

**Chapter Bylaws
of the
Thomas Jefferson Middle School Chapter
of the
National Junior Honor Society**

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Thomas Jefferson Middle 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 students of Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members have no vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2. 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, character and citizenship**.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be **members of the 7th or 8th grades classes**.
- 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 Thomas Jefferson Middle School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of **A**.
- d. Candidates eligible for selection maintain citizenship grades of **O** or **S**.
- e. A student is eligible if the student is an NJHS member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from the principal or faculty council to Thomas Jefferson Middle School verifying membership. Upon receipt of the letter, the transfer student shall be accepted automatically as a member in the Thomas Jefferson Middle School National Junior Honor Society.
- f. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.
- g. Students will not be considered for membership if they have received an **N** or **U** in citizenship for the current school year.
- h. Students who have been assigned any **ISS/ISD** for the current year will not be considered for membership in the Thomas Jefferson Middle School National Junior Honor Society.
- i. Any student who has received an **OSS** during middle school will not be considered.
- j. Students must not exceed 10 unexcused absences in the current school year. Absences deemed to be excused, i.e. funeral, chronic illness, approved religious observation, shall not be counted.
- k. Upon meeting the grade level attendance and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on **service, leadership, character and citizenship**.
- l. Any members who resign or are dismissed are no longer eligible for membership or its benefits.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal.

Section 2. Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Student Activity Information Form for further consideration for selection.
- c. All paperwork must be completed by the deadline established by the chapter.
- d. Any paperwork submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
- e. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the faculty council.
- f. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form and recommendations in order to determine membership.

Section 3. The selection of new, active members shall be held once a year.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. A description of the selection procedures will be available on the school's website.

Section 6. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 7. The National Council and the NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Thomas Jefferson Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member of the National Junior Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (**A**), he /she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Violation of the law, school regulations, or school conduct code can result in dismissal of a member. Any act committed by a member that is deemed by school officials as unbecoming of an NJHS representative can result in dismissal.

Section 4. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the Faculty Council. The member and committee will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him/her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in **Article X** of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or in

writing. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.

c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal, and then if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.

d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.

e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 6. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, and an executive board.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

Section 3. 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 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter and to prepare announcements to keep the school community apprised of chapter activities.

Section 5. The vice-president shall preside over meetings in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6. The executive board members will rotate duties including but not limited to: recording meeting minutes, maintaining official chapter correspondence, keeping a record, including photographs of chapter activities and projects throughout the year.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the faculty council and the chapter officers.

Section 2. The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the faculty council.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly and by request.

Section 2. This chapter shall conduct its meetings under the guidance of *Robert's Rules of Order.*

Section 3. All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly-scheduled chapter meetings.

Section 4. Students not attending chapter meetings without prior notice are subject to disciplinary measures.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year in which all members are expected to participate.

Section 2. 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/or educationally defensible, and be well-planned, organized, and executed.

Section 3. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project which reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the faculty council. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

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

ARTICLE IX: 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 Honor Society. [*NOTE: The content of this section parallels Article XV, Section 3 of the national constitution, revised 2000.*]

Section 2. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter. [Note to advisors: If the members 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 cords [*or other insignia adopted at the local level*] at graduation.

ARTICLE X: POWERS

Section 1. The faculty council 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 designed 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.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the faculty council, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members of the council at least one month prior to the vote.

Section 2. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.

Date: February 2019

Signatures:

Statement of non-discrimination: The Thomas Jefferson Middle School chapter of NJHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.