

Bush H.S. - Barbara Bush Chapter

National Honor Society

By-Laws

Article I: Name of Organization

The name of the chapter will be the Barbara Bush Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Article II: General Purpose

The purpose of the chapter will be to promote and recognize in students a sense of honor, including service to the community, leadership in school matters, exemplary character, and outstanding scholastic performance.

Article III: Powers Vested in the Organization

Section 1: The chapter members shall establish goals regarding ways to improve Bush High School and fundraising projects for the purpose of funding scholarships for members and donations to the community.

Section 2: The principal reserves the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter. This authority extends to the selection and dismissal of members.

Article IV: Definition of Membership

Section 1: Membership in this organization is based upon honorable deportment, scholarship, leadership, character, and commitment to service.

Section 2: Membership in the BHS chapter of NHS will follow the criteria for membership as outlined in the national bylaws.

Article V: Honor Society Code of Ethics

1. Trustworthiness: reputation free of any hint of impropriety
2. Respect for authority and for school rules
3. Courtesy to all people at all times
4. Compassion for those less fortunate

Article VI: Nomination and Selection of Members

Section 1: A school council consisting of five faculty members representing all academic disciplines shall make the election of members to NHS.

Section 2: A student who is a junior or a senior is eligible for membership following the completion of one full year in a Fort Bend ISD school.

Section 3: A student is eligible by academic standards if they have maintained an 85 GPA on a 100 scale and has not failed any course on the final grade for the course.

Section 4: Per district procedures, students are evaluated for academic eligibility effective at the end of the fall semester. Character, service, and leadership are assessed in early spring, and selection and inductions occur in mid-to-late spring. New inductees start membership in the campus chapter at the beginning of the following school year.

Section 5: A student will be expected to submit a record of service within and/or outside of the Bush High School community; 5 hours must be performed within the defined period prior to turning in their application for membership.

Section 6: The prospective member shall submit completed forms to the faculty advisor by the date specified by officers and advisors.

Section 7: A student shall become a member upon meeting the criteria of scholarship, leadership, character, and a commitment to service as defined in the national constitution and upon completing the local school council review and acceptance by the council.

Section 8: A candidate will complete the description of their scholarly, extra-curricular, and community service activities.

Section 9: The nomination is considered approved if three or more members of the school council vote in favor. Abstentions count to the negative.

Section 10: Each member is required to pay \$20 in dues per year.

Section 11: A candidate who transfers to a new school and provides verification of NHS membership to the new school will be accepted in the new school's chapter. In order to retain membership, the transfer member will be given a reasonable amount of time to meet the new chapter's standards. The time allowed will be determined by the school council and cannot be less than one full semester.

Section 12: The nomination process and criteria and the selection process by the NHS school council must be public information that is available to students and parents. The chapter will publish this information through the Bush HS website, school announcements, school postings, or the chapter will make such information available upon request. A schedule of deadlines (application for membership, awards ceremony, etc.) will also be included in this information.

Section 13: Members will be inducted into NHS during a formal candlelight ceremony to which the public is invited. Members are expected to meet all criteria and are subject to demerits upon receipt of the acceptance letter.

Article VII: Meetings, Special Sessions, Projects, and Meeting Attendance

Section 1: Regular meetings shall be held bi-monthly unless the chapter determines otherwise.

Section 2: The President, any three members, or the principal may call special meetings.

Section 3: Two-thirds of the voting members of BHS NHS chapter shall constitute a quorum and shall be sufficient and necessary to carry on NHS business.

Section 4: Parliamentary procedures shall govern all meetings.

Section 5: All members must participate in the minimum service hours and activities presented at the beginning of each school year. If a member does not participate in the manner in which the guidelines and service hours are presented, they will be assigned extra duties as determined by the Faculty Council and **they may be dismissed** from the program.

Section 6: All members must participate in the minimum service hours, meetings, and activities required by NHS. They must attend all meetings and meet deadlines and expectations. If three deadlines, meetings, or other requirements (or any combination thereof) are not satisfactorily met, the member will be dismissed with the option of appearing before faculty council.

Article VIII: Duties and Responsibilities of the Organization, Officers, Members, and Advisors

Section 1: The officers of the Bush chapter of NHS shall consist of six officers including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Historian.

Section 2: All officers will appropriately represent the chapter and the school at all times; be enthusiastic and proactive while participating in any and all NHS activities; and encourage all NHS members to excel in the completion of their projects.

Section 3: Officer Duties will include but will not be limited to the following - attendance records, service forms, project authorization, project supervision, planning and conducting meetings, maintaining structure at NHS meetings and activities, induction of new members, attendance at officer planning meetings, maintaining the NHS board, and all appropriate communication with members. Other duties can and will be assigned when the occasion is necessary. It will be the shared responsibility of the advisors and all officers to make sure all duties are completed.

Section 4: The advisor shall be familiar with the handbook and have a working knowledge of the National Honor Society Constitution and chapter bylaws.

Section 5: The advisors and officers shall approve all projects, keep records, and attend all functions of the society.

Section 6: The advisors will create a class of NHS members for the computer in order to keep track of all service hours and other organizational matters.

Section 7: The advisors will query the data clerk each six weeks for discipline data.

Section 8: The advisors will request that the principals' administrative assistants give copies of any discipline slips issued for members who are accused of cheating or other dishonorable conduct which might bring embarrassment upon the organization.

Article IX: Electing Officers and Filling Vacancies

Section 1: Officer positions will be chosen by member vote and officer interviews with advisor final approval.

Section 2: In the event that a vacancy occurs a meeting of NHS shall be called within four weeks of the time of the vacancy. At that time a new officer will be elected.

Section 3: An officer may be dismissed for failure to do his/her designated duties or for failure to maintain the guidelines under which he/she was inducted into the society.

Article X: Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1: Any member who falls below the scholarship standard of 85 on a 100 GPA scale shall be promptly warned in writing that he or she has one marking period to attain the 85 cumulative standard. If the member fails to do so, due process procedures will be taken which may result in the member's dismissal.

Section 2: Senior members who are eligible for wearing the NHS collar at graduation must have a minimum 85 on a 100 GPA scale at the end of the grading period or when the Registrar runs the final GPA report that determines the standing of all seniors. If a senior member does not have the required GPA, they will be denied the opportunity to wear the NHS collar at graduation.

Section 3: Any member who violates the code of ethics, the other three criteria for admission, or any school rules or civil laws shall appear before school council to determine whether or not dismissal is appropriate.

Section 4: When a member is dismissed, he or she must be notified in writing and his or her emblem and membership card returned to the faculty advisor. His or her name and dismissal date must be indicated on the annual report submitted to the national office of NHS.

Section 5: A member under consideration for dismissal has a right to a pre-dismissal hearing with the NHS school advisory committee.

Section 6: A member should be allowed to appear before the Faculty Council. Parents may be present but the primary focus of the hearing is to allow the member to present his or her case.

Section 7: Dismissal decisions may be appealed according to Bush High School's rules for disciplinary appeals.

Section 8: Dismissal case appeals will not be heard by the NHS national office or by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Section 9: If an inducted member is dismissed based on violation of the code of ethics outlined in the bylaws, they may not be instated the following year.

Section 10: A prospective member who has documented code of ethics violations may not apply for induction for one calendar year after the incident took place.

Article XI: Ratification of Bylaws

The bylaws must be accepted by a majority vote of the NHS chapter members and approved by the Faculty Council and the principal.

Article XII: Amending the Bylaws

Section 1: A specially appointed committee should draft the revision and then have the revisions reviewed by the members.

Section 2: An amendment shall require two-thirds of the membership's vote before it is accepted into the local bylaws.

Approved (date) _____

Sponsor: Rebecca Darling

Signature: _____

Sponsor: Patricia Ellis

Signature: _____

President: Jada Nguyen

Signature: _____

Principal: Felicia James

Signature: _____

Revised November 2019