

Viera High School NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

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

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 students of Viera High School.

ARTICLE II: 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 Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

Section 3. Eligibility; Membership is based on the following criteria:

Scholarship-

- A student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher on the unweighted scale.

Leadership-

- Students must demonstrate that they have taken the initiative to lead others, either by directing an activity or program or innovating some idea or concept either in school or within the community while in high school.
- Students must exhibit on-going and consistent leadership.
- Students must demonstrate this from the start of grade 9 until selection.

Service-

- Students must have made a significant and consistent contribution in some activity or organization (on a strictly volunteer basis) which promotes the idea of improving the quality of life for others.
- Students must demonstrate this from the start of grade 9 until selection.

Character-

- Students must demonstrate on a consistent basis maturity, sensitivity, high ethical/moral values, good sportsmanship, and above all- honesty.
- Students should be a role model for other students in his/her daily conduct and attitude.
- Students with more than one "Level One" referral will be reviewed by a faculty council to decide eligibility.
- Students with any referrals higher than a "Level One" referral will not be considered for eligibility.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of three faculty members appointed by the principal.

Section 2. Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the VHS National Honor Society Application, which will be reviewed for selection.
- c. Candidates who complete the VHS National Honor Society Application will have their discipline records reviewed for disciplinary referrals.

Section 3. The selection of new members shall be held once a year. The selection of sophomores and juniors who are eligible will occur during the third nine weeks of the school year.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a ceremony each spring.

Section 5. Upon request, an active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the Principal and Advisor.

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 IV: DISCIPLINE, PROBATION and DISMISSAL

Section 1. A member is expected to fulfill all expectations of membership. Members who fail to meet these expectations may face probation or dismissal. A member put on probation will receive a written notification from the NHS advisor stating the reason for probation and the steps required to return to the NHS as a member in good standing. The member will have one full semester to take corrective action. Students placed on probation who fail to meet expectations will face a dismissal hearing.

Section 2. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing, take an active role in service and leadership and exhibit exemplary character while a member of the National Honor Society. Members who fail to maintain those standards may be dismissed from the Viera High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Section 3. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected, the member will be given a written warning and a probationary period of one full semester to return his/her GPA to NHS standards. If the cumulative grade point average remains below the minimum standard at the end of the probationary period, the student will be subject to dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4: Failure of members to turn in proof of their participation in 30 hours of service activities to the chapter advisor by a date preselected in the fall of each year may result in disciplinary action decided on by the Faculty Council. This may be grounds for probation or dismissal.

Section 5. Violation of the law will result in a disciplinary hearing and the potential dismissal of the member. These violations include, but are not limited to: DWI, stealing, destruction of property, truancy, possession, bullying, selling or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Section 7. Violation of the school conduct code may result in a disciplinary hearing and the potential dismissal of the member. These violations include, but are not limited to: use of profanity, cheating, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness.

Section 8. Disciplinary Hearings:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the Advisor indicating the reason for the disciplinary hearing and possible dismissal from the chapter. The member and advisor 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 (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 in writing. The Faculty Council will then discuss whether no action, probation for a specific period of time or dismissal is more appropriate. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The advisor will send a letter to the member and his/her parents that explain the result of the Faculty Council vote. If the Faculty Council votes for probation, they may suggest the member complete certain tasks to remain in the National Honor Society. Those tasks must be listed in the letter. If the Faculty Council votes for dismissal, the letter sent by the advisor will go to the student, parents, guidance counselor and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the advisor.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, and secretary. These officers shall be elected by the membership in the fall of each year.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the second meeting of each school year. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

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 all the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, set up the agenda, and prepare the meeting space.

Section 8: If, in the opinion of the advisor, an officer is not accomplishing their assigned duties in a timely manner, then the membership will be asked to vote on the removal of the offending officer. This vote should be by secret written ballot, counted in the presence of the advisor by the remaining officers. The announcement of the impending vote will occur during one meeting and the vote during the next scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the faculty advisor 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 VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be once a month. A listing of the meetings shall be posted on the VHS website on the NHS page.

Section 2. This chapter shall conduct its meetings the first Tuesday of each month in the Viera High School Media Center.

Section 3. All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly-scheduled chapter meetings. If unable to attend, members must let the advisor know in writing prior to the meeting of any conflict. Members shall miss no more than 5 meetings in any given school year. Failure to attend meetings may be grounds for probation or dismissal.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

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 for choosing and participating in service project/s which reflects his or her particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute. Each member must turn in proof of their participation to the chapter advisor at a date preselected in the fall of each year. There should be at least 30 hours of service logged for this project/s. The director/s of the project/s must verify the hours of service with a signature, and provide contact information to the advisor.

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

ARTICLE IX: CORDS

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 National Honor Society cords at graduation.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is not in good standing with the chapter shall not wear the cords at graduation.

ARTICLE X: DUES

Section 1. Dues in the amount of \$15.00 will be paid before admittance to Viera High School National Honor Society.

ARTICLE XI: POWERS

Section 1. The chapter advisor is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

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

Section 3: These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the National Constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the National Constitution in all activities it undertakes.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society. Articles II, III and IV (Membership, Selection and Discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Date: Fall 2017