

Brother Rice High School chapter of the National Honor Society

By-Laws

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1.01 The name of this chapter shall be the Brother Rice High School Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 1.02 The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools.

Article II. Membership

Section 2.01 Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. The graduate members have no vote.

Section 2.02 Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service.

Section 2.03 To be eligible for selection to membership NHS, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one year at Brother Rice High School

Section 2.04 Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the upcoming sophomore, junior, or senior class. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and all semester grades may not be below C-. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. Candidates must not have a history of unacceptable discipline and be active members of other student activities and organizations. All students whose grade point average or other aspect of criteria rises to standards may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.

Article III. Selection of Members

Section 3.01 The final selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. The chapter adviser shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 3.02 Prior to the final selection: the following shall occur:

- (a) The student shall complete and submit an NHS candidate form with the appropriate signatures as noted.
- (b) Teacher evaluations will be considered along with the student candidate form for candidacy.
- (c) The student's NHS candidate form and teacher evaluations shall be reviewed by the Faculty Council.

Section 3.03 The selection of active members shall normally be held once a year. In the Fall of the candidate's sophomore year, or the Fall of the candidate's first year of eligibility as dictated by the criteria of this organization; the candidate may complete the NHS candidate form. The students who have been nominated will be notified in September. The new members will be formally inducted in a ceremony, which will occur in January.

Section 3.04 An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from Brother Rice High School will be given a letter indicating the status of his membership and signed by the Principal.

Section 3.05 An active member 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.

Article IV. Dismissal

Section 4.01 Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Brother Rice High School chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

Section 4.02 If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard of 3.5, he will be given written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below 3.5 at the end of the warning period the student may be dismissed from the chapter.

Section 4.03 Violation of criminal or school regulations can result in the dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influences of drugs or alcohol.

Section 4.04 Offenders of the code of conduct stated in the Brother Rice Handbook will receive a 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 code of conduct, the member may be dismissed.

Section 4.05 In 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 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 in the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his defense. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss.
- (c) A letter of dismissal will be sent to the principal, student, and parents if the student is dismissed.
- (d) The member may appeal the Faculty Council's decision to the Principal.
- (e) When a student is dismissed or resigns, he is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 4.06 In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Article V. OFFICERS

Section 5.01 The officers of the chapter shall be president, and four vice presidents.

Section 5.02 Student officers shall be elected during the last full week of classes in May. All returning members are eligible to run for a position as an officer.

Section 5.03 The Senior who receives the most votes for President will be elected as President. The next two top vote-earning Seniors shall be named Vice President of Special Events and Vice President of Records. The Junior with the most votes shall be named Vice President for Juniors. The next vote-earning Junior shall be named Vice President of Sophomores.

Section 5.04 It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5.05 The vice-president of Juniors shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service. He shall also manage the service of the Junior class.

Section 5.06 The vice president of records shall keep the minutes of meetings and be responsible for correspondence.

Section 5.07 The vice president of special events shall coordinate the events run by the National Honor Society.

Section 5.08 The vice president of Sophomores shall manage the service of the Sophomore class.

Article VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 6.01 The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 6.02 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 7.01 Meetings of this chapter shall occur a minimum of once a quarter and when new business arises.

Article VIII. ACTIVITIES

Section 8.01 The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 8.02 All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 8.03 All members shall participate in projects with members of their class.

- (a) Seniors are encouraged to tutor in the library and act as assistants to teachers upon request.
- (b) Juniors are encouraged to usher at events throughout the school year.
- (c) Sophomores are encouraged to aide in the library.
- (d) Members may choose projects that best fit their schedule.
- (e) Members must earn a minimum of 25 service hours to remain in good standing.
- (f) See attachment for list of service opportunities and their point value.

Section 8.04 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 8.05 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 including the operation of Open House tours twice yearly.

Article IX. EMBLEM

Section 9.01 Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the stoles adopted by this society at graduation.

Article X. DUES

Section 10.01 Members may pay a \$10 voluntary donation to cover the costs of the Open House refreshments for the tour guides and stoles at graduation

Article XI. AMENDMENTS

Section 11.01 Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the executive board, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least two weeks prior to the vote. The exceptions are Article I - IV which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Article XII. Section 2. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.¹