

\*\*\*\*\*

# VERMILLION HIGH SCHOOL

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

### BY-LAWS

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Article I: NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the National Honor Society of Vermillion High School.

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 Vermillion High School.

#### **Article II: 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 chapter adviser, who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3: The principal shall be a part of the local school district appeal process for the non-selection or dismissal cases.

#### **Article III: CHAPTER ADVISER**

Section 1: The chapter adviser shall be responsible for the direct, day to day supervision of the chapter and act as a 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 activity 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 chapter members understand and carry out their duties.

**Article IV: FACULTY COUNCIL**

Section 1: The faculty council shall consist of 5 voting members appointed annually by the principal or chapter adviser. 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: Faculty council members shall serve on a rotation schedule with no fewer than 1 and no more than 2 members rotating each year.

Section 4: The chapter adviser shall be an ex-officio, non-voting sixth member of the faculty council.

Section 5: The faculty council shall meet at least once each year to select new members and to consider dismissal, non-selection, and warning cases.

**Article V: MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1: Membership in the National Honor Society of Vermillion High School is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a faculty council, and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have a responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2: Membership shall be known as active and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3: The faculty council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NHS advisers, or other adults in recognition of outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purpose of the National Honor Society of Vermillion.

Section 4: Candidates become members upon receipt of the membership certificate and recognition at the annual National Honor Society Induction Tea or other similar event.

Section 5: Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to be nominated by their chapters to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship program.

Section 6: A National Honor Society member who transfers to Vermillion High School who brings a letter from his/her former principal or chapter shall be accepted automatically as a member in the VHS chapter. Transfer members must meet the Vermillion High School Honor Society standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 7: Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

#### **Article VI: SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

Section 1: To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of the junior or senior class. Candidates must have been in attendance at the Vermillion High School the equivalent of 1 semester. Exceptions to the 1 semester attendance requirement for transfer students may be made by the faculty council based on a recommendation form from the previous principal, prior to the candidates' selection.

Section 2: Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of 3.5 on a 4.0 grading scale. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character. The faculty council may use a guide (see Appendix A) to help in this evaluation.

Section 3: The final selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council.

Section 4: The description of the selection procedure and criteria shall be published in an official school publication no later than the end of Semester 1 each school year.

Section 5: A candidate not approved for membership that wants to appeal the decision must follow the rules as provided in Appendix C.

#### **Article VII: DISMISSAL**

Section 1: Members who fall below the standards which were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser, and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. In the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws and criminal laws a warning does not have to be issued.

Section 2: The faculty council shall determine when a member has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

Section 3: In the case of impending dismissal, a member shall have the right to a hearing before the faculty council.

Section 4: A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the faculty council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district (see Appendix B).

## **APPENDIX A**

### National Honor Society Membership Selection Guide and Scoring Procedure

#### SCHOLARSHIP

20 points for a 3.5 GPA or better

5 points for an Honors Program student

Points of 0, 1, 3, or 5 will be awarded for each letter in the following three categories:

#### Category 1 – LEADERSHIP

A. Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities and contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.

B. Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals.

C. Exemplifies positive attitudes, inspires positive behavior in others.

D. Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducting business efficiently and effectively, demonstrating reliability and dependability.

E. Demonstrates leadership in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities.

#### Category 2 – SERVICE

A. Participates in some outside activity, such as: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer services, service organizations.

B. Volunteers dependable, well-organized assistance, does committee and staff work uncomplainingly, is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance.

C. Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities.

D. Represents the school or class in inter-class or inter-scholastic activities and competitions.

E. Assists visitors, teachers, support personnel, and students both in and out of school.

#### Category 3 – CHARACTER

A. Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.

B. Upholds principles of morality and ethics, demonstrates high standards of honesty, reliability, and integrity, and consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior.

C. Shows concern, courtesy, and respect for others.

D. Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls classrooms, etc.

E. Observes instructions and rules, manifests truthfulness in acknowledging

obedience to rules, avoids cheating, demonstrates unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others.

A minimum total of 85 points is suggested for membership approval. The final decision of approval of each candidate for membership into the National Honor Society is by majority vote of the faculty council.

## **APPENDIX B**

### Dismissal Appeal Process

Following a dismissal hearing before the faculty council, a member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the faculty council through the following procedure:

- Step 1: The dismissed member may request and be granted an appeal hearing before the principal. The request for the hearing must be in writing.
- Step 2: Should the decision of the principal be unsatisfactory to the dismissed member, the dismissed member may request and be granted an appeal hearing before the superintendent. The hearing request must be in writing.
- Step 3: Should the decision of the superintendent be unsatisfactory to the dismissed member, the dismissed member may request and be granted an appeal hearing before the Board of Education. The hearing request must be made in writing. The decision of the Board of Education is final.

## **APPENDIX C**

### Non-selection: Appeal/Feedback

Appeal for non-selection to membership is limited strictly to technical error in the selection process. Technical error would include, but not be limited to, inadvertent omission of a student name from the candidate list, erroneous averaging of grades, etc. Students wishing to appeal non-selection on technical grounds shall do so to the principal.

Students not selected to membership as a result of the selection process itself may not appeal that decision.

Students not selected to membership who wish to see the result of the selection process may contact the chapter adviser. The chapter adviser may provide the following:

#### A. The Selection Guide and Scoring Procedure

Vermillion High School counselors shall be available to students who are concerned about non-selection to membership. Specific category rating, individual criteria scores, or faculty voting tally will not be made available to the student.