



Stella Maris Chapter Central Catholic High School

Membership in the National Honor Society (NHS) is based on a student's fulfillment of four requirements. Members of the junior and senior class who meet the grade point average requirement will be asked to complete an application. Each application will be reviewed and voted on by the five member Faculty Council, which is approved by the principal.

Students are eligible to apply for NHS membership if they have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher and have been enrolled at Central Catholic High School for the equivalent of one semester or more.

The four basic requirements for membership are scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

SCHOLARSHIP:

- Students are eligible to apply for NHS membership if they demonstrate academic achievement through their cumulative grade point average of 3.5.
- Grade point average can be rounded to meet the minimum requirement.

LEADERSHIP:

According to the National Honor Society standards, the student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; and demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a leader at work and in school or community activities
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted
- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.

Leadership activities can be demonstrated in our school or in other areas of our community. Some examples are:

- Officer of an activity or organization
- Team captain, coach, or manager
- Crew chief or production manager in a drama or musical production
- Camp counselor

SERVICE:

The National Honor Society standards require that a student:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition
- Participates in some activity outside of school: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, youth groups affiliated with religious institutions, volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

The CCHS chapter of the NHS requires members to participate in a variety of CCHS activities but also to serve the greater community outside of the school.

CHARACTER:

Each eligible student will be evaluated by the faculty and administration according to the National Honor Society standards for good character, which state the student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Shows courtesy, concern and respect for others; observes instructions and rules
- Exhibits concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment

Teachers are asked to fill out character evaluation and rate the character of each candidate using a number from the scale below. The students are rated on the following qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring & citizenship: The following scores are used:

Superior	Good	Average	Poor	Unacceptable
5	4	3	2	1

Discipline and attendance records for the current school year are considered when evaluating a candidate for NHS. Character will automatically be questioned by events leading to suspension from school, consistent lateness, excessive absences, cheating, legal issues outside of the school environment, or other offenses brought forth by a member of the faculty or administration. If someone deems a student's character not sufficient, that opinion will be discussed with the student's current teachers, counselor, or dean, and the relevant information will be forwarded to the Faculty Council for consideration.

APPLICATION AND MEMBERSHIP:

Eligible juniors and seniors receive invitations to attend an informational meeting each February. They are responsible for completing an application and documenting their service/activity hours. If the eligible student does not attend the informational meeting, it is their responsibility to obtain all required documents from the NHS advisor on the next attended school day.

Documentation of service and leadership as well as attendance and behavior reports will be provided to the Faculty Council so they can appropriately evaluate the requirements of leadership, service, and character for each eligible candidate. Final selection of the National Honor Society is determined by a majority vote of the Faculty Council.

As a member of the Stella Maris Chapter of the NHS, you are responsible for representing your school in a positive manner. Your behavior and actions must be stellar at all times. You must follow the Code of Conduct and attendance policies that are found in the CCHS handbook. Violation of any of these codes may result in disciplinary actions or dismissal from the NHS.

DISCIPLINARY AND DISMISSAL PROCESS:

1. According to Article X, disciplinary actions or dismissal will be considered for any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character from the Stella Maris chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the NHS is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school community.
2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the required 3.5, he/she will be given the following:
 - a. A written warning from the Faculty Council that you are on probation will be provided to you stating a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains

below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

3. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member (see Section 5 of the bylaws). 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 in the community.
4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, 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 considered for dismissal.
5. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the Faculty Council.

IN ALL CASES OF A PENDING DISMISSAL:

- The member will receive written notification from the adviser/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- The member has the right to respond to the charge(s) against him/her at a hearing before the faculty council prior to any 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 via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, the faculty council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the faculty council is needed to dismiss any member.
- The results of the faculty council vote will be presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.
- In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.