

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The membership selection process for the National Honor Society (NHS) is as follows:

- Student must be a junior or a senior
- Student must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher as a junior or 3.5 or higher as a senior **to be eligible** for selection into the National Honor Society.
- Selection is based on four criteria: Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character
- To be invited to be a member of the National Honor Society, a student must receive a majority vote of the five-member Faculty Council. A principal and the NHS advisor are ex-officio members of this selection committee but the principal does have final approval of all accepted new members.

## SELECTION PROCESS

1. As the first step in the process, the students' academic records will be reviewed to determine those persons who are scholastically eligible for membership, i.e., those persons who meet the required cumulative GPA standard. The GPA standard for the Oswego East High School NHS chapter is set at 3.5 for juniors and 3.5 for seniors.
2. Students who are eligible scholastically (candidates) will be notified that they can pick up a student activity form from the NHS advisor for further consideration for selection to the chapter. The form outlines the candidate's accomplishment in the area of Service and Leadership. Care should be taken to follow the established guidelines and time schedule for completing and submitting the forms. It is further recommended that both students and parents sign these forms when submitting them, indicating that the content is both complete and accurate. Two letters of recommendation are also required as part of the Student Information Form.
3. All Faculty members are invited to make comments on candidates, most often done on a faculty evaluation form. It is important to note the actual selection of members is made by the five appointed members of the Faculty Council. Consequently, point totals or averages of faculty ratings are not to be considered as votes or the sole determinates of membership, but should instead, be reported to the Faculty Council to add to their information when considering selections. Faculty members should consider this input in the most professional manner and consequently be able to substantiate claims, those in particular to low ratings provided. All input from the faculty must be signed but will remain confidential as per commentary in the National Honor Society Handbook.
4. The Student Activity Information Form will be reviewed by the Faculty Council, along with other verifiable information about the candidates relevant to their consideration for membership. The Leadership, Service, and Character of each candidate will be reviewed carefully by the Faculty Council.

The candidate's total score shall be determined by adding the sum of the scores for Character, Service and Leadership. The scores for Character, Service and Leadership shall be determined as follows:

**Character**—"The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern and respect for others and generally maintains a good and clean lifestyle." (NHS Handbook)

All candidates shall receive three points. Points shall be subtracted from this total for documented incidences, which indicate less than desirable character traits. Documented is defined as an incident for which there is a written report on file in the Principal's office. One character point shall be subtracted for each incident:

1. Suspension from school.
2. Suspension from an extracurricular activity.
3. Documented incident of cheating.
4. Truancy and/or unexcused absences.
5. Drug and/or alcohol incidents.
6. Sixty minute detention for tardy
7. Unexcused absence.
8. In-school suspension
9. Detention or conference for conduct.

Further character points may be deducted based on individual teacher recommendations that document in written form character issues concerning disrespect or other issues of concern.

**Service**—The quality of service is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous and enthusiastic spirit.

Service points shall be awarded according to the following scale:

- 1-4 activity units = 1 service point
- 5-10 activity units = 2 service points
- 11 or more activity units = 3 service points

**Leadership**—Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea contributors, dependable and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experience can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

One leadership unit shall be awarded for each of the positions listed on the participation form and for each consecutive year of participation in an activity. Leadership points shall be awarded on the basis of:

- 1-4 leadership units = 1 service point
- 5-8 leadership units = 2 service points
- 9 or leadership units = 3 service points

After the final score has been calculated for each candidate, they shall be submitted to the Faculty Council for selection. A Faculty Council is selected each year that consists of five teachers. Those teachers study the Student Activity Forms and then, based on the scores achieved on those forms, the student essay and any comments or questions regarding the student, the faculty committee evaluates each candidate. A majority vote allows induction into the Oswego East National Honor Society. The advisor is Mrs. Colleen Calvey. The advisor does not vote for new inductees but rather serves as the advisor to this group throughout the school year.