chartered for membership in 1993 at P.E. Wallace Junior High School. The chapter charter was later moved to Mount Pleasant High School Junior High School.

The Board of Directors of the National Association of Secondary School Principals serves as the governing board of the National Honor Society. The National Council and its secretary are responsible for the operational control of the Society. The NASSP Director of Student Activities serves as NHS secretary.

The National office of the National Honor Society is the office of the National Association of Secondary School Principals located at 1904 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091, to which all National Honor Society correspondence should be addressed.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
MOUNT PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL
MOUNT PLEASANT, TEXAS (Revised October 1st, 2020)

1. To be admitted into the National Honor Society in the fall of the school year, you must be a third- or fourth-year high school student and have a minimum overall weighted cumulative grade point average of 5.10. A third-year student must be enrolled in four core-curricular courses, with three of the four core-curricular classes being Honors, Advanced Placement or Dual Credit. A fourth-year student must meet the same requirements of being enrolled in four core-curricular courses- three of which are Honors, Advanced Placement or Dual Credit, but only one can be classified as Honors. Core-Curricular courses include English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. A fourth-year student can also have three core-curricular courses, meeting the pre-stated requirements (one can be Honors), and be enrolled in a third or fourth year CTE Path course with a Class Rank of 7 or better.

2. Applicants must not have a conduct grade below "N" in any class for the year before applying for membership in NHS. Students having received a discipline referral during the prior year may not be eligible for membership with the Faculty Council serving as the final authority on acceptance. Since character is an integral part of the NHS. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will not be eligible.

3. Students must be in their third year of math and science.

4. Students must have completed one semester at Mt. Pleasant High School to be eligible for membership. However, students may transfer an existing membership from another school, subject to documentation from the previous school.

5. Because service is an integral part of the NHS mission, it is strongly desired that applicants be able to demonstrate some level of community involvement prior to seeking membership. The Faculty Advisory Council will evaluate those with no evidence of past volunteer service at the end of the first six weeks.

6. To maintain membership, a member must maintain the entrance requirements throughout his or her membership. Should a National Honor Society student not be taking four core-curricular classes, membership will be terminated.

7. To maintain membership, should a student fall below a required cumulative six-week grade average of eighty-five (85) in their four core classes for any six-week grading period, that student will be placed on probation for a period of one six-weeks to achieve compliance with NHS requirements. An additional six-week period of probation may be granted if the student appeals to the Faculty Advisory Council and can prove an extenuating circumstance exists that interferes with that student's ability to perform up to the requirements. If at the end of the second consecutive six-weeks of probation the student still does not meet the grade requirement, that student will be suspended from NHS.

Failure to meet the requirements will result with a warning after (first week), probation after (second week) and dismissal after (third week).

Note: Probation will not be carried over from one year to the next. The probationary periods must occur within the same school year to cause student dismissal.

8. Any average below seventy (70), **whether a college semester average for a course or a six-week average for a high school class**, is grounds for dismissal.

9. Once a student is dismissed from membership, that student will turn in his/her membership card, certificate, and pin to the Faculty Advisor, never again to be eligible for membership.

10. Disciplinary action for misconduct by National Honor Society members will be as follows:

- a. Cheating/ Plagiarism:
- b. Disciplinary Referrals:

Expulsion pending Faculty Council decision

Probation possible pending Faculty Council decision

NOTE: Disciplinary referral includes but is not limited to offences that result in assignment to ISS, DEAP or suspension. **A student must report** disciplinary referrals to the sponsor within two (2) school days. Students who fail to report disciplinary referrals to the sponsor risk dismissal by the Faculty Advisory Council.

11. Cases of appeal, due to Faculty Advisory Council decisions for probation or dismissal of a member, will be made exclusively to the principal. The decision of the principal will be accepted as final without further appeal procedures.

12. Service hour requirements

Service Hours: Service hours are tallied from May 1st to the last Friday of April.

- a. Each senior member must complete 15 total service hours during each school year. The first 8 are to be completed by the end of the first semester.
- b. Fall inductees (junior members and new senior members) must complete 12 total service hours during each school year. The first 6 are to be completed by the end of the first semester.
- c. Officers must complete 30 service hours during each school year. The First 10 are to be completed by the end of the first semester.
- d. Spring inductees must complete six (6) service hours during the spring semester.
- e. Service hours may not accrue from one year to the next.
- f. Some mandatory events will be required, such as:
 - i. Honors Breakfast (juniors only)
 - ii. Honors Luncheon (juniors only)
 - iii. Special Olympics (seniors only)
 - iv. Graduation (juniors only)
- g. Deadline for completion of Service Hours

All service hours must be completed by the last Friday of April. Service hour time will be monitored at the end of the first semester during the 2nd week of January and on or near the first week of April. Excess service hours beyond the required amount per year cannot be accrued for the next school year.

