

NJHS Bylaws

O.L. Middle School National Junior Honor Society Chapter Bylaws

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this chapter shall be the National Junior Honor Society of O.L. Smith Middle School.

Section 2: The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of O.L. Smith Middle School.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character, and Citizenship. Applicants must prove that they already have these qualities.

Section 2: Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be 7th or 8th graders.**
- b. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.2.**

Section 3: To remain a member in the O.L. Smith Middle School chapter of NJHS, members must do the following:

- a. Attend all meetings. Members are allowed to miss two throughout the course of the year. This is whether the absence is excused or unexcused.**
- b. Complete 25 hours of community service hours.**
- c. Maintain a 3.2 cumulative GPA.**
- d. Show leadership, character, citizenship, service, and scholarship as outlined in these bylaws.**
- e. Follow the rules of the school.**

Article III: Selection of Members

Section 1: The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council.

- 1. The faculty council consists of five voting faculty members, appointed annually by the principal. Sponsors of NJHS cannot be on the faculty**

council. If the principal delegates the power to make this appointment to the adviser, the list of Faculty Council members should be approved by the principal prior to the first meeting of the council.

2. The adviser works with the Faculty Council in selecting, disciplining, or dismissing members. No principal or assistant principal may be on the Faculty Council. Members of the Faculty Council should be from the professional staff on campus and cannot consist of any parents or students of the members of NJHS.

3. To avoid a situation where only 4 members of the Faculty Council are available due to a perceived conflict of interest, a chapter can appoint an official alternate to the Faculty Council who would only step in if one of the original five members were unavailable.

The NJHS advisers are non-voting members of the Faculty Council.

4. Requirements of the Faculty Council:

- Faculty Council members must be knowledgeable of the guidelines for the O.L. Smith Middle School chapter of NJHS.**
- Faculty Council members will select members of NJHS to be inducted based on their applications and the guidelines set forth in the O.L. Smith Middle School chapter bylaws.**
- Faculty Council members may be called on during the course of the year if an NJHS member is up for discipline or dismissal.**

Section 2: Application process

1. Invitation letters will be sent to all 7th and 8th graders who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher inviting them to apply for National Junior Honor Society.

2. Application information and due dates will be included in the letter.

3. Candidates will ask for and receive an application from one of the chapter advisers or from the counseling office.

4. The application includes evidence that the students have shown and participated in leadership, service, and character/citizenship activities as well as two teachers and one community recommendation.

5. All applications and teacher recommendations must be turned in by the published and announced due date to be considered by the Faculty Council.

Section 3: Faculty Council will select students who demonstrate outstanding performance in all five criteria of NJHS – scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

a. Scholarship – The student who displays excellent scholarship:

i. Maintains a 3.2 cumulative GPA.

b. Leadership – The student who exercises leadership:

i. Is resourceful in proposing new problems and solutions, applying principles, and making suggestions.

ii. Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities.

school ideals.

- iii. Exercises influence on peers in upholding
- iv. Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- v. Is able to delegate responsibilities.
- vi. Exemplifies positive attitudes.
- vii. Inspires positive behavior in others.
- viii. Demonstrates academic initiative.
- ix. Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducts business efficiently and effectively, and without prodding, and demonstrates reliability and dependability.
- x. Demonstrates leadership in the classroom and in school or community activities.
- xi. Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.

c. Service – The student who serves:

- i. Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.
- ii. Participates in some outside activities such as Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, church groups, or volunteer service.
- iii. Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance.
- iv. Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities.
- v. Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school.
- vi. Is willing to represent the class or the school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition.
- vii. Does committee and staff work without complaining.
- viii. Shows courtesy by assisting to visitors, teachers, and students.
- ix. 25 hours of community service is required to maintain member status in NJHS

d. Citizenship – The student who demonstrates citizenship:

- i. Has high regard for freedom, justice, and respect of the American form of government.
- ii. Understands the importance of civic involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations, and school clubs.

e. Character – The student of character:

- i. Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.
- ii. Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, and stability).
- iii. Upholds principles of morality and ethics.

- iv. Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, and halls.
- v. Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability.
- vi. Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others.
- vii. Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness, both inside and outside of the classroom.
- viii. Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies.
- ix. Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others.
- x. Actively helps to rid the school of bad influences or environments.

Section 4: Once a candidate has been approved and accepted by the Faculty Council, he/she will receive a written acceptance letter and will then be eligible for induction.

Article IV: Induction

Section 1: Once students have been selected in the Fall, an induction ceremony will take place for all candidates. Candidates are not members until they have been properly inducted. The induction ceremony will take place at an evening event where all parents, administrators, advisers, and Faculty Council are invited.

Article V: Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1: Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship, or service as outlined in these bylaws may be considered for dismissal from the O.L. Smith Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2: If a member's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.2, he or she will be given a written warning and a 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, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3: If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4: Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to: stealing, destruction of property, cheating, and truancy, possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or bullying.

Section 5: Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by the student, parent, adviser, or Faculty Council.

Section 6: In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held.**
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.**
- c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student.**
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal.**
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.**

Article VI: Officers

Section 1: The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, and secretary. The president must be an 8th grader, the vice president can be a 7th or 8th grader, and the secretary must be a 7th grader.

Section 2: Interested members will submit their name by a specified date. They will then have their speeches ready to give to all members of NJHS at the next meeting.

Section 3: All members will vote on each position and a majority vote will be necessary to elect any officer.

Section 4: It will be the duty of the president to preside over all meetings for this chapter.

Section 5: The vice president will assist the president and fill in if the president is absent.

Section 6: The secretary will keep minutes, take attendance, and keep track of financial transactions.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1: Meetings for the O.L. Smith Middle School chapter of NJHS will happen at least once a month. At this time we will do the following:

- a. Discuss and organize service opportunities.**
- b. Invite guest speakers to teach them the importance of leadership, service, character, citizenship, and scholarship.**
- c. Inform students of upcoming events at O.L. Smith Middle School and encourage them to attend.**
- d. Counsel the NJHS students and help them with the criteria of NJHS.**

Section 2: Meetings will be run by the leadership team.

Article VII: Dues

Section 1: Annual dues for this chapter will be \$10. If a member wants a shirt he/she will pay an additional \$10.

Section 2: Dues will be payable to the chapter secretary within 30 days of induction.