

The National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) is an organization dedicated to recognizing and encouraging those students who demonstrate excellence not only in the classroom, but as leaders in their schools and communities as well. The core values of the NHS are: Academics, Leadership, Service, and Character. Because its members must distinguish themselves in all four of these categories, the National Honor Society is one of the most prestigious honor societies in the nation.

The Annual Selection Process of the Arundel High School Chapter of NHS

Schools whose specific membership criteria and selection process meets NHS requirements receive a charter from the NHS and are thereby granted permission to induct its own members. While the NHS is a national organization that requires rigorous minimal standards for membership, schools are encouraged to develop their own particular practice in this regard, and so the specific selection process for members may vary from school to school.

At Arundel, the selection process typically begins at the beginning of first semester for Junior and Senior applicants. In the spring, sophomore students who have a minimum of 3.5 weighted cumulative GPA are given a letter notifying them of their potential eligibility for membership. They are invited to an interest meeting where qualifications for membership are discussed as well as information about the application process, including the timeline, are provided. Candidacy forms require students to demonstrate extensive leadership and service hours within their school and community as indicated in the meeting. The role of the NHS Advisor is to organize and oversee this process; the Faculty Council makes the final decision as to whether or not a student will be granted membership.

Applicants may be denied membership on the basis of any or all of the following: insufficient GPA (3.5 weighted cumulative minimum), insufficient leadership in an elected or appointed capacity, insufficient school and/or community involvement, insufficient community service hours, improperly completing candidacy forms. While the NHS is not legally or ethically bound to divulge the specific reason for any particular student's rejection, students are encouraged to ascertain the area(s) in which the student has fallen short for the sake of his or her personal growth.

Once the list of new members has been approved and finalized by the Faculty Council and the NHS Advisor, this list is given to the principal. Each student who has been accepted receives a formal letter from the NHS advisor, notifying him/her of their achievement and inviting him/her to participate in the annual induction ceremony. Membership is considered complete when a student has been formally and publicly inducted at this event.

The Fall 2014 Selection Process

Two interest meetings were held on September 9th during Wildcat Hour for all students interested in becoming a member of NHS. At this meeting, the requirements for membership were presented. Specific instructions for filling out the candidacy form were given. Candidacy forms were passed out as well as were available on the school's Goodies Drive for students who were unable to attend the meeting to access. This year, the deadline for applications was September 23rd by 2:30 pm.

In accordance with the selection criteria set forth by the NHS bylaws, five teachers were appointed to review these candidacy forms. All Arundel High School faculty were given the opportunity to advise the committee in the areas of scholarship, character, service and leadership of the candidates. Students whose applications were accepted were notified by letter in accordance with NHS procedures. This year, the induction ceremony will take place the evening of October 27th.

Given the incredibly rigorous selection criteria set forth by the NHS, all nominees should feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment regardless of their acceptance. Clearly, these are students who pursue excellence both in and out of the classroom, and for that, they are to be commended!

Anyone with further questions regarding the NHS should contact the faculty advisor, Mrs. Ownby.