Chapter Bylaws

Of the

Wesley Chapel High School Chapter

Of the

National Honor Society

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Wesley Chapel High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to promote school-wide excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character and to recognize those students of Wesley Chapel High School who successfully represent all four of these components.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of the National Constitution of NHS.

Section 2: The chapter is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities.

Section 3: Final authority on all activities and decisions rests with the school principal.

Section 4: Non-discrimination. Our chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, and disability.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership in this chapter is bestowed upon deserving students by the advisors and is based on the criteria of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character.

Section 2: Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation.

Section 3: Eligibility:

a. Candidates eligible for selection must be members of the sophomore, junior or senior

class.

b. To be eligible, the candidate must have been enrolled for at least one semester at

Wesley Chapel High School.

c. Candidates eligible for selection shall have a minimum cumulative grade point

average of 3.5 (weighted).

d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment and GPA requirements, candidates shall

then be considered based on their service, leadership and character.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1: Once GPAs have been posted (end of January), students with the necessary 3.5+ GPAs are identified by the Faculty Advisors.

Section 2: Students who satisfy the GPA requirement are then reviewed for service hours.

Section 3: Students who have the 20 minimum required service hours then receive an invitation to apply for membership. Membership candidate packets are available from the advisor.

Section 4: Candidates have one week to complete and return the candidate packet to the advisor. All parts of the packet must be completed and the application must be signed by both the candidate and his/her parent or guardian, acknowledging the requirements and that completion of the packet does not guarantee acceptance into NHS. Candidate packets that are submitted after the deadline will not be considered for review, except in cases of extenuating circumstances to be determined by the advisor and/or Faculty Council.

Section 5: Teacher recommendation forms accompanying the packet are distributed to the student’s teachers by the candidate. These forms are confidential and are returned to the advisor, not the candidates. Teacher recommendations are taken into consideration when reviewing the student’s file. At no time will the student or his/her parent or guardian have access to the specific comments made on these forms.

Section 6: Upon review of the candidate packet and teacher recommendation forms by the Faculty Advisor and the Faculty Council, students are considered for their leadership potential, strength of character, and other aspects (respect, motivation, maturity, follow through, etc.). Discipline records and attendance/tardy records will be reviewed at this time.

Section 7: Students are selected based on their overall satisfactory completion of all components (Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character). Students are notified of their selection or non-selection in writing.

Section 8: In cases of non-selection, the student may meet with the advisor to discuss areas for improvement. While the advisor cannot discuss specific comments made on the teacher recommendation forms, the advisor can give feedback that may assist the student for future selection.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1: Annual dues shall be $25, $15 of which to cover dues and $10 for the cost of a t-shirt to be worn at activities and events. Dues are payable by the end of September for that upcoming school year.

Section 2: Each member must be an active participant in both school and community service projects in order to maintain good standing. Active participation requirements are clearly communicated to the members on a regular basis.

Section 3: Each member who is in good standing with the regard to the membership standards and obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 4: Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor stole at graduation.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the chapter shall be the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer (and historian if desired by the chapter).

Section 2: Officers for the upcoming term shall be elected at the last meeting of the previous school year OR at the first meeting of the current school year. All returning members in good standing are eligible to run for a position.

Section 3: All returning members in good standing shall be permitted to participate in elections. Voting shall be done by secret ballot. Ballots will be counted by the advisor and overseen by the Faculty Council. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter.

Section 4: It is the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 5: The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and assist in administrative duties.

Section 6: The secretary shall keep minutes and attendance records for meetings.

Section 7: The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses and financial transactions of the chapter, including member dues.

Section 8: The historian, if elected, shall document the activities of the organization with pictures and keep these organized in a scrapbook. The historian will work with all of the officers to provide information to local media sources.

Section 8: The advisor will work with the officers to determine additional duties and responsibilities of the officers.

Section 9: The officers of the chapter and the faculty advisor shall be known collectively as the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and business of the chapter.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular meetings of this chapter shall be monthly, occurring on the last Wednesday of the month before school. Additional meetings may be called by the Executive Committee.

Section 2: Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings. Members who miss more than two meetings may be placed on probation and assigned additional community service activities to complete in order to regain their good member standing.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1: The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2: All members shall participate in these projects in some capacity.

Section 3: These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school and/or community, have the support of the administration and the faculty, be appropriate and educationally defensible, and be well-planned, organized and executed.

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

Section 5: Activities and projects completed by each member will be monitored and documented by the officers with the supervision of the advisor.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

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

Section 2: Scholarship: GPAs of all members will be reviewed in August and in January. If a member’s GPA drops below the 3.5 weighted standard, he/she will be given written notification. If improvement is not demonstrated in the next grading period, and/or if the GPA does not meet the 3.5 weighted GPA standard by the next review, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter. Seniors who do not have the 3.5 weighted GPA at the time of graduation will not be permitted to wear the honor stole at the graduation ceremony and will not receive the National Honor Society gold seal on their diplomas.

Section 3: Service: Students are expected to participate in service activities, including group activities and the individual service project. Students who do not fulfill this requirement by the end of the school year will be handled according to grade level:

a. Seniors who have not met the service requirement will not be permitted to wear an

honor stole at graduation and will not receive the National Honor Society gold seal on

their diplomas.

b. Underclassmen who have not met the service requirement will be subject to

disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that includes the consideration of dismissal

from the chapter.

Section 4: Leadership and Character: Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of the member. These violations include, but are not limited to, DUI/DWI, stealing, destruction of property, assault, cheating, truancy or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related events, or in the community.

Section 5: Leadership and Character: Offenders of the school’s Code of Conduct will receive verbal and/or written warning. These students may be subject to disciplinary action. Repeated offenses may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6: Leadership and Character: Members are expected to exhibit unquestionable behavior at all times, both in school and in the community. At all times, members must demonstrate respect of their peers, adults, and their school and must contribute to a positive environment. Students who do not meet this standard will be counseled by the advisor, and if improvement is not made, may be subject to disciplinary action by the Faculty Council.

Section 7: In all cases of pending dismissal:

a. The member will receive written notification from the advisor indicating the reason

for dismissal.

b. The member will be given opportunity to respond to the charges against him/her at a

hearing before the Faculty Council prior to any vote on dismissal in accordance with

due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution. The member has the

opportunity to present his/her defense in person. Following the hearing, the Faculty

Council will vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote is needed to dismiss a

member.

c. The results of the vote will be presented to the principal for review and then stated in a

letter sent to the student and the parent.

d. The Faculty Council’s decision may be appealed to the principal. The principal has

the final decision in any hearing. The principal’s decision may not be appealed.

e. A member who is dismissed may not be considered for membership again.

Section 8: In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter, providing notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members at least one month prior to the vote.