

# **National Junior Honor Society Shakopee East and West Junior High Schools**



## **Information for NJHS Candidates**

All seventh and eighth grade students who have achieved the minimum GPA requirement of 3.75 or higher are invited to apply for NJHS membership. The selection process consists of five parts, correlating with the five pillars of the national and Shakopee Junior High organizations including Scholarship, Leadership, Character, Citizenship, and Service. All five parts are equally examined to determine if a candidate should be inducted into the Shakopee Junior High Chapter of NJHS.

### **Scholarship**

As a Shakopee Junior High School NJHS candidate, you must meet the minimum GPA criteria (3.75), however, a high GPA means little to the NJHS Faculty Council if you are not also an active, positive influence in the classroom. In the review process, the Faculty Council respects the student who develops interests in a variety of endeavors, including the fine and performing arts, physical education, technology, and so forth. Continuation of your positive classroom influence and demonstration of excellent scholarship are qualities that must be maintained for membership in NJHS.

### **Leadership**

NJHS candidates should demonstrate experience in leadership. While leadership can be defined as the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations, it can also include leadership roles within the classroom and other school activities such as athletic team captains, section leaders in band or chorus, and participation in student activities like Student Council. Leadership in activities outside of school (4-H, church, camps, etc.) are also excellent examples of experiences the Faculty Council recognizes and admires. A not-so-useful example of leadership is babysitting, membership in Boy or Girl Scouts without a leadership role, or participation on a sports team without a leadership role.

### **Character and Citizenship**

A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. In the school environment, your character and citizenship are demonstrated daily by the way you carry yourself in the classroom - the behaviors you do or don't do, the way you interact with those around you, the respect you show teachers and peers, and how you handle both positive and negative situations. Some good examples of character and citizenship include a time when you did the right thing even when it was the unpopular thing to do, a time when you went beyond what was expected

without expectation of reward or recognition, or a time when you were strong when it would have been easier to be weak. Examples of not-so-good character include allowing someone to copy your paper or assignment, sharing test questions with other students, or excessive unexcused tardies or absences.

### **Service**

Service is considered to be actions done for others in our school or community without any financial or material compensation. As a candidate for membership, you should have a previously demonstrated interest in service. NJHS membership will provide further service opportunities. Some good examples of service include volunteering in most any capacity, tutoring other students, visiting nursing homes, working in soup kitchens, or in some way giving back to an organization. Some not-so-good examples of service include any work you did for hire, regular household chores, babysitting, or self-serving projects.

### **The Faculty Council and The Selection Process**

The Faculty Council is made up of five staff members from different departments throughout the school who have high standards for excellence. This group reviews candidate information packets and gives the final recommendation of a candidate for induction. During the review process, the Faculty Council works to recognize not only a student's GPA, but also all five pillars of NJHS. Shortly after the packets are due, the Faculty Council meets to discuss the qualifications and standards that indicate a strong candidate. Candidate information packets are sorted by grade. Faculty council members read through each packet, scoring each of the four areas according to the scale below and then adding them for a total score.

- Scholarship  
Not scored – already assessed via 3.75 GPA requirement  
4=highly qualified; multiple strong positive factors including excellent scholarship, a variety of course selections, a positive influence in the classroom  
3=well qualified; typical strong positive factors  
2=possibly qualified; few positive scholarship factors  
1=not qualified; negative scholarship factors
- Leadership  
4=highly qualified; multiple clearly documented leadership experiences/characteristics  
3=well qualified; typical documented leadership experiences/characteristics  
2=possibly qualified; few documented leadership experiences/characteristics  
1=not qualified; little or no documented leadership experiences/characteristics

- Character and Citizenship
  - 4=highly qualified; much demonstrated evidence of strong character and citizenship
  - 3=well qualified; good demonstrated evidence of strong character and citizenship
  - 2= possibly qualified; little demonstrated evidence of strong character and citizenship
  - 1=not qualified; virtually no evidence of strong character and citizenship
  
- Service
  - 4=highly qualified; multiple clearly documented experiences
  - 3=well qualified; typical documented service experiences
  - 2= possibly qualified; lacks multiple demonstrated service experiences
  - 1=not qualified; little or no service experiences

The Faculty Council works very hard to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Throughout all meetings, the group discusses the scoring process and standards to help ensure a fair outcome. No one outside the Faculty Council is allowed to see packets or scores, including candidates or parents. There are no quotas for either number or percentage of candidates that are recommended for induction. The Faculty Council's mindset is to review the information packets searching for reasons to recommend a student. The list of those candidates the Faculty Council recommends for induction is given to the school's administrative team. They check the list to make sure that each candidate is a citizen in good standing. Students are then notified of their recommendation status via personal letter. If a student is not recommended for induction, the Faculty Council encourages the candidate to continue to develop themselves in the four areas of NJHS and to become a candidate again in the future.

Congratulations on your high level of achievement! The entire Shakopee Junior High faculty supports you in your continued successes and thanks you and your family for your support of the NJHS candidacy process.

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