

## **Membership in the National Honor Society Battle Creek High School**

Selection as a member of the National Honor Society (NHS) is both a public recognition of accomplishment and a personal commitment to continued excellence. Selection to NHS is a privilege, not a right. Membership is open to members of the sophomore, junior, and senior classes only. Students do not apply for membership in the National Honor Society; instead, they provide information in the form of student activity information forms to be used by the Faculty Council to support their candidacy. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council. This five-member Faculty Council is selected by the principal to assist in the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members. The chapter advisor is not a member of the Faculty Council. Specific guidelines are provided in the national handbook for the Faculty Councils to assist them in their duties. The principal reserves authority over all actions of the chapter.

This selection of students is not an election, nor is membership automatically conveyed simply because a student has achieved a specified level of academic performance. NHS is more than just an honor roll as the other components of the selection process include leadership, service, and character.

### **Selection Process:**

Cumulative grade point average determines the students eligible for membership in the NHS at Battle Creek High School. The top 20% of all Sophomores', Juniors' and Seniors' cumulative GPA's (added together) is the first criteria. The Faculty Council will not evaluate a student's performance in the areas of leadership, service, and character or consider any student for membership in NHS who does not first meet the necessary grade point average. Those students eligible for consideration based on their grade point averages will be given student activity information forms and the deadline for turning them in. The forms enable students to list their leadership and service accomplishments. These must be turned in to the advisor on time. There will no exceptions to this policy. All submissions are final as of the deadline. Candidates are encouraged to consult with the Faculty Advisor if they have any questions throughout the process.

Each member of the Faculty Council separately evaluates the candidates' forms. The elements that help to define leadership and service have been developed by the Faculty Council and are based on information in the National Honor Society Handbook.

The Faculty Advisor will distribute a list of eligible students to the entire faculty and request input as to their character. These will be presented to the Faculty Council at the selection meeting.

The Faculty Council will meet together to determine the status of each student based on his/her forms and character comments by the entire faculty. The Faculty Advisor will run the meeting, but is not allowed to vote. The Faculty Council may postpone a vote on a particular candidate for the purpose of clarifying information. The Faculty Council has the sole authority to request additional information for evaluation of a candidate.

The Faculty Advisor will send a letter to all candidates to notify them of the outcome of the selection process. Successful candidates will receive information regarding the induction ceremony. The Faculty Advisor will be available to meet with all unsuccessful candidates to discuss any questions or concerns they may have. Sophomores and Juniors who are not selected are particularly encouraged to meet with the Faculty Advisor as they will have an opportunity to be selected in their junior or senior year provided they maintain the necessary academic standard.

### **Standards of the National Honor Society:**

The LEADERSHIP standard is considered highly important for membership selection. The Faculty Council uses the student activity forms to interpret leadership in terms of the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations. The Faculty Council recognizes that leadership also exists outside of elected positions. This includes effective participation in extracurricular activities. While activities in both the school and community are considered in this category, students are expected to have demonstrated a specific commitment to Battle Creek High School.

The student who exercises leadership:

- holds school offices or other positions of responsibility;
- leads in the classroom, in extracurricular activities, and/or at work;
- participates in the classroom, in extracurricular activities, and/or at work;
- demonstrates a continuous commitment to any responsibility accepted.

SERVICE is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student that are done with or on behalf of others without direct financial or material compensation. The Faculty Council uses the student activity forms to interpret service in terms of the time commitment and the quality of the service offered. Service to the community is a highly desirable component of service.

The student who serves:

- volunteers and provides dependable, well-organized assistance especially to the community;
- demonstrates an appropriate commitment to any responsibility accepted.

CHARACTER is demonstrated through the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The Faculty Council evaluates character primarily through the use of the confidential faculty comments.

The student who demonstrates good character:  
consistently exemplifies the desirable qualities of good character as listed above;  
demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability;  
manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience