

Charles S. Rushe Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society Bylaws



ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Charles S. Rushe Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership and citizenship, and to encourage the development of character in students of Charles S. Rushe Middle School (hereafter CSRMS).

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at the end of their enrollment. Graduate and honorary members have no vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Citizenship and Character.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be in seventh grade.
- 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 CSRMS.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have All A's, have all S's in conduct and have no ISS or OSS infractions. This scholastic level of achievement shall be the minimum scholastic level of achievement for admissions to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to *candidacy* for the selection to membership at the beginning of the school year.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance and academic standard requirements, candidates shall then be *considered* based on their service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of the members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of at least five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2. Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit a Candidate Form for further consideration for selection.
- c. The Faculty Council shall review the Candidate Form in order to determine membership.

Section 3. The selection of new, active members shall be held once a year during the first semester of the school year, within the first 40 days of school.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at special ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the principal or adviser.

Section 6. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be *automatically* accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship or service may be dismissed from the CSRMS Chapter of the NJHS. A member of the NJHS is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to her/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's academic grades fall below 3.8 GPA, he/she will be given a written warning and a time period of one academic quarter for improvement. If the grades remain below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council including dismissal.

Section 3. Violation of the law or school regulations will result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to 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 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member will be dismissed.

Section 5. Any member who fails to attend any of the five yearly meetings will be dismissed. Students with dual commitments, such as a sport or other club membership must make NJHS meetings a priority. Exceptions to the missed meeting rule apply when a member has an excused absence from school or proof of doctor's appointment.

Section 6. Any member who fails to pay his/her annual dues by the December meeting of the school year will be dismissed.

Section 7. Any member who fails to submit his/her proof of volunteer hours by the December and May meetings of the school year will be dismissed.

Section 8. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser/Faculty Council. The member and the adviser may discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules of the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).

- b. The member will be given the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or in writing. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
 - c. The results of the Faculty Council will be reviewed by the principal, and then if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents 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/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in NJHS.
- Section 6. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate including permanent suspension for 8th graders, and up to a full year suspension for 7th graders.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

- Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.
- 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 meetings of 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 the meeting and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

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 a 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: MEETINGS

- Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be held five times per year, in October, December, January, March and May.
- Section 2. This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.
- Section 3. All members are expected to attend all five chapter meetings.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

- Section 1. Members shall complete a minimum of 10 volunteer service hours per *semester*.
- Section 2. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year which members can use toward their 10 semester hours.
- Section 3: Service 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, 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 or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to chapter projects.
- Section 5: The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE IX: DUES

Section 1: Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$15.

Section 2: Dues will be payable to CSRMS no later than the December meeting of the school year.

ARTICLE X: POWERS

Section 1: The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of the chapter activities, as delegated by the building principal.

Section 2: The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3: The bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the National Constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the National Constitution in all activities it undertakes.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter, provided notice of proposed amendments has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2. Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the NJHS.

Date: January 2007