

The National Honor Society

The National Honor Society chapter of MacArthur High School is duly chartered and affiliated chapters of this prestigious national organization. Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in four areas of evaluation: *scholarship, leadership, service, and character*. Standards for selection are established by the national office of NHS and have been revised to meet our local chapters' needs.

Students are selected to be members by a six-member Faculty Council appointed by the Principal, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty and our school each spring and fall.

Students in the eleventh and twelfth grades are eligible for membership. The National Honor Society is more than just academic recognition. *Scholarship alone does not guarantee a student a position in the National Honor Society*. The NHS chapter establishes guidelines for selection that are based upon a candidate's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These four criteria form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built.

Scholarship: For the scholarship criterion, a student's most recent six consecutive quarters are reviewed and must reveal:

- A cumulative average of 90 or above.

OR

- A cumulative average of 85 or above in an academic year in which the student is taking three or more Honors/ACL, College Credit or AP level courses.

Service: This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done with a positive and enthusiastic spirit, but without compensation.

Leadership: Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, and persons who exemplify a positive attitude. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working for others. A leader is someone who, whether by words or example, raises the level of performance of those around him/her.

Character: The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows concern and respect for others.

Those students who meet this criterion are invited to complete a Student Activity Information Form that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's leadership experiences and participation in school and community service. A history of leadership experiences and participation in school or community service required.

To evaluate a candidate's character, the Faculty Council uses two forms of input: first, school disciplinary records are reviewed; second, members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional reflections on a candidate's character and leadership. These forms and the Student Activity Information are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. A majority vote of the council is necessary for selection.

Following candidate notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all newly selected members. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level (or better) of performance in all four criteria that led to their selection. This obligation includes regular attendance at scheduled meetings, and ten hours of community service per quarter (Five of those ten hours must be devoted to school service activities).

If a student does not meet the requirements for induction during the spring of his/her junior year, he/she may be considered for the fall induction (The induction ceremony would not take place until the spring of their senior year but if approved by the Faculty Council, their membership would be effected the end of October). In order to be reconsidered, the student must have the required average as well as the required service commitment to the community at the time of consideration.