

**Hanover High School Bylaws
Sylvester Chapter
National Honor Society**

I. Introductory Statement

The National Honor Society (NHS) is a nationwide association sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). It is dedicated to promoting academic excellence and fostering qualities of character, leadership, and service. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. The following bylaws are consistent with the NHS Constitution and will govern the procedures of the Sylvester Chapter.

II. National Honor Society Faculty

Each year the Hanover High School (HHS) Principal shall choose faculty members to become the NHS Faculty Council. The NHS Faculty Council is responsible for the selection of new members. Members of the NHS Faculty Council are chosen for their ability to be objective and fair in their decision making.

The following are members of the NHS Faculty Council, 2020-2021:

Mrs. Deborah Abban
Ms. Shayle Emerson
Mr. Steven Henderson
Mrs. Anna Hughes

III. The National Honor Society Chapter Advisor

Each year the HHS Principal shall choose a faculty member to serve as the NHS Chapter-Advisor. The NHS Chapter-Advisor must also chair meetings of the NHS Faculty Council and communicate the NHS Faculty Council decisions to the chapter members. The NHS Chapter-Advisor(s) are non-voting members of the NHS Faculty Council.

The NHS Chapter Advisor, 2022-2023:
Mrs. Ann Coates
Mrs. Laura Collins

IV. Selecting and Maintaining Membership in the Sylvester Chapter of the National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is one of the most prestigious organizations in the nation and membership in this society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a high school student. A student needs more than a high academic average in order to be selected. Consistent with the NHS Constitution the student must demonstrate the ideals of leadership, service, and character. Membership involves a responsibility to maintain the ideals at all times throughout the calendar year. Membership also allows the student to grow and adapt to new challenges.

A. The Criteria for Membership in the National Honor Society

1. Scholarship

Students in the class of 2021 must achieve a 4.0 weighted cumulative scholastic average. Members of the class of 2020 must achieve a 3.85 weighted cumulative scholastic average. (The scholastic requirement has undergone a period of transition culminating in the 4.0 requirement effective for the class of 2021).

2. Leadership

Students must demonstrate leadership. The student who exercises leadership:

- *Is a positive role model and inspires the student body
- *Demonstrates initiative in the classroom, at work, in school or the community
- * Inspires others to get involved and promotes school activities
- * Communicates with others effectively
- *Provides vision and contributes ideas to improve the school and the community.
- * Is resourceful in proposing solutions to problems.
- *Is organized and proactive
- *Is able to delegate responsibilities
- *Successfully holds offices or positions of responsibility in school or community
- * Conducts business efficiently and effectively

3. Service

Students must be committed to community service. The student who serves:

- * Provides service for the good of others and does not directly benefit themselves.
- *Is not compensated for their service financially, with course credit or

otherwise.

- *Organizes and participates in service activities both inside and outside of school
- *Is dependable, well organized, cooperative, and always dedicated to help when volunteering
- *Volunteers willingly and without being asked
- *Represents the community through good conduct and maturity

4. Character

Students must demonstrate strong character. The student of character:

- *Respects and honors school policies and civil laws
- *Accepts criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- *Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- *Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and reliability
- *Perseveres in all endeavors; academic, civic, and personal

B. Selection Process

Membership is not automatically conveyed by virtue of having met the GPA requirement. Students must also meet the criteria as stipulated in Section A of the Bylaws demonstrating outstanding performance in the areas of leadership, service, and character.

1. In order to be eligible, juniors and seniors must have a weighted cumulative scholastic average of 4.0 (see Section A(1) Scholarship) and must have been in attendance at Hanover High School the equivalent of one semester (half the academic year) before being invited to submit their portfolio. (The required weighted cumulative scholastic average for the class of 2020 is 3.85).

2. Eligible students will be notified in writing and asked to submit a completed Candidate Portfolio. In the portfolio candidates shall demonstrate that they meet the criteria as stipulated in Section A of the Bylaws. Candidates will be interviewed by the Faculty Council, after portfolios are submitted.

3. Students must have clearly demonstrated leadership within the school and the larger community.

4. Students must meet the high school graduation requirement for community service and exceed it by an additional 20 hours. For example, if by the end of sophomore year all students are required to have completed 20 hours of community service (ten per year), candidates to the National Honor Society must have completed 40 hours. If by the end of junior year all students are required to have completed 30 hours of

community service, candidates to the National Honor Society must have completed 50 hours. Service will be credited from September of freshman year moving forward. As the community service requirement has recently been clarified, students in the class of 2020 submitting portfolios are required to have completed 40 hours of community service.

5. The Faculty Council selects students by majority vote on the basis of leadership, service, and character as derived from the Candidate Portfolio and interview process.

6. All students are notified of the Faculty Council's decisions in writing via U.S. mail.

C. Maintaining Membership

1. All members must maintain a minimum weighted cumulative scholastic average of 3.95. Members of the class of 2020 must maintain a weighted cumulative scholastic average of 3.8.

Procedure:

- a. Any member who falls below the minimum average will be notified in writing that he/she has been placed on probation and have one semester (half the academic year) to raise his/her average to the minimum average. The student's parents/guardians will also be notified.

- b. If a member on probation does not raise his/her average to the mandatory level in the time allowed, he/she will be notified in writing of his/her dismissal from the society. The student's parents/guardians will also be notified.

2. Members maintain high standards of leadership, service, and character throughout the year both in and out of school. Violations of leadership, service, and/or character will be determined in accordance with the National Honor Society Constitution and the Hanover High School Handbook. Any member who falls below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing and may be subject to disciplinary action. Major, chronic, or flagrant violations may result in consideration of dismissal procedures from the National Honor Society. The following procedure will be followed:

- a. The member and his/her parents/guardians will be notified in writing of the reasons for possible dismissal.
 - b. The member will be notified of the date and time of the hearing.
 - c. Parents/guardians may be present at the hearing at which time the member will be allowed to present his/her case.
 - d. Following the hearing, the Faculty Council will vote.
 - e. Written notification of the decision will be sent to the member, his or her parents/guardians, and to the HHS Principal.
 - f. The member has the right to appeal the decision to the HHS Principal.
3. Members will regularly attend bi-weekly meetings. Two unexcused absences per school year will place a member on probation. Further unexcused absences may be cause for dismissal. The procedure noted above shall be followed.
4. Members shall perform both individual and chapter community service projects totaling no less than 20 hours annually. This commitment is above and beyond the HHS graduation requirement.
5. Members shall pay yearly dues of \$30.
6. Once a member is dismissed from the society:
 - a. The student can never again become a member of the National Honor Society.
 - b. The student must surrender his/her membership card and membership pin to the advisor.