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**Liberty High School National Honor Society**

**I. GOALS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

The official National Honor Society Handbook establishes the following goals: “The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools.” In addition, the Handbook identifies general principles governing membership eligibility and selection. “Students may not apply for membership in the National Honor Society. Membership is granted to only those students selected by the Faculty Council in each school.” Students meeting eligibility requirements are further considered “on the basis of service, leadership, and character.” Students who meet eligibility requirements and who submit supporting information “should understand that such surveys are not applications for membership, and that a review of information gathered does not guarantee selection.” Finally, “membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility.”; and “parents and students must understand that no student has a right to be selected for membership in a chapter of the National Honor Society.”

**II. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Student academic eligibility is determined on the following criteria. Students must:

1. be at least a sophomore who has attended any Carroll County High School for one or more semesters.

2. have a cumulative weighted GPA of at least 3.75

**III. MEMBERSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURES**

1. All students who meet academic eligibility requirements will be notified and provided with:

A. A Student Activity Information Form,

B. Four Sponsor Forms,

C. Carroll County Public School’s NHS Eligibility, Selection, and Membership Guidelines

D. Optional Essay Form

E. Required Student/Parent Signature Form

Students wishing to be further considered for NHS selection will be given the opportunity to complete the Student Activity Information Form, to submit the Optional Essay Form, and to obtain four Sponsor Forms. At least three forms must be completed by their high school’s faculty/staff members. One of the Sponsor Forms may be completed by an adult, community-based activity leader when appropriate. A total of four sponsor forms must be completed in a specific time period.

2. A Faculty Council composed of five voting members and chaired by the advisors (non-voting) will review all eligible students’ documentation in order to assess their leadership, service, and character. The Faculty Council may interview eligible students if deemed necessary to render judgments.

A. **Leadership** includes the following more specific characteristics:

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

B. **Service** includes the following more specific characteristics:

1. Volunteers and provides dependable and well organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
2. Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
3. Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
4. Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competitions
5. Does committee and staff work without complaint
6. Participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged
7. Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
8. Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

C. **Character** includes the following more specific characteristics:

1. Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
2. Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
3. Upholds principles of morality and ethics
4. Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
5. Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
6. Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
7. Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and faithful both inside and outside the classroom
8. Has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
9. Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
10. Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

3. After the administration has reviewed the list of eligible students and has indicated whether any name should be withdrawn as the result of disciplinary infractions, remaining candidates receiving a majority vote of the Faculty Council will be invited to be inducted as members of NHS. **All** eligible students will be notified in writing of the Faculty Council’s decision. Students not selected for induction in their sophomore or junior year will be reconsidered without prejudice the following year provided they continue to meet eligibility requirements and reapply.

4. In accordance with the official National Honor Society Handbook, appeals from non-selected students and their parents will be reviewed by the principal and/or advisor.

A. If it is determined that a technical error such as, “the inadvertent omission of a student’s name from the list of those qualified for induction or the erroneous averaging of grades”, the Faculty Council will be reconvened to render a decision.

B. If, however, it is determined that it is the Faculty Council’s judgment regarding a student’s leadership, service, and/or character which is being questioned, the principal and/or advisor, “ . . . in the absence of specific evidence to the contrary, . . . must assume that the members of the council are exercising their discretion in a legitimate manner and with the good faith expected of them.”

C. An appeal of the principal’s decision may be put in writing to the superintendent of Carroll County Schools.

5. Applications will be accepted for seniors only in November directly following the first grade reporting. Seniors who are selected will be notified the fall semester and become active members, and be inducted in that school year.

**IV. MAINTAINING ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

1. In general, the standards for scholarship, leadership, service, and character required for eligibility and selection must be maintained in order for students to remain active members. According to the official National Honor Society Handbook, the advisor will periodically review the standing of members for compliance with Society standards. However, a member is never automatically dismissed for failing to maintain standards. “A hearing must be conducted by the Faculty Council to dismiss a member”, unless the student elects to resign from the society. A resignation must be submitted in writing to the NHS advisor.

2. “In the case of a flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a warning is not necessarily required for dismissal.”

3. For infractions or offenses of a minor nature, the advisor will inform the student in writing, and when possible, in a conference about the nature of the violation, provide the student with a reasonable time period for improvement. Should the faculty council determine that an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings, a faculty council pre-dismissal hearing will be held.

4. In the event that a Faculty Council pre-dismissal hearing must be convened, the hearing and any consequent dismissal appeal will be conducted in strict accordance with procedures outlined in the National Honor Society Handbook. “Furthermore, a student who is dismissed or resigns may never again become an Honor Society member.”

5. Each member is required to maintain a 3.75 weighted, cumulative GPA. A member whose GPA falls below this level will be warned and given a period of one semester to raise his GPA to the minimum level. Each member’s GPA will be checked twice a year (mid-year and end of year grades). At mid-year, the GPA for the semester will be reviewed. If the semester GPA falls below a 3.75 weighted GPA, the student’s cumulative GPA will be calculated using all credits earned. Any grades that reflect year-long courses will be calculated as if they were final grades.

6. Members of the Society must remain active in their National Honor Society chapter to be eligible to wear the NHS stole during their graduation. Student participation will be determined by earned service points at each individual high school.

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**REQUIRED STUDENT/PARENT SIGNATURE FORM**

 We have thoroughly read the Carroll County Public Schools’ National Honor Society Packet. We fully understand it, particularly Sections I, II, and III as they pertain to academic eligibility requirements and membership selection procedures. Students who fail to submit all requested information will not be considered for selection to the National Honor Society. Receipt, by a student of a letter advising that the student has met the academic requirements for National Honor Society membership, does not automatically qualify a student for selection in the NHS. Students must still be considered on the basis of service, character, and leadership. Finally, we verify that all information provided is true, accurate, and complete.

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***Student’s signature Date***

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***Parent’s or guardian’s signature Date***