

# **Constitution of the Wahama High School Chapter of the National Honor Society**

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## **ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1-** The name of this chapter shall be the Wahama Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary School, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council.

**Section 2.** 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 Wahama High School.

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1 -** Membership shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

**Section 2 –** Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty council, and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership and character. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

### **Section 3 – ELIGIBILITY**

- a. To be eligible for membership candidates must be a member of the sophomore, junior, or senior class.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Wahama High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 (out of 4.0). This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to selection to membership.

- d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

### **Article III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

**Section 1** – The 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, nonvoting, ex officio members of the Faculty Council.

**Section 2** – Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

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 NHS.

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. All faculty members familiar with the students shall be requested to evaluate those determined to be scholastically eligible ("candidates") using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- c. The faculty evaluation forms shall be reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine perspective candidates. Students shall be determined by the council for consideration
- d. Students who are eligible scholastically shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Student Activity Information Form for further consideration for selection.
- e. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.
- f. Students will be asked to submit a brief essay (no longer than one page) to explain what personal qualities they have that would benefit NHS
- g. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser shall review with the principal the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations.
- h. Letters of both selection and non-selection shall be sent to the parents prior to the induction ceremony.

**Section 3** – The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the school year.

**Section 4** – Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

**Section 5** – Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

**Section 6** – An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will automatically be accepted for membership for this chapter if he or she provides a letter from the principal or chapter adviser of their previous school. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements for this chapter and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his or her membership.

**Section 7** - The Faculty Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NHS advisers, adults, students with disabilities, or foreign exchange students in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service

rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of the National Honor Society. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

**Section 8** - . 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.

#### **ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL**

**Section 1** – Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Wahama chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

**Section 2** – If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected, or he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

**Section 3** – If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

**Section 4** – Violation of the law or Wahama Student Code of Conduct can result in dismissal of a member. 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 5** – Offenders of the school conduct codes (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council, student, or parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

**Section 6** – In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. The Faculty Council will then note on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.

- c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parent, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

**Section 7** – In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

## **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS**

**Section 1** – The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The officers of the chapter, their duties, and the method of their election shall be determined by the members of the chapter, approved by the Faculty Council and the principal.

**Section 2** – Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

**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.

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

**Section 6** – The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and shall be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

**Section 7** – The treasurer shall keep the record of chapter expenses and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

**Section 8** - New officers shall be installed at a special ceremony

**Section 9** – In case any officer is dismissed from the chapter, an election shall be held to fill the office.

**Section 10** – If an officer receives suspension or expulsion from Wahama High School, the Faculty Council shall meet to determine what disciplinary measures shall be taken.

**Section 11** – If an officer is unable to serve their duties for a period of longer than two months due illness, family matters requiring absences away from school or school activities, or other issues that may arise, Faculty Council may recommend that the chapter members vote on either an acting or permanent officer to fulfill the duties.

## **ARTICLE VI: 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 VII: THE PRINCIPAL**

**Section 1.** The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

**Section 2.** The principal shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as chapter adviser, who may serve consecutive terms.

**Section 3.** The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

**Section 4.** The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

## **ARTICLE VIII: THE CHAPTER ADVISER**

**Section 1.** The chapter adviser shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

**Section 2.** The chapter adviser shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter adviser shall send the annual report to the national office.

**Section 3.** The chapter adviser shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

**Section 4.** The chapter adviser shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

**Section 5.** The chapter adviser shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council.

**Section 6.** The chapter adviser shall be a member of the faculty, appointed annually by the principal, and may serve consecutive terms.

## **ARTICLE IX: FACULTY COUNCIL**

**Section 1.** The Faculty Council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the Faculty Council.

**Section 2.** The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

**Section 3.** The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and to consider non-selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

**Section 4.** The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with this Constitution and NHS policies.

## **ARTICLE X: MEETINGS**

**Section 1** – Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly.

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

**Section 3** – All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings. Members may be excused only due to illness or absence due to a school sanctioned event.

**Section 4** – Members who have two or more unexcused absences a semester face disciplinary measures from the Faculty Council.

**Section 5** – Students shall attend all meetings in dress clothing (ties or dress shirts for the male students and appropriate clothing for the female members). If agreed upon by the chapter, official NHS clothing may be substituted and worn when appropriate. If possible, members should make every effort to wear NHS clothing when performing community service projects.

**Section 6** – At the end of the year, members shall turn in a record of their participation in all meetings and service projects.

#### **ARTICLE XI: ACTIVITIES**

**Section 1.** Each chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

**Section 2.** All members shall regularly participate in these projects. Records shall be kept by the vice-president of attendance.

**Section 3.** 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; be well planned, organized, and executed.

**Section 4.** Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

**Section 5.** Each chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

#### **ARTICLE XII: OFFICIAL INSIGNIA**

**Section 1 -** This organization shall have an official emblem. The emblem shall be uniform and its distribution and rules for its use shall be determined by the NASSP Board of Directors.

**Section 2 -** Each active, graduate, or honorary member in good standing with the chapter shall be entitled to wear this emblem.

**Section 3 -** Any member who resigns or is dismissed shall return the emblem to the chapter adviser. If the member purchased such emblems, the chapter shall reimburse the student for the expense.

**Section 4 -** All insignia must be procured from the national office of the National Honor Society, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA, 20191. All insignia are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and may not be copied by anyone without written permission of the NHS national office.

**Section 5 -** The motto of the National Honor Society shall be *Noblesse Oblige* – Nobility Obligates

**Section 6 -** The official colors of the National Honor Society shall be blue and gold.

**Section 7 –** The yellow rose is the official flower of the NHS

**Section 8 -** A graduate member may purchase a replacement for a lost emblem by verifying membership to the national office.

**ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1** – This Constitution may be amended based upon changing guidelines from the National Honor Society National Council or by the vote of the faculty council

Kenny Bond, Principal

Signature

Date

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Catherine Hamm, Chapter Adviser

Signature

Date

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