- h. Consequences for Failure to Complete Required Service Hours
 - i. Any member who does not comply with the service hour requirement each semester will be placed on probationary status at the time the hours are monitored. If the member is not in compliance with the requirement within two weeks, dismissal will result. The members should keep in mind that one of the four pillars of this organization is service.
 - j. Any member who misses (without prior approval of the advisor) a service project in which he/she has committed to participate will be placed on probation. Any subsequent absence will result in dismissal from the society.

13. Meetings

The regular meetings of this chapter shall be held once each month during the school year on days designated by the executive committee and/or sponsors. The meeting days will be the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise specified. To remain in good standing a member can only miss three meetings in a school year. To be excused from a meeting, the member must give 3 days' notice to the

advisor. Members will be given a notice and placed on probation when they have missed three meetings. Missed meetings beyond three will result in further disciplinary action up to and including removal from membership.

14. At the close of the school year, the status of each junior NHS member will be reviewed and evaluated by the Faculty Advisory Council with regard to the member's adherence to the high standards of character, scholarship, leadership, and service required by NHS. Any member who is below standards in one or more of these areas may be re-evaluated after the first six weeks of the upcoming school year.

15. All communication for the Mount Pleasant High School NHS chapter will be through Parent Square.

This Constitution amended and adopted September 14th, 2017-

Added/renamed offices of Parliamentarian and Historian
Clerical Errors corrected

This Constitution amended and adopted October 1st, 2020

Added third and fourth year CTE Path course with a Class Rank of 7 or better (Practicum) to eligible list for fourth year students. (Art. II, sec 6)

These Constituion amended and adopted May 23rd, 2024

Service hours redefined and deadlines established. Other clerical edits made to increase uniformity.

CHARACTERISTICS OF NHS MEMBERS

CHARACTER

Character is the force within each individual which distinguishes that person from others. It gives each one individuality. It is that without which no one can respect oneself, nor hope to attain the respect of others. It is this force of character which guides one through life, and when once developed, grows steadily. Character is achieved and not received. It is the product- of constant action, daily striving to make the right choice. The problem of character is the problem of self-control. We must be in reality what we wish to appear to others. By demonstrating such qualities as reliability, honesty, and sincerity, we may hope to prove by example that we value character.

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship means a commitment to learning. A student is willing to spend hours in reading and study, knowing the lasting benefits of a cultivated mind. We should continue to learn even when formal education has ended, for education ends only with life. Knowledge is one great element in life which leads to the highest success, and it can be acquired in only one way-through diligence and effort. Learning furnishes the lamp by which we read the past, and the light which illuminates the future. Candidates have the charge continually to expand their world through the opportunities inherent in scholarship.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership should exert a wholesome influence on the school. In taking the initiative in class and school activities, the real leader strives to train and aid others to attain the same objective. The price of leadership is sacrifice--the willingness to yield one's personal interests for the interest of others. A leader has self-confidence and will go forward when others hesitate. No matter' what power and sources may exist in a country, they are ineffectual without the guidance of a wise leader. Leadership is always needed; thus, to lead is a substantive charge to each of our members and to the candidates.

SERVICE

Service can be described in various ways. In the routine of the day's work, many opportunities arise to help others. Willingness to work for the benefit of those in need, without monetary compensation or without recognition, is the quality we seek in our membership. We are committed to the idea of volunteering our time and abilities to the creation of a better tomorrow.

SPECIAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Induction Ceremony

All students whose grades qualify them for prospective membership in the National Honor Society are notified in late September by the school counselor and receive application forms from the sponsor of NHS. Students who return completed application forms to the sponsor are reviewed by the Faculty Council members and notified of acceptance into or having their applications declined by National Honor Society.

Those accepted into the National Honor Society will be inducted into the local chapter in a special candle lighting ceremony in late October in the High School Auditorium. The induction ceremony is conducted by the chapter officers, who explain the history and the four areas upon which membership is based: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. New members are introduced by the chapter adviser and greeted by the principal. New members receive their chapter insignia pin, membership cards, certificates of membership and membership contracts at the induction ceremony. The fall induction is held on the stage of the high school auditorium, while the spring induction may be held either in the auditorium or the library depending on number of inductees. All senior members are required to attend.

The first spring induction ceremony was held in February of 1996. Although the ceremony provides less formality than the fall induction, it does provide eligible applicants an earlier opportunity for membership.

