

National Junior Honor Society - Eligibility Requirements

Students in grades 6-9 who meet the requirements for membership outlined by their school's chapter are eligible to be invited for membership.

Students must be in their second semester of sixth grade for consideration. Ninth grade students are only eligible for inclusion in NJHS if they attend a middle level school. Ninth grade students in a traditional 9-12 high school are not eligible for NJHS membership.

Each chapter is required to publish its qualifications for membership, which is based on the five pillars of NJHS:

- **Scholarship**
Per national guidelines, at a minimum, students must have a cumulative GPA of 85, B, 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent standard of excellence. (Each school chapter is allowed to require a higher cumulative GPA.)
- **Service**
This involves voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation.
- **Leadership**
Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.
- **Character**
The student of good character is cooperative; demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability; shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others; and generally maintains a clean disciplinary record.
- **Citizenship**
The student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of civic engagement; has a high regard for freedom and justice; respects the U.S. form of government; respects the law for all citizens at the local, state, and federal levels; and demonstrates mature participation and responsibility in activities such as scouting, community organizations, or school clubs.

Students who meet the scholarship requirement will have an opportunity to complete a form detailing their accomplishments in and commitment to service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Understanding the Obligations of Membership

Students who accept membership and are inducted into the chapter should be aware of the time and commitment involved with this honor. For example, there will be chapter meetings. The chapter bylaws should articulate the yearly meeting schedule and member attendance obligations. Members also must participate in chapter and individual service projects to benefit the school and community. Contact the chapter adviser to obtain a full list of the obligations of membership for the school's chapter.

<https://www.njhs.us/students/membership/how-to-become-a-member>

Challenger Middle School NJHS Selection Process

The following Articles from the CMS NJHS bylaws explain:

Article IV Definition of Membership

1. Membership is open to qualified second semester sixth and seventh graders.
2. Students must have attended Challenger Middle School for the equivalent of **one semester** to be considered for membership.
3. Students must have a **cumulative grade point average of 3.5** which is assessed on a semester basis.
4. Students must be **free from disciplinary referrals** to be eligible for membership.
5. Students must **demonstrate leadership roles** both in school and in the community. Students may be required to verify these roles.
6. Students are required to **actively serve** the school, their classmates, and their community. The student's attitude toward service will also be elevated when determining membership eligibility and retention.
7. Students must demonstrate an understanding of the importance of **civic involvement**, have a high regard for freedom, justice and democracy; and participate in organizations of activities committed to the betterment of society.
8. Students must **exemplify good character** by demonstrating respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship.
9. Candidates become members when inducted through public or private ceremony.
10. A NJHS member who transfers from another school shall supply a letter from the former principal of chapter adviser to be accepted without induction.

Article V: Establishment of the Time, Methods and Procedures for the Nomination and Election of Members

Section 1. Time Schedule for member election

1. Spring Induction: The chapter adviser(s) shall begin reviewing cumulative grade point averages for sixth and seventh graders not currently inducted within a reasonable time period after the third quarter.
 - A. Quarter grades are not averaged as part of the cumulative grade point average but may be considered if probationary status seems reasonable.

- B. The chapter adviser shall assess the grades of sixth and seventh graders not previously inducted.
- C. Students meeting the requirements for eligibility shall be given a membership application and letter inviting them to apply for membership.
 - 1. Students shall be given adequate time to complete and return the membership application.
 - 2. Students who choose not to seek membership when invited may speak with the chapter adviser(s) in the case where circumstances would prohibit immediate involvement in the chapter and may ask to be considered for induction at a later time; however, being invited a second time after refusal is not mandatory.
 - 3. Applications submitted after the deadline for submission may be considered for induction at a later time, but neither the chapter adviser(s) nor the faculty council is obligated to give priority or special consideration to candidates who miss the deadline.

Section 2. Procedures for nomination and election for membership

- 1. Candidate applications completed and returned on time will be reviewed by faculty council.
- 2. Faculty council will discuss the applicants' qualifications; if concerns are raised, each member of faculty council will be asked to complete a faculty evaluation form for the candidates in question. Election into the chapter will be based on majority vote by the faculty council.
- 3. An induction ceremony will be held within a reasonable time after the faculty council has voted on candidates.
- 4. A candidate who has been elected to receive membership but is unable to attend the induction ceremony may be inducted privately at a chapter meeting.

From the Constitution as published on the NJHS website:

Article IX: Selection of Members

Section 1. To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of those classes (second semester sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade, or ninth grade) designated as eligible in the chapter bylaws. (Ninth graders in a 9–12 school may not be inducted into either NJHS or NHS, nor can that school operate a chapter of NJHS as per these guidelines and those of the National Honor Society.) Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester.[2](#)

Section 2. The national minimum standard for scholarship shall be a cumulative scholastic average of at least 85 percent, B, or 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or the equivalent standard of

excellence. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.[3](#)

Section 3. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote 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 4. A description of the selection procedure shall be published in an official school publication that is widely available in a timely fashion to all students and parents of the school. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of NJHS.

Section 5. NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

Note 2. Some candidates may be ineligible for induction because of the semester ruling. Many students, including students of military parents, are required to move with parents or guardians that have transferred in their work. The present school principal should seek a recommendation from the previous school principal or chapter adviser pursuant to the candidate's selection. On the basis of the recommendation of the previous principal or chapter adviser, the Faculty Council may waive the semester regulation.

Note 3. Local chapters may raise the cumulative GPA standard above the national minimum, or increase standards for the remaining selection criteria, apply them fairly and consistently, and include these standards in their locally published selection procedures.