



NHS Bylaws

**Ascend College Prep
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Adopted: December 6, 2022

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the First Chapter of the National Honor Society of Ascend College Prep.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter shall be to establish an environment and community that promotes enthusiasm for scholarship, a desire to render service, an emphasis on leadership opportunities, and the overall character development of the students of Ascend College Prep.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and full compliance with the National Constitution of the National Honor Society. In addition, this chapter will remain in full compliance and in affiliation with the National Constitution annually. [See www.nhs.us/constitutions.]

Section 2: The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the principal.

Section 3: Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal. [For reference, see Article V, Section 1 of the National Constitution.]

Section 4: Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NHS 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, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty. The criteria shall be based on grade point average, and dedication to meet the principles of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. [See ARTICLE II.]

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

Section 3: Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for this chapter must be members of the junior or senior class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to be a member of this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period of one semester at Ascend College Prep.
- c. Candidates eligible for this chapter must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be notified of their consideration of membership.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1: The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council which consists of three faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, nonvoting, *ex officio* member of the faculty council.

Section 2: The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

Section 3: Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the candidate information form for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official input form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. 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 4. Candidates become members when inducted at the induction ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from Ascend College Prep will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to Ascend College Prep will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The faculty council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$25. Dues will be payable to the chapter within 30 days of induction.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 4. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords at graduation.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office. [For the first year of Ascend College Prep's chapter in the NHS, all students eligible to run for a position as an officer shall do so once Articles IV, V, and VI have been completed in full, and the first official meeting has been held.]

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot. 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 of the chapter and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

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

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 8. Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and 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 chapter members.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser.

Section 2. This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

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 an individual service project which reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

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

Section 6: The individual service project chosen by each member of this chapter shall last at least 10 hours over the course of each semester.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Ascend College Prep chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National 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 (3.75), he /she will be given a written warning and a reasonable 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 includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member (see Section 5 below). These violations include, but are not limited to DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (faculty council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 5. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 6. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. The member has the right to respond to the charge(s) against him/her at a hearing before the faculty council prior to any 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 via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, 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 presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. 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 according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- e. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 7. In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, AND REVIEW.

Section 1: 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 2: These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

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 members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles IV, V, and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal.

Approved on: December 9, 2022

Kjersten Blair
Chapter Advisor

Karin McWhorter
Principal

Signatures/Names of the Chapter President, Secretary, Adviser, and Principal. [Not applicable until the chapter's second year.]