

**Constitution**  
*of the*  
**Severna Park Chapter**  
*of the*  
**National Honor Society**

**Article I: Name and Purpose**

Section I. The name of this chapter shall be the Severna Park Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section II. The object of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to support service, to promote and practice leadership, and to exhibit and encourage the development of character in the students of Severna Park High School.

**Article II: Membership**

Section I. Membership of this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. The graduate members have no vote.

Section II. Membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected are expected to demonstrate the qualities for which they were selected: scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

a. **Scholarship** shall be demonstrated through:

- a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above, and academic initiative

b. **Leadership** may be demonstrated through:

- successfully holding positions of responsibility; conduction of business efficiently and effectively
- being resourceful in the contribution of ideas and application of principles
- being resourceful, good problem solvers, and dependable
- display of a positive attitude, and positive influence upon others
- act as a role model within the school and community

c. **Service** may be demonstrated through:

- an earnest desire to assist others, and the showing of courtesy to others
- sacrifice of one's own time and effort to offer assistance whenever needed
- a commitment to school and community service

d. **Character** may be demonstrated through one and/or several of the following:

- upholding principles of morality and ethics
- the demonstration of honesty, self-discipline, and reliability
- manifesting truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in life and work
- regularly showing courtesy, concern, and respect for others

Section III. All active members are required to earn a certain number of merits per semester, the number of merits will be determined annually. Failure to do so may result in probation and possibly dismissal.

Section IV. All active members will be held to the pledge which they took upon induction into the National Honor Society:

I pledge myself to uphold  
The high purposes of the National Honor Society  
To which I have been selected,  
I will be true to the principles for which it stands;  
I will be loyal to my school;  
And will maintain and encourage  
High standards of scholarship, service leadership, and character.

Section V. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school shall be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the advisor and principal.

Section VI. Upon the recommendation of faculty and/or the faculty committee, any members who fall below the standards which were the basis for his/her selection may be dropped from membership. (For details, see article III, dismissal).

### **Article III: Probation and Dismissal**

Section I. Any member who falls below the National Honor Society standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service, may be put on probation and/or dismissed from the Severna Park High School chapter of the National Honor Society. In the case of flagrant violation of school policies and/or the ethical standards set forth by the NHS, a member does not have to be issued a warning before the faculty committee takes action.

Section II. Once a member is placed on probation for any reason, he/she will remain on probation until the end of the semester in which the probation letter was given unless otherwise stated. Committing an additional offense while on probation shall constitute grounds for dismissal.

Section III. In the case of a pending dismissal:

- a. The member in question shall receive written notification of the reason for possible dismissal from the advisor/faculty committee
- b. The member will be offered a hearing prior to dismissal (as required by the National Constitution), in which the member will have the opportunity to present their defense either orally or in writing. The committee will then vote on dismissal, and the decision to dismiss must be a majority of the faculty committee.
- c. A letter of dismissal shall be sent to the principal, student, and parents if dismissed.
- d. Members may appeal the Faculty committee's decision to the principal.

Section IV. Dismissed students must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser, and may never again to be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

## **Article IV: Selection Process**

Section I. The prospective candidates shall have spent at least one semester in Severna Park High School.

- a. Transfer Applications: Members who have transferred schools must show proof of being a member in good standing from their previous institution in order to enter into our organization. If the member is already on probation with their prior institution, they will have a period of one full semester in which to bring their academic performance in accordance with this chapter's academic requirements. If a member is not on probation but does not meet the academic requirement for this chapter, the member will be welcomed into the organization but will be placed on academic probation. The member will have a period of one full semester in which to bring their academic performance up to meet the requirements of this chapter.

Section II. Before the final selection and induction into NHS, the following will have occurred:

- a. Student's academic records will be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically shall be notified and asked to complete the Student Information Form, indicating their intent to seek membership and stating their qualifications in the areas of service, leadership, and character. They will also have three members of the faculty of Severna Park High School sign a recommendation form on their behalf.
- c. Student must attend a pre-induction meeting where they will be informed of the principles and responsibilities accompanying being a member of the National Honor Society.
- d. The Student Information Forms, faculty evaluations, and student discipline records, shall be reviewed by the faculty committee.

Section III. The selection of each member to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty committee.

## **Article V: Officers and Duties**

Section I. The officers shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, who are to be elected by receiving a majority of the vote.

Section II. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings of the chapter. The vice president shall fill the chair of president if the president is absent.

Section III. The secretary shall keep the minutes during meetings, and a record of merits. The secretary shall also submit a document certified through the signature of the principal and advisors to the secretary of the national council the number graduated or enrolled in each class, and the names of those elected to the membership of this chapter.

Section IV. The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the chapter, and shall keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements.

## **Article VI: Faculty Supervision**

Section I. Shall consist of the advisor(s), the principal, and at a minimum, five members of the faculty committee.

Section II. Faculty Advisor(s)

- a. shall hold the immediate right of approval of all activities and decisions of the committee, and be non-voting member(s) to the faculty committee

Section III. Principal

- a. shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter
- b. shall reserve the right to appoint and approve of advisors and/or members of the faculty committee

Section IV. Faculty Committee

- a. shall consist of at least five voting members, either elected or appointed
- b. shall convene at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, the selection of members, discipline, and dismissal.
- c. shall develop and/or revise the chapter procedures as needed

## **Article VII: Meetings**

Section I. The regular chapter meetings shall be held once a month. Attendance at these meetings is mandatory. If one repeatedly fails to attend meetings without an excusable absence, being put on probation or dismissible is certainly a possible course of action.

Section II. The last meeting of each school year shall be for the election of officers.

Section III. Special meetings may be held upon the call of the president with approval of faculty advisors.

Section IV. All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the sponsorship of the principal or one of the faculty advisors.

## **Article VIII: Dues**

Section I. Each active member of this chapter may possibly contribute annually a sum, to be determined annually, that is not to exceed ten dollars for expenses of the chapter.

## **Article IX: Amendments**

Section I. If any member wishes to propose an amendment to the constitution, they may do so at any meeting. It must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided that the proposed amendment has been approved by the faculty advisors. All amendments and bylaws must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society, as required by the National Council.

*Portions adopted from the Bylaws of  
Cut Bank High School, Camden County High School, and Londonderry High School*