

# Damascus Christian School Chapter of the National Honor Society

## Bylaws

### **Article I: Name**

The name of this chapter is the Damascus Christian School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

### **Article II: Purpose**

The purpose of this chapter is to be a visible witness for Christ at Damascus Christian School and the surrounding community while also promoting service, leadership, and moral character.

### **Article III: Powers**

#### Section I

This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance of the *NHS National Constitution*.

#### Section II

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

#### Section III

The school principal has complete authority over the NHS and all of its activities.

### **Article IV: Membership**

#### Section I

Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students who appear to be walking with the Lord and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

## Section II

### Eligibility:

1. In order to be eligible for membership, a candidate must be part of the sophomore, junior, or senior class.
2. To be eligible for selection, a candidate must have completed at least one semester at Damascus Christian School.
3. Candidates eligible for membership need to have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
4. Upon meeting these requirements, candidates will be considered on the basis of their service, leadership, and character.

## **Article V: Selection of Members**

### Section I

The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council, which consists of five faculty members appointed by the principal.

### Section II

Prior to selection, the following will occur:

1. Student's academic records will be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
2. All students who are academically eligible will be asked to complete and submit the candidate information form for further consideration.
3. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates who are scholastically eligible using the official input form provided by the chapter advisor.
4. The faculty council shall review the candidate information forms, faculty input, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

### Section III

Candidates will become members when inducted in a special induction ceremony.

### Section IV

An active member who transfers from Damascus Christian School will be given an official letter indicating the status of his or her membership.

## Section V

An active member who transfers to Damascus Christian School will be given one semester to complete the membership process in order to retain his or her membership.

## **Article VI: Obligations of Members**

### Section I

There will be no annual dues for this chapter.

### Section II

Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be granted the privilege to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

### Section III

Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall surrender the privilege of wearing the emblem of this chapter.

### Section IV

Chapter members who are in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords or any other insignia that this chapter officially adopts at graduation.

## **Article VII: Officers**

### Section I

The officers of this chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

### Section II

Student officers can be elected on the last meeting of the school year, or the first of the next year. All returning members that are in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for an officer position. Any active member can nominate an eligible member for office.

### Section III

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 IV

It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter, and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

### Section V

The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president.

### Section VI

The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings. He is also responsible for recording the number of volunteer hours for each member.

### Section VII

The treasurer shall keep a record of all business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

### Section VIII

Officers and the faculty adviser shall be part of the executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have control of the meetings and business of the chapter. Any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

## **Article VIII: Meetings**

### Section I

Regular meetings of this chapter need to be consistent with the regularity set down by the president or faculty advisor.

### Section II

This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

### Section III

Members of this chapter must attend all meetings and events unless excused by the president, vice president, or faculty advisor.

## **Article IX: Activities**

### Section I

This chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

### Section II

All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

### Section III

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, educationally defensible, and be well planned, organized, and executed.

### Section IV

This chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

## **Article X: Discipline and Dismissal of Members**

### Section I

Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be considered for discipline or dismissal from this chapter. A member of NHS is expected to maintain his or her academic standings and take an active role in service, leadership, schooling, and community.

### Section II

If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard, he or she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below the standard after the allotted time period, he or she is subject to disciplinary actions and/or dismissal by the faculty.

### Section III

Violations of the law or school regulations can result in the consideration of the dismissal of the member. These violations include but are not limited to DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or any kind of involvement with drugs at school or in the community.

### Section IV

Offenders of the school code will receive a written warning notification. If the offense continues, the member will be subject to disciplinary action or dismissal.

#### Section V

Chapter officers can be removed of their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

#### Section VI

In all cases of pending dismissal:

1. The member will receive a written notification for the reason of the consideration of the dismissal.
2. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge(s) against him or her at a hearing before the faculty council prior to the decision on dismissal of the member.
3. The decision of the faculty council must have the approval of the principal before the member is dismissed.
4. Following a dismissal, a letter will be sent to the member and his or her parents with an explanation for this dismissal.
5. The dismissed member must then surrender all membership emblems to the advisor.
6. The member may appeal this decision to the principal who then may bring it before the faculty council for reevaluation.
7. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

#### Section VII

In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

### **Article XI: Ratification, Approval, and Review**

#### Section I

These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the administration.

## Section II

These bylaws may be reviewed and if necessary, revised by the faculty council or the principal.

### **Article XII: Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members at least two weeks prior to the vote.

This article does not affect Articles V and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal.