



Unveiled over a century ago, the **National Honor Society** enshrines four pillars at its heart:

Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

More than mere badges of honor for NHS members, these principles are transformative keys that unlock potential, enhancing every student's educational journey and ultimately empowering them to make profound, enduring contributions to our world.

Scholarship

Scholarship is more than a report card; it represents a dedicated commitment to lifelong learning. It's about optimizing the educational opportunities offered and pursuing knowledge within and beyond academic confines. Scholarship necessitates a consistent effort, with an aspiration to contribute positively to the world through one's own knowledge, skills, and experiences.

Proverbs 9:10 (NIV)

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Service

Service represents the choice of stepping outside oneself to meet the needs of others, fueled by an unwavering passion for a cause, heartfelt empathy for others, or driven by personal circumstances. It's about performing selfless acts that transcend the ordinary, engendering transformative changes that resonate through our schools, ripple across our communities, and reverberate on a global scale. In the noble act of service, we sculpt a better world with our hands, our hearts, and our humanity.

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized sacrificial assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work without complaint
- Participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; church; volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged.
- Mentors in the community or students at other schools
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

Leadership

Leadership is more than a position or title; it means embodying the spirit of initiative, innovation, and influence. It's about inspiring peers through actions, nurturing a collaborative environment, and championing positive change. Student leaders embrace the responsibility of shaping their academic community, all while fostering personal growth and development. It's an interplay of intellect, empathy, and resilience, guiding others while continually learning and evolving.

Romans 12:9-13

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit,^[a] serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

A student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- 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
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities

Character

Character is the essence of who we are. It is about valuing diversity, building relationships grounded in empathy, and exhibiting qualities like perseverance, respect, integrity, and honesty. Character lies not in public acts of virtue or visible mistakes, but in the consistent commitment to ethical and compassionate decision-making that positively affects both oneself and others.

A candidate will be able to demonstrate:

- An outstanding record of conduct and behavior with regard to school and community rules, guidelines, and policies
- be able to demonstrate sufficient growth and improvement to compensate for previous inadequacies.

2 Peter 1:5-9

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.