

Kinder HSPVA  
709 Austin St.  
Houston, Texas 77007

Chapter Bylaws  
of the  
Kinder HSVPA Chapter  
of the  
National Honor Society  
Adopted: June 4, 2021

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Kinder HSPVA Chapter of the National Honor Society of Kinder High School for the Performing Arts.

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

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 Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

## ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NHS. See [www.nhs.us/constitutions](http://www.nhs.us/constitutions). In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

Section 2. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 3: Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 4: Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender affiliation, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

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## ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, probationary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Alumni members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs. Active members may become probationary members when their record reflects that they have incurred one or more strikes. Probationary members are not allowed to graduate with all NHS emblems and cords allowed for active members. Probationary members are subject to discipline and dismissal (See Article X).

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the junior or senior class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Kinder HSPVA.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average of 4.0 on a 5.0 scale.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

## ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council which consists of five faculty members appointed by the chapter adviser. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, nonvoting, *ex officio* member of the faculty council.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

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

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the candidate information form for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official input form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The faculty council shall review the candidate information forms, faculty input, and other following information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership:
  - i. accurately and completely completing the candidate information form
  - ii. two recommendations from current academic faculty members



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- iii. ten hours of community service, five of which should be completed outside of HSPVA and cannot be used for other PVA clubs or organizations such as Student Council. These ten hours will be accepted from August of their freshmen year.
- iv. a 250 word essay that clearly demonstrates candidates character and strong dedication to community service, excellent leadership skills and a solid ethical foundation

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society 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 in order to retain his/her membership.

#### ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$20.00. Dues will be payable to the chapter within 30 days of induction. Members may apply for special considerations if they are unable to make payment.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 4. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the **privilege** of wearing the honor cords at graduation.

Section 5. Members must participate in and complete the following per year:

- a. at least two (one fall semester and one spring semester) school sponsored service projects per school year.
- b. a total of twenty five hours of service per school year
  - i. hours must include at least two of the school sponsored service projects,
  - ii. tutoring cannot be more than five hours
  - iii. no more than five hours can be completed in any one section



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- c. attend monthly meetings and have no more than one unexcused meetings per school year.

## ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, and publicist. All officers shall participate in Artist Academy.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot. 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 of the chapter, and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions, and keep a record of member's contributions to leadership. The president and faculty sponsor shall create agendas for meetings, organize school sponsored projects, and encourage other members to take on leadership responsibilities. The president shall send updates to members using the REMIND app as well as create the presentation for Club Fair with the publicist.

Section 5. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also publicize and keep a record of members' contributions to service, with the assistance of the sponsor. The vice president shall also assist the sponsor to review all members' service hours.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and shall notify the sponsor of those members absent.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter along with the sponsor. The treasurer shall also record all funds raised and donations made to organizations.

Section 8. The publicist shall maintain all social media accounts for the chapter as well as provide information to the announcements for HSPVA announcement club. The publicist will also designate which members represent NHS during the HSPVA Club Fair.

Section 9. Vacancies for officer positions shall be filled by a current active member upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter. Any member not present during an amendment voting meeting shall have their vote tallied as an abstention.

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Section 10. Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals and service projects for the chapter and 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 and faculty sponsor.

#### ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser.

Section 2. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings. An excused absence will qualify as an email to both the sponsor and chapter president prior to the meeting. One unexcused absence will result in a warning given.

#### ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine three or more school sponsored service projects for each year. Service projects include fulfilling a need with a non-profit organization within the community.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects and must participate in a minimum of two service projects per school year; one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester..

Section 3. These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

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

Section 5. Community service is defined as to volunteer aid or assistance to a non-profit organization in a particular district. No more than five hours can be used for any one organization or project.

- a. Community service may include the following:
  - i. service hours starting from the day of induction ceremony
  - ii. fundraising projects for non-profit organizations
  - iii. volunteering for non-profit organizations such as Houston Community Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity
  - iv. NHS sponsored service projects
  - v. tutoring to underclassmen during HSPVA approved tutoring at lunch in a designated room with proper documentation in any academic course
- b. Community service shall not include the following:



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- i. any activity previously assigned for academic credit
- ii. fundraising for HSPVA
- iii. any activity assigned for other school clubs or organisations such as Student Council, Mentarts, Spanish NHS or Science NHS, UIL, etc...
- iv. participating in weekly religious services, activities such as singing in the choir or playing an instrument
- v. volunteering chores/assistance/tutoring for family and friends or non HSPVA students or personal help in the family business or home
- vi. any activity with parents or family members as contacts

#### ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL of MEMBERS

Section 1. If any member fails to meet the conditions of the warning or who incurs two warnings they are subject to consideration of dismissal from the chapter. See Section 7 below. One warning will result in probationary membership status and students may not wear cord or NHS stole in recognition of NHS during graduations ceremonies. Warnings will be given to any member in written notification for the following:

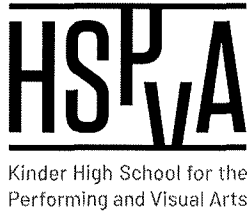
- a. one warning incurred for failure to pay dues
- b. one warning incurred for one unexcused meeting
- c. one warning for failing to participate in at least one school sponsored annual project per semester

Section 2. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Kinder HSPVA 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.

Section 3. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (weighted 4.0), he /she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average 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.

Section 4. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member (see Section 5 below). 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 or in the community.

Section 5. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of 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.

Section 6. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 7. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive **written notification** from the adviser/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- e. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 8. In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

#### ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, and REVIEW.

Section 1: These bylaws will be **approved** upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the administration.

Section 2: These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

#### ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles IV, V, VI, VII and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal. Any member not present during an amendment voting meeting shall have their vote tallied as an abstention.



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Approved on June 1, 2021

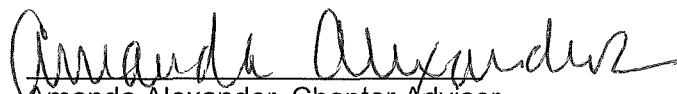
**Signatures**



Elena Oliviera, Chapter President



Rebecca Lembke, Chapter Secretary



Amanda Alexander, Chapter Advisor



Dr. Robert S. Allen, HSPVA Principal