

# **National Honor Society**

## **Bylaws**

### **The Oakwood School Chapter**

#### **Article I: Name and Purpose**

Section 1—The name of this chapter shall be the Oakwood Chapter of the National Honor Society of The Oakwood School.

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 The Oakwood School.

#### **Article II: Membership**

Section 1—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 2—Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

#### **Section 3—Eligibility**

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the junior or senior 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 The Oakwood School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative average of 83% or “B” in the core academic subjects—English, history, math, science and foreign language—for their ninth and tenth grade year. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership and character.

#### **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 head of school. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, nonvoting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council.

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.

- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate the candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 3—The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the first semester of the school year.

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

Section 5—Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 6—An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the head of school or chapter adviser.

Section 7—An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will automatically be 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 or her membership.

#### **Article IV: Discipline and Dismal**

Section 1—Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Oakwood 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.

Section 2—If a member's current GPA falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected (3.0, 83, or "B"), he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below 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 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 absences, 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 violation 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 the 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 head of school and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parent and head of school. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the head of school.
- 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 V: 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 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.

The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter.

Section 4—It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

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 of meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

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

#### **Article VI: Executive Committee**

Section 1—The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and 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 chapter members.

#### **Article VII: Meetings**

Section 1—Meetings of this chapter shall be every other month, unless otherwise called by the adviser or president.

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

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

### **Article VIII: 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 that 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. A minimum of 10 hours of service is expected per year, per member outside of the chapter project.

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.

Section 2—Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

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: Dues**

Section 1—Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$10.00.

Section 2—Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer within 30 days of induction.

### **Article XI: Powers**

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

Section 2—The head of school 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 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 members at least one month prior to

the vote. The exceptions are Articles III and IV (Selection and Discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the head of school.

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