OFFICERS

President

The President presides over chapter meetings, prepares agenda for meetings, ensures order through the use of parliamentary procedure, establishes committees as needed for projects, and monitors the status of all committee work. Furthermore, the President will check with Sponsors before meeting with other officers for ideas for meeting and upcoming activities and then lead the Officers' Meeting one (1) week prior to the regularly scheduled NHS meeting.

Vice-President

The Vice-President will assume the presidential duties when the President is unable to preside and will assist the President in monitoring the status of committees. At the end of the year, the Vice-President will collect the Service Records and tally the number of hours for each member as well as the number of different types of service.

Secretary

The Secretary records minutes at general meetings, presents minutes for approval at each meeting, keeps club attendance and project records, and handles club correspondence in a timely fashion (giving a copy of minutes and records to the Sponsor). The Secretary will also keep a record of merits and demerits, reporting these to the Sponsor, and collect report cards each six-week grading period to be turned in to the Sponsor.

Treasurer

The Treasurer collects dues from members and new inductees, maintains an accurate record of club finances, and presents the record for approval at general meetings (giving a copy of records to the Sponsor). Furthermore, the Treasurer coordinates ordering of materials, keeping a record of inventory, and maintaining the receipt book for NHS.

Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian will act as the keeper of the constitution and bylaws and be familiar with their contents. He or she will also be knowledgeable about meeting procedures and be well informed on previous meetings. The Parliamentarian will offer procedural opinions when asked to do so by the President. He or she will also work with the Faculty Council in the event constitution/bylaws need any type of revision.

Historian

The Historian will assume all public relation duties and will prepare all newspaper releases regarding the Induction Ceremonies and other events. The Historian will also arrange media coverage for both the Induction Ceremonies and other events. He or she will report on possible service projects, making sure these are announced before time, and then keeping a record of attendance at those service projects.

NOTE: The Sponsor should have a COPY of any paperwork compiled or maintained by any of the above officers.

Method of Selection of Officers

Officer Selection is acquired by having the cumulative highest number of points from three areas. The Faculty Council will oversee all three areas, and tally all points.

The average of points from eight teacher recommendations will comprise 1/3 of the possible points.

Hand-written essays in answer to 7 questions will comprise 1/3 of the possible points. The essays will be given a number so as to be anonymous for grading purposes by Faculty Council members. All essays will be graded using the same rubric. The essay questions will be answered under supervision of the sponsor within a two-hour time frame.

Members of the Faculty Council will use a rubric for interview purposes. The interviews will comprise 1/3 of the total points. Each candidate is asked questions by a panel of 3-4 Faculty Council members in a private interview. Candidates are reminded that this interview process is similar to applying for a job in the workforce, because being an officer is a job for NHS. (Dress appropriately)

After the teacher recommendations are collected by the Sponsor, the essay questions are graded by the panel of Faculty Council members, and the interview process is completed; the rubrics and recommendations will be turned over to a separate panel of Faculty Council members to be tallied and compiled as to point averages, with the highest number of points designating the person for office. (Should there not be several candidates for office, the rank order of points will designate President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and Historian)

NOTE: Different members of the Faculty Council will oversee the three different areas to ensure confidentiality.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT MOUNT PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL
MOUNT PLEASANT, TEXAS

Having been given the honor of membership in the National Honor Society by the faculty of Mount Pleasant High School, I understand that I must maintain the high standards of character, scholarship, leadership, and service that were the basis for my selection. I pledge to abide by the terms of this contract and to the attached Constitutional requirements and understand the consequences for failure of compliance.

Attendance at each club meeting is a requirement. After two unexcused absences, a student shall be placed on probation. A third absence shall result in dismissal. The legitimacy of an excuse shall be determined by the sponsors of the National Honor Society.

Truancy will not be tolerated and will result in a student being placed on probation for the first offense. A second offense is just cause for dismissal and shall be determined by the Faculty Council.

Each NHS member is expected to respect all authority. Regulations in a classroom as outlined by each teacher are to be followed. A member who flagrantly disobeys school or civil laws will be subject to dismissal, pending Faculty Advisory Council hearing.

The Faculty Council shall determine the student's status in the NHS. A student must be allowed to represent himself/herself before the Faculty Council. Appeals resulting from Faculty Council rulings will be made exclusively to the High School Principal, whose decision will be final.

In dismissal cases, the emblems (membership certificate, card, and pin) conferred on each member must be returned. All property of NHS not returned will result in the High School Diploma being held.

(signed) _____
NHS Member

(signed) _____
Parent or Guardian

Parents' Name: (print) _____