

Veribest NJHS Bylaws

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this chapter shall be the Veribest High School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2: The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in the students of Veribest High School.

Article II: The Principal

Section 1: The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2: The principal shall annually appoint a chapter advisor, who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3: The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 4: The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members. The principal's decision shall be final.

Article III: The Chapter Adviser

Section 1: The chapter advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students and community.

Section 2: The chapter advisor shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter advisor shall send the annual survey to the national office.

Section 3: The chapter advisor shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

Section 4: The chapter adviser shall be an ex officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council and shall facilitate all meetings of the council.

Article IV: The Faculty Council

Section 1: The faculty council shall consist of five voting members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter advisor shall be an ex officio, nonvoting, member of the faculty council.

Section 2: The term of the faculty council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section 3: The faculty council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and to consider non-selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

Article V: Membership

Section 1: Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2: Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3: The faculty council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NJHS advisors, adults, students with disabilities, or foreign exchange students in recognition of outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purpose of the National Junior Honor Society. Honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 4: Candidates become members when officially inducted into the NJHS in a special ceremony.

Section 5: An NJHS member who transfers from another school and provides official documentation to the new school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member of the Veribest NJHS chapter. Transfer members must meet the Veribest chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 6: Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership of the Veribest NJHS, or its benefits.

Article VI: Selection of Members

Section 1: Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the seventh-, eighth-, or ninth-grade class

- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Veribest High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a cumulative GPA (grade 7 and above) of at least 92.

Section 2: Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and cumulative GPA standard eligibility requirements, candidates shall be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

Section 3: The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members approved by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the remaining member of the Faculty Council. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser shall review with the principal the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations.

Section 4: The selection of new active members shall be held once a year, in the spring, following the first term of the school year. New candidates will be accepted and selected from the current seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-grade classes.

Note: The guidelines for selection above conform to the national constitution of the National Junior Honor Society.

Article VII: Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1: Any member who falls below any of the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Veribest High School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member of the National Junior Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

Section 2: If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard 92 which was in effect when he or she was selected, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period of one semester for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below the standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3: If a member fails to perform minimum chapter obligations (as detailed in Article VII and Article VIII), he or she will be given a written warning and a time period of one grading period for improvement. If the obligations remain unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4: Violation of the law or any school regulation punishable by ISS or DAEP placement will result in automatic dismissal of a member. These violations are outlined in the Veribest ISD Parent-Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

Section 5: In all cases pending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council.

Section 6: For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required.

Section 7: A member who has been dismissed may appeal the Faculty Council's decision to the building principal and thereafter under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

Article VIII: Meetings

Section 1: Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Additional committee and/or event preparation meetings will be held on an as needed basis.

Section 2: All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings and committee meetings that he or she is involved in. Members are allowed two absences from meetings during the school year. Additional absences may result in warning letters given which begin possible dismissal procedures.

Article IX: Activities

Section 1: The Chapter shall determine at least two service projects for each year.

Section 2: All members are required to participate in a minimum of one of these projects, although participation is encouraged in all chapter activities.

Section 3: 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 and educationally defensible; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4: Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in individual service projects that reflect his or her particular talents and interests. The Veribest High School chapter minimum requirement is 10 hours per semester, which need to be accurately documented and verified using the chapter-generated service hour sheet. This is in addition to the chapter service projects to which all members contribute.

Section 5: The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

Article X: Emblem

Section 1: Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2: Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter. If the member purchased such emblems, the chapter is obligated to reimburse the student for said expense.

Section 3: Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor collar adopted by the chapter at graduation.

Article XI: Powers

Section 1: The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2: The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3: These bylaws are designated to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

Section 4: The Veribest chapter of NJHS does not discriminate against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, or disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

Article XII: Amendments

Section 1: 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 one month prior to the vote. (Note: Articles IV and V deal with selection, discipline and dismissal and can only be amended by the Faculty Council, though input from the chapter is allowed)

Section 2: Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Junior Honor Society.