

**National Honor Society
Martin Luther High School Chapter
Bylaws**

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 - - The name of this chapter shall be the National Honor Society (NHS) of Martin Luther High School.

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 to encourage the development of character in students of Martin Luther High School.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - - Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no voice and 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, and character.

Section 3 - - Eligibility:

a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the junior and senior classes.

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 Martin Luther High School and be able to maintain membership for one school year.

c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 (out of 4.0). This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standards may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership during their junior year or the first semester of their senior year.

d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1 - - The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, 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. Faculty members shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the Faculty Assessment of NHS Candidates' character form provided by the chapter adviser.

c. Students who are eligible scholastically (candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the NHS Candidacy Information Profile, NHS Documentation of Leadership forms, and Documentation of Service forms.

d. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 3 - - The selection of new active members shall be held twice each year for junior candidates (at the beginning of each semester) and once each year for senior candidates (at the beginning of the fall semester).

Section 4 - - Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony held once each year in the fall. Junior candidates selected in the spring semester will be inducted the following fall.

Section 5 - - Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 6 - - An active member of the NHS who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the principal or chapter adviser.

Section 7 - - An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter with proper documentation of membership from his or her former school. 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 or her membership.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

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

Section 2 - - If a member's cumulative GPA falls below 3.3, he or she will be given a written warning and will have one semester to raise his/her GPA back to 3.3. If the cumulative GPA remains below 3.3 at the end of that semester, the student will be dismissed from the chapter. Seniors whose cumulative GPA falls below a 3.3 at the end of the first semester will be dismissed from NHS unless their cumulative GPA is brought up to at least a 3.3 by graduation. This means that honor chords will not be worn at graduation nor will the NHS emblem appear on the diploma.

Section 3 - - If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations (see Article VII & VIII of this document) of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4 - - Violation of school regulations or the law can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to:

- a. DWI
- b. stealing
- c. destruction of property
- d. cheating
- e. truancy
- f. possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities

Section 5 - - Students who break school rules, codes, and/or policies (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, student, or parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member will be considered for dismissal.

Section 6 - - In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or 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 respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. 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 principal and afterwards to the superintendent of the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 7 - - In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE V: OFFICES

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. The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter.

Section 4 - - It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for 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 meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

Section 7 - - The treasurer shall keep the record of expenses and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

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 general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter.

Section 3 - - 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 determined by the Advisor and will be published prior to the beginning of the school year.

Section 2 - - This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3 - - All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings unless excused by the chapter Advisor. Absences and consequences will be initiated by the Advisor and acted upon by the Faculty Council.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1 - - The chapter shall determine service projects or sanctioned events for each year .

Section 2 - - All members shall participate in three of these projects each year to maintain membership.

Section 3 - - These projects shall have the following characteristics:

- a. Fulfill a need within the school or community.
- b. Have the support of the administration and the faculty.
- c. Be appropriate and educationally defensible,
- d. And be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4 - - A minimum of fifty service hours must be completed each year in order to maintain membership.

ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM

Section 1 - - Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2 - - Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 3 - - Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of having the NHS emblem affixed to their diploma and wearing the NHS honor cords at graduation.

ARTICLE X: POWERS

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

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

Section 3 - - These 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 - - The Faculty Council may amend the bylaws by a majority vote. These bylaws may also be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment 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 solely by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2 - - Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society. Additional articles can be added as needed.