

# **Chapter Bylaws of the National Honor Society Brother Rice High School Bloomfield Hills, Michigan**

## **Article I: Statement of the Name of the Organization**

The name of this chapter shall be the Brother Rice High School Chapter of the National Honor Societies of Secondary Schools, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council of the National Honor Society, duly signed by the members of the National Council.

## **Article II: The General Purpose of the Group**

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, to encourage the development of character, and to recognize students who have achieved these goals at Brother Rice High School.

## **Article III: Membership**

### **Section 1**

Membership in this chapter shall be based upon excellence in scholarship, admirable character, a commitment to service, and positive leadership.

### **Section 2**

Candidates shall have attended and completed at least one semester at Brother Rice High School prior to becoming a candidate and shall be members of the junior or senior class; freshmen and sophomores are not eligible. Candidates eligible for admission to the chapter must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50, without rounding.

### **Section 3**

Membership shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs. Honorary membership offers the privileges of membership without the obligations associated with active member status.

#### Section 4

The Faculty Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to students with disabilities or foreign exchange students in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of the National Honor Society. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

#### Section 5

An NHS member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter advisor shall be automatically accepted for membership. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership. The Faculty Council will review transfer cases and determine final membership status.

#### Section 6

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

### **Article IV: Faculty Council**

#### Section 1

The Faculty Council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officer, non-voting, additional member(s) of the Faculty Council. No principal, assistant principal, or counselor may be included on the Faculty Council.

#### Section 2

The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to select members and to consider non-selection. Special meetings shall be called for appeals, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases if needed.

#### Section 3

The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

## **Article V: Selection of Members**