

# Covenant Christian School Chapter of the National Honor Society Bylaws

## PREAMBLE

Just as “By the blessing of the upright, the city is exalted,”(Proverbs 11:11), it is the goal of Covenant Christian School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools to be a blessing to the students, faculty and staff as it seeks to:

- \*Reach and maintain high standards of academic achievement;
- \*Pursue God’s standard for excellence in character, integrity, and morality;
  - \*develop qualities of responsible leadership;
- \*adhere to standards set by national and state organizations

## ARTICLE I

### NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Covenant Christian School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2. The object of this chapter shall be to establish and to maintain a standard for academic excellence, to motivate others to achieve academic excellence, to engage in service projects for school, church, and community, and to encourage the development of Christian character in students of Covenant Christian School.

## ARTICLE II

### MEMBERSHIP

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

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be based on scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 3. An active member in good standing of another school’s chapter of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. This transfer member will attain within *one semester* and then maintain the membership requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

Section 4. Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to be nominated by their chapters to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship program.

Section 5. Candidates become members when inducted at the annual NHS Installation and Induction Banquet.

Section 6. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

## ARTICLE III

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of at least one semester at Covenant Christian School.

Section 2. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative average of 3.5 (out of 4.0) unweighted grade point average or a numeric average of 90.0. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy for selection to membership.

Section 3. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standards may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership. Eligibility shall then be considered based upon service, leadership, and demonstration of good character.

#### ARTICLE IV SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The final 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. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, non-voting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser shall review with the principal the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations.

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

- a. The candidate's academic records will be reviewed to verify scholastic eligibility.
- b. The candidate's conduct records will be reviewed to ensure eligibility according to standards of conduct, which falls under the NHS pillar of character.
- c. The secondary faculty shall be requested to comment on candidates.
- d. The Candidate Form and faculty comments shall be reviewed by the Faculty Council.

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

Section 4. A description of the selection procedure shall be published in the Student/Parent Handbook.

#### ARTICLE V DISMISSAL

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Covenant Christian School Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain an active role in the service and leadership to his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls before below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (3.5 or 90.0), he/she will be given the written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below 3.5 or 90.0 at the end of the warning period, the student may be dismissed from the chapter.

Section 3. Violation of criminal law or school regulations can result in dismissal of the student. 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 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, cumulative demerits in excess of 10, 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 dismissed.

Section 5. Any member whose personal conduct is questionable in accordance with the accepted norms of student behavior may be dismissed by the Faculty Council.

Section 6. Any member who is suspended from school for any reason will be automatically dismissed from National Honor Society, per the National Constitution. Reapplication will not be allowed.

Section 7. In the case of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification of the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser/Faculty Council. The member and the adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference.
- b. The member will be offered a hearing with the Faculty Council prior to dismissal (in accordance with due process identified by the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss.
- c. The member may appeal the Faculty Council's decision to the Principal, who will make a final decision after reviewing all documentation from the member and the Faculty Council. Further appeal will not be allowed.

## ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and reporter. The office of treasurer may be offered in years where there are five or more eligible returning seniors.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each year from chapter members of the junior class. They shall hold office during their senior year. Officer positions may only be held by junior NHS members when there are not enough returning seniors to fill the offices. The NHS President shall always be a returning senior unless there are no returning seniors.

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 meeting for this chapter. He/she will appoint all committees with the approval of the sponsor, will call the special meetings, and will carry out the purposes and the preamble of this chapter.

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

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the number of minutes of meetings and be responsible for correspondence. He/she shall also keep the chapter files exact and up-to-date, shall record attendance at meetings and shall supervise publicity for this chapter.

Section 7. The reporter will be responsible for providing news releases.

## ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

## ARTICLE VIII ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall complete 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:

- a. Fulfill a need within the school or community
- b. Have the support of the administration and the faculty
- c. Be appropriate and educationally defensible
- d. Be well-planned, organized, and executed

Section 4. The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

## ARTICLE IX MEETINGS

Section 1. Meeting of the chapter shall be at least once a month.

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

Section 3. All members are required to attend all meetings and participate in all NHS activities. Members on probation shall refrain from attendance until the probation period has ended and active membership has been restored.

## ARTICLE X EMBLEMS

Section 1. Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem of the chapter.

## ARTICLE XI DUES

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter will be fifteen dollars to help defray the cost of annual membership in the national organization.

Section 2. Dues will be payable to the Faculty Adviser within 30 days of the beginning of the school year.

## ARTICLE XII SCHOLARSHIP

Section 1. The CCS chapter of NHS will offer senior members a scholarship. To apply, seniors will answer an essay question. Three anonymous CCS staff members will then read and evaluate to determine a winner. Only one scholarship will be awarded annually.

- a. Essays will be submitted to the staff members anonymously. Essays will be ranked by the staff members.
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> place essays will be given 25 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 15 points, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place 10 points. In the event of a tie, the top two essays will be given anonymously to a fourth CCS staff member so that a winner may be determined.
- c. The scholarship winner will be announced at the annual NHS banquet.

Section 2. To apply for the NHS Scholarship, senior members must have participated in all fundraisers during their junior and senior years. Only seniors who were members as juniors may apply for the scholarship.

Section 3. No more than two fundraisers will be held each year to raise money for the senior scholarship and annual dues to the national NHS organization.

ARTICLE XIII  
AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter.

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

Changes adopted November 29, 2016 by the 2016-2017 Faculty Council.

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