

Bylaws of the Tawasentha Chapter of the National Honor Society



ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Tawasentha Chapter of the National Honor Society of Guilderland High School.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

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 Guilderland High School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NHS. See www.nhs.us/constitutions.

Section 2: The chapter advisers are given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school 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: Non-discrimination. 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, 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 and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

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: Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the junior class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Guilderland High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 90.0. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

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 five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisers shall be non-voting, ex-officio members of the Faculty Council.

Section 2: The selection of active members shall be held after the second quarter of the school year for juniors.

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

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Student Activity Information Form for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official Faculty Evaluation Form provided by the chapter advisers.

d. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form, Faculty Evaluation Forms and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

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

Section 5: An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school 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 this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter upon verification of membership. 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: GPA- Members must maintain a cumulative GPA of 90.0.

Section 2: Individual community service- All members must complete 20 hours of documented community service each school year. For students inducted in the spring 20 hours are due at the end of 1st quarter and 20 additional hours are due at the end of 3rd quarter.

Section 3: Chapter participation- All members must participate in at least 3 hours of National Honor Society events. These 3 hours may be served at anytime during the membership before the end of 3rd quarter of the senior year.

Section 4: Dues- Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$10.00; a total of \$20 will be due by the end of the 1st quarter of senior year.

Section 5: Attendance at meetings- All members must attend the meetings with a maximum of two unexcused absences. Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, working with teachers and other club meetings. Excused absences include legal absence from school. Any student who misses a meeting must check with an officer for a copy of the minutes.

Section 6: 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 7: Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 8: Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the Honor Society tassel at graduation.

ARTICLE VII: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

Section 1: Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Tawasentha chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National 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. Advisers will periodically check member records.

Section 2: If a member's cumulative GPA falls below 90.0, he or she will be given a written warning and will have one quarter to raise the GPA back to 90.0. If the cumulative GPA remains below 90.0 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 any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains 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 school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. 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.

Section 5: Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council, student, or parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6: In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser 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 or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. 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 or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered 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 VIII: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurer, sergeant at arms, publicity chairperson and fundraiser chairperson.

Section 2: Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All members who are juniors in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. A member may only run for one office.

Section 3: Candidates will give a five minute campaign speech at the election meeting. 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. The presiding secretaries will count the ballots. The elected officers may begin to serve immediately.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the president to set the agenda for meetings of the chapter, preside at the meetings, organize volunteering events, and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 5: The vice-presidents shall preside in the absence of the president and organize and run the peer tutoring program.

Section 6: The secretaries shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence, shall keep a record of members' contributions to service and fill out the annual report to national headquarters.

Section 7: The Treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, all other financial transactions of the chapter and will complete the Profit and Loss Statements and the end of the year Extraclass Activity Club Report.

Section 8: The Sergeants-at Arms shall maintain order during meetings.

Section 9: The Publicity Chairperson shall make announcements and signs for meetings, fundraisers and other events.

Section 10: The Fundraising Chairperson shall set up fundraising events and organize volunteers.

Section 11: In the event that an officer is unable to fulfill his or her duties, the Executive Committee will select an officer from the liaisons.

Section 12: Officers and the faculty advisers 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 IX: MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser. The members of the Executive Committee will meet.

Section 2: Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.

Section 3: Club expenditures will be approved by a majority vote of those present at monthly meetings. In the event that a meeting is not feasible, the Executive Committee will vote on behalf of the members.

ARTICLE X: 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, with a mandatory minimum of three hours for the active membership term.

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 may choose to fulfill their remaining service obligation by participating in an individual service project which reflects his or her particular talents and interests. Projects must be on the approved list or individually approved by the chapter advisers.

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

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles V and VII which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2: Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society. Additional articles can be added as needed.

Adopted: June 9, 2015

Chapter President and Date

Adviser (1) and Date

Chapter Secretary (1) and Date

Adviser (2) and Date

Chapter Secretary (2) and Date

Principal and Date