

# **Constitution of the Westside High School Chapter of the National Honor Society Houston, Texas**

## **Article I Name and Purpose**

**Section 1.** The name of this chapter shall be the Westside High School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council of the National Honor Society, duly signed by the national secretary.

**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 all students of Westside High School.

## **Article II Chapter Advisor**

**Section 1.** The chapter advisor shall be a faculty member who has faith in the abilities of young people and who is willing to spend time with them to develop their potential.

**Section 2.** The chapter advisor shall promote chapter activities and thereby stimulate positive action by members. The advisor shall also provide information on local and national policies regarding chapter activities.

**Section 3.** The chapter advisor shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

**Section 4.** The chapter advisor shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

**Section 5.** The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Faculty Council, which approves and dismisses membership into this chapter of the Society.

## **Article III**

### **Membership**

**Section 1.** Membership in this chapter shall be an honor bestowed upon the student by the faculty council on the basis of scholarship (GPA), service, leadership, and character(Faculty character references).

**Section 2.** Students applying in the spring semester must have tenth or eleventh grade standing and have completed one ~~year~~(removed year and changed to semester,2018 Faculty council) semester (enrolled by the first day of school) at Westside High School prior to application for membership. ~~Students that are Juniors applying for their senior year, can be exempted by the Faculty Council.(added by 2021 Faculty Council)~~

**Section 3.** A scholastic average of a member of this chapter of the Society shall be a 3.80 or higher, including bonus points for all Pre-AP and AP classes per semester. This grade point average shall be cumulative: based on all grades earned in the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade years, and must be maintained for the duration of membership. ~~Members may not have a six weeks grade less than 75 or a semester average less than an 80.(removed 2018 Faculty Council)~~

**Section 4.** A member of this chapter of the Society shall accumulate no less than "S" conduct per semester. Any conduct grade less than an "S" per semester shall warrant review by the faculty advisor on an individual basis. A "P" or an "U" in conduct will result in an automatic probation and review.

**Section 5.** Each member must pay a membership fee of per year by the subsequent 4th meeting from the announcement of the dues for the school year or face dismissal from the chapter. This date may be extended or waived by the faculty advisor's digression in the event a member is financially unable to provide this fee. The membership fee is used to fund the small costs that accumulate as a result of purchases made for the furthering of the society. DUES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.

**Section 6.** Each semester member will accumulate ~~15 hours of community service, with 3 of those hours served by tutoring other students~~(changed 2023, Faculty Council to; no tutoring required.) By the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, all senior hours must be verified and approved on x2vol in order to review chord and stole. Juniors will have until the last day of school to complete hours with verifications and approval. Failure to complete hours by that date will be grounds dismissal or probation. ~~Every member of this chapter of the Society shall earn a certain amount of honor points in each of these three categories: NHS sponsored activities, community service, and extra curricular service. The number of mandatory points earned in the NHS service category shall be at least 60 points of which 30 points must come from service and announced to all members at the beginning of each year.~~

Points earned in the service category must amount to the set number by the end of the school year. In the service category, two points constitute an hour. Extra-curricular activities such as, but not limited to, sports team participation, band, JROTC, dance, theater, any productive club, or other such school organization outside of NHS that performs a service to the school or community, shall be processed by the officers and advisors to accredit additional points to the member, not to exceed 50 points. The officers and advisors for additional service points may also consider community service preformed outside the NHS organization. (dismissed by Faculty council 2017)

**Section 7.** Membership of this chapter of the Society shall be designated as either active or graduate. Active members are currently enrolled and are attending Westside High School. Active members become graduate members upon graduation. Graduate members have no vote.

**Section 8.** Student that are ineligible sophomore year due to scholarship, shall become eligible during their junior year. Grades for scholarship will only be Spring of sophomore year and fall of junior year as long as the student has the 3.800 GPA or higher.(Faculty council 2017)

**Section 9:** Members must attend meetings each month for the Society. A member cannot miss more than 2 meetings in a year. If more than 2 meetings are missed, then it is grounds for dismissal or probation, depending on the situation and circumstances which will be evaluated by the sponsor.

## **Article IV**

### **Selection of Members**

**Section 1.** Prospective members shall obtain a copy of the Rules and Regulations and Information packets regarding membership in Westside High School's Chapter of the National Honor Society and follow the set forth instructions.

**Section 2.** The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council on the basis of the qualities expressed in Article I, Section 2. Prospective members must have a cumulative 3.800 grade point average to be considered for membership and must fulfill leadership, service and character requirements as stipulated in the Rules and Regulations and Information packets.

## **Article V**

### **Dismissal of Members**

**Section 1.** If a member of this Chapter of the Society receives a Level 3 Violation of the Student Code of Conduct such as suspension, said member is immediately placed on probation. At the occurrence of another honor infraction, the Faculty Advisor may choose to recommend to the Faculty Council, a group of five faculty members and the Faculty Advisor, a review of his/her membership status and possible dismissal.

**Section 2.** Any honor infractions reported by a school official to the faculty advisor may warrant the immediate placement of the member on probation.

**Section 3.** If a member's grade point average or conduct is not sustained at the required level, he/she is immediately placed on probation. A repeated inability to maintain either requirement warrants review by Faculty Council for dismissal.

**Section 4.** If a member stagnates upon joining the program, and shows no interest or motivation towards service, indicated by lack of honor points mid-year or at the end of the year, the member shall be placed on probation, and may be subsequently dismissed through a Faculty Council decision.

**Section 5.** Upon being placed on probation, a member's status may be immediately brought before the Faculty Council for dismissal review.

**Section 6.** In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have the right to a hearing before the Faculty Council either by letter or meeting.

**Section 7.** For dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council must be obtained.

**Section 8.** Once a member is dismissed, he/she is never again eligible for membership in the National Honor Society.

## **Article VI**

### **Chapter Officers**

**Section 1.** Chapter Officers shall be democratically elected by secret ballot of the members of this Chapter.

**Section 2.** All officer candidates must be in good standing in order to be considered eligible for election to any office.

**Section 3.** For the office of the Presidency, the candidate must have been an active member of this Chapter of the Society for the school year in which the election occurs and have assumed a leadership role in this Chapter.

## **Article VII**

### **Executive Committee**

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of this chapter and the chapter advisor.

**Section 2.** Duties of the Executive Committee are stated in this Chapter's bylaws.

## **Article VIII**

### **Meetings**

**Section 1.** The meetings of this Chapter shall be held monthly during the school year on days designated by the executive committee.

**Section 2.** All Chapter meetings shall be open meetings and held under the sponsorship of the executive committee and shall be regulated according to Robert's Rules of Order.

**Section 3.** The Executive Committee shall meet separately from the body of this chapter monthly.

**Section 4.** Student cannot miss more than 2 meetings a school year. Students missing for than 2 meetings will be sent to faculty council for dismissal for inactivity. (Faculty Council 2016)

## **Article IX**

### **Activities**

**Section 1.** This chapter of the Society shall determine one or more service projects per semester.

**Section 2.** All members shall regularly participate in these projects. (See Article III, Section 6.)

**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.** Each member shall have the responsibility of choosing and participating in a service project that reflects his or her particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects, to which all members contribute.

**Section 5.** This chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

## **Article X**

### **Amendments**

**Section 1.** Amendments are the jurisdiction of the Faculty Council, and only the Faculty Council may ratify amendments to this Constitution. Amendments to this constitution may be suggested by a two-thirds vote of the body of this chapter and forwarded to the Faculty Council for ratification.

**Section 2.** Notice of any amendments made must be given to all members.