

## Chapter Bylaws of The Summit Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society

Adopted: April 21, 2016

### ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be The Summit Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society.

### 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 The Summit Academy.

### ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1. This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the NHS National Constitution. See [www.nhs.us/constitutions](http://www.nhs.us/constitutions).

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. (See Article V, Section 1 of the National Constitution).

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, sex (gender), and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

### 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, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Honorary members are selected at the discretion of the Faculty Council. Graduate and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3: Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the sophomore or junior 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 The Summit Academy.

- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum unweighted cumulative grade point average of 3.6 or higher.
- 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 faculty members appointed by the principal.

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. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- c. All students who are eligible (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Candidate Form for further consideration.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Candidate Forms, faculty evaluations, interview forms and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

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. There are no annual dues for this chapter.

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

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall not be granted the privilege of wearing 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. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall receive a special graduation gift on or before graduation.

#### ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

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

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning members in good standing with the chapter and/or all seniors 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.

Section 5: The vice president/treasurer shall preside in the absence of the president, shall keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service, and and keep records of any financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 6: The secretary shall keep the meeting minutes and attendance records for meetings, and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 7. Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's Executive Committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of meetings and the business of the chapter. Any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

#### ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular meetings of this chapter shall be held monthly at The Summit Academy on the first Friday of each month (or as stated in the meeting schedule) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Section 2: Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings. If a member is unable to attend the meeting for any reason, that member must contact the chapter adviser(s) prior to the meeting to explain why they are unable to attend. Teacher adviser(s) will determine if the member's absence is excused or unexcused. Members who have two unexcused absences will be subject to dismissal.

#### ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1: The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year in which all members shall participate.

Section 2: 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 3: Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing, leading, and participating in an individual service project which reflects his or her particular talents and interests and is approved by the chapter adviser. Individual projects must allow the opportunity for other Summit NHS members to participate and earn hours.

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

Section 5: Members must keep a log of service hours using [trackitforward.com](http://trackitforward.com) and must complete a minimum of 25 service hours per school year (from May 1 (or induction for new inductees), until April 30 of the following year).

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

Section 1: Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for discipline or dismissal from The Summit Academy 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 in his/her school and community.

Section 2: If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (3.6 or higher), 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 which can include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3: 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 a school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 4: 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 5: 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 6: 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 will be given the opportunity 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 7: 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 two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one week prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles V and X (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Approved on: April 21, 2016

2017-2018 Chapter President: Vinny Scarato

2017-2018 Chapter Secretary: Ava Oredson

Chapter Advisers: Amy Booth

Principal: Stephanie Scarato

The following are standards of the 4 pillars of the National Honor Society:

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

**The student meets the Scholarship requirement** with a 3.6 unweighted GPA. Qualities such as work ethic or punctuality, while not considered for scholarship, may be considered in character or other areas.

### **LEADERSHIP**

**The student who exercises leadership:**

- Is resourceful in proposing new solutions, applying principals, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative both in and out of the classroom
- Exercises positive influence in all that he/she does
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life and the climate of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies a positive attitude
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability assumes leadership roles in the classroom, at work, and in other school or community activities
- Works well with others whether in a leadership role or not

### **SERVICE**

**The student who serves:**

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice his/her talents and time to help others
- Is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders service to others
- Consistently participates in some out-of-school activities for the benefit of others for which no compensation is given
- Volunteers time and energy for those less fortunate (the elderly, the poor, the disadvantaged)
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools

### **CHARACTER**

**The student of character is said to:**

- Take criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplify desirable qualities such as cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability, openness, honesty, reliability and honor
- Uphold principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperate, support and be an outstanding role model with school regulations and policies
- Consistently show courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Demonstrate self-reliance and self-discipline
- Consistently attend to his/her responsibilities both in and out of the classroom
- Manifest truthfulness and honor in all that he/she does
- Actively help rid the school of negative influences and unhealthy environments