

**BYLAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE ALPHA CHAPTER  
OF THE  
NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY OF  
SPOTSYLVANIA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Alpha Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) of Spotsylvania Middle School.

Section 2. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for superior scholarship, to develop citizenship, to stimulate a desire to serve, to promote leadership, and to instill exemplary qualities of character.

**ARTICLE II  
FACULTY SUPERVISION**

Section 1. The principal shall annually appoint a chapter adviser, who may serve consecutive terms. (The term "adviser," shall also mean "co-adviser" in years when two advisers are appointed.)

Section 2. The principal shall annually appoint five additional faculty members to serve with the chapter adviser on the NJHS Faculty Council. The Faculty Council shall oversee and supervise all meetings & activities of the chapter.

Section 3. All activities of the chapter shall be subject to the approval of the principal.

Section 4. The principal shall receive appeals in cases on non-selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

**ARTICLE III  
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed on the student. Membership shall be based upon outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, citizenship and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate those qualities. A written description of these selection procedures shall be available to interested parties.

Section 2. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by the Faculty Council. The chapter adviser oversees the selection process; however, by NJHS guidelines, the chapter adviser is a non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council.

Section 3. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance at this school for a period equivalent to one semester.

Section 4. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade-point-average of 3.55. The grade-point-average is calculated using all graded courses during 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Averages are not rounded. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership. The selection committee shall then consider the candidates on the basis of outstanding citizenship, service, leadership and character, including information as provided by the whole faculty. In addition, candidates must fill out a student information survey that asks for details in these areas. Taking into account all available information for each candidate, the selection committee then determines membership by a majority vote. Failure to return the student information survey by the due date may result in non-selection.

Section 5. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 6. A member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter, upon presentation of a letter signed by his/her former principal certifying membership. In order to retain membership, a transfer member must then maintain the membership requirements for this chapter.

Section 7. A member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter signed by the principal indicating the status of his or her membership.

#### **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian and historian. The office of secretary includes both corresponding and recording secretaries.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected at a regular meeting of the National Junior Honor Society and shall not be eligible to succeed themselves.

Section 3. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect any officers in this chapter.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings.

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

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings. He/she shall, with the approval of the principal or chapter adviser, certify to the National Council the names of those elected to membership during the school year on the annual report submitted each spring to the national secretary. Duties *may* be shared by a recording secretary and a corresponding secretary, as decided by membership.

Section 7. The treasurer, with approval of the chapter adviser or principal, shall receive and disburse all funds of the chapter, and keep accurate account of receipts and disbursements in keeping with the policy of the school for handling funds of school organizations. All funds of the National Junior Honor Society shall be maintained in a school account under the supervision of the administration.

Section 8. The parliamentarian assists the president with meeting proceedings and in adhering to the rules of the constitution and bylaws.

Section 9. The historian prepares an official scrapbook or report of chapter activities.

**ARTICLE V  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the chapter adviser and the officers of the chapter.

Section 2. The executive committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between its business meetings, make recommendations to the chapter, and determine and perform such other duties as are specified in the chapter bylaws. All actions and recommendations of the executive committee shall be subject to the review of the chapter membership.

Section 3. The president of the chapter shall act as chairman of the executive committee.

Section 4. The executive committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policies and regulations.

**ARTICLE VI  
MEETINGS**

Section 1. There shall be regular meetings of this chapter during the school year.

Section 2. The president may call special meetings, approved by the executive committee.

Section 3. All meetings shall be open meetings and shall be held under the supervision of the principal or the chapter adviser.

**ARTICLE VII  
DUES**

Section 1. Annual chapter dues are required from each member and shall be set by the chapter adviser in consultation with the principal. Any change in the amount of annual dues shall be subject to the approval of the executive committee of the chapter.

**ARTICLE VIII  
EMBLEM**

Section 1. Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the official emblem or insignia of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter adviser or principal.

Section 3. Each member agrees that, whether the emblem comes as a gift, a personal purchase, an award, or from whatever source, the title to the emblem rests with the chapter. The Faculty Council can, therefore, by a majority vote, request that a member returns the emblem. In the case where the emblem can be shown to have been a personal purchase of the member, the Faculty Council shall reimburse the member of the original cost of the emblem upon its surrender. Furthermore, each member agrees that this acceptance of the emblem shall be considered affirmation of this stipulation in regard to the title of the emblem.

Section 4. All insignia must be procured from the national secretary of the National Junior Honor Society, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091. All insignia are registered in the United States Patent Office, and cannot be duplicated by anyone.

## **ARTICLE IX DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL**

Section 1. The Faculty Council, in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Junior Honor Society, shall determine the procedure for dismissal. A written description of this dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except that in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a member does not have to be warned.

Section 3. The Faculty Council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

Section 4. In all cases of pending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council.

Section 5. For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required. When a member is dismissed, he/she shall be notified in writing and the emblem and membership card are to be returned to the chapter adviser or principal.

Section 6. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the principal and thereafter under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

## **ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. These By-Laws will be reviewed annually by the chapter members. **BY-LAWS MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH THE NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND HANDBOOK.** Any recommended change must be approved by the Faculty Council and the principal. Upon approval of the recommended change, it will be reviewed and put to a vote by the membership. Two-thirds vote will establish a change. Sections dealing with revisions to the procedures for selection, disciplining, and dismissal of members can be changed only by the Faculty Council, though input from the chapter is allowed.