

BY-LAWS
Ware High School Chapter
of the
National Honor Society

Article 1
Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Ware High School Chapter of the National Honor Society

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 the students of Ware High School.

Section 3. This organization is under the supervision of and sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA, 22091.

Article 2
Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Leadership, and Character. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 3. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the junior or senior class, and have been in attendance at Ware High for at least one full semester.

Section 4. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum weighted cumulative grade point average of 3.5.

Section 5. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA requirements, candidates shall then be considered based upon their service, leadership, and character.

Section 6. Candidates become members at a special Induction Ceremony held in late winter/early Spring.

Section 7. Candidates will be required to show evidence of at least ten hours of community service, done between the end of the last school year and induction. *Members will be required to do 10 hours of community service each semester following induction, in order to remain members in good standing.*

Section 8. An active member of the NHS who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership, signed by the Principal or Adviser.

Section 9. *An active member of the NHS who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements, and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter to retain his/her membership.*

Section 10. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership and must return their pin and membership card.

Article 3

Selection of Members

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council, consisting of the five members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, non-voting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be consistent with the rule and regulations of the National Honor Society.

Section 3. Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Each candidate's academic records will be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically must submit a portfolio including the following:
 1. a short essay
 2. evidence of leadership
 3. a student activity information sheet
 4. one recommendation from a faculty member, coach or employer
 5. evidence of at least 10 hours of community service completed since the conclusion of last school year
- c. The Faculty Council will evaluate each candidate's character.
 1. Students who are academically qualified will have their names presented to the WHS faculty.
 2. Students who have been caught cheating or plagiarizing will be denied acceptance.
 3. Students who have received an external suspension are not eligible for membership.
 4. Students who have received more than one office detention in a semester's time will not be eligible.
 5. Students who have more than 7 absences* per semester will not be eligible.
 6. Students who have more than 5 tardies* per semester will not be eligible.

*extenuating circumstances as determined by the Faculty Council may result in the student being placed on probation, rather than dismissal from NHS

7. A description of the selection procedure shall be published in the Student Handbook and on the district website.

Article 4

Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Ware High chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

- a. Members who fall below the requisite academic standards for membership shall be placed on probation and promptly advised of said status in writing by the chapter adviser. The student will have one semester to correct the deficiency, or the student will no longer be a member in good standing.
- b. Students who receive a final grade of 69 or lower, while maintaining the requisite cumulative gpa, will be placed on probation and promptly advised of said status in writing by the chapter adviser. If the student receives a final grade of 69 or lower for more than one semester, the student will no longer be a member in good standing.

Section 2. Violation of any and all school rules is sufficient to result in dismissal from NHS. Additionally, NHS members must maintain the following standards, or risk dismissal from NHS:

- a. no external suspensions
- b. no more than 7 absences per semester*
- c. no more than 5 tardies per semester*
- d. no more than one office detention per semester
- e. no instances of cheating or plagiarism

*extenuating circumstances as determined by the Faculty Council may result in the student being placed on probation, rather than dismissal from NHS

Section 3. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser/Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him/her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal.
- c. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- d. The results of the vote by the Faculty Council will be reviewed by the principal, and then if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the

- student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- e. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal.
 - f. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Section 4. The discipline and dismissal procedures will be published in the Student Handbook and on the district website.

Article 5

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected each spring, after the induction ceremony.

Section 3. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep the record of chapter expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Article 6

Executive Committee

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 2. The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

Article 7

Meetings

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly.

Section 2. Meetings will be conducted according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3. **All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings. Only excused absences from school will count as excused absences from meetings.**

Section 4. Special meetings approved by the executive committee may be called by the president.

Article 8

Activities

Section 1. The chapter shall determine at least one group service project per year. All members shall participate in these projects.

Section 2. These projects shall fulfill a need within the school or community and be well planned and executed.

Section 3. In addition to the chapter project(s), each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her particular talents and interests. This project must be approved by the chapter adviser.

Section 4. The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

Article 9

Emblem

Section 1. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2. Each member in good standing shall receive a membership card and pin at the induction ceremony.

Section 2. Any member who resigns or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 3. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor insignia at graduation.

Article 10

Dues

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$20.

Section 2. Dues will be payable to the treasurer within 30 days of induction.

Section 3. No member will be deprived of membership in NHS because of inability to pay dues.

Article 11

Powers

Section 1. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities.

Section 2. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions.

Section 3. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the National Constitution in all activities it undertakes.

Article 12

Amendments

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendments is given to members at least one week prior to the vote. The exceptions are Article 3 & 4, which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.

Ratified-----November 2007

Chapter Advisor_____

Chapter President_____

Principal_____

Chapter Secretary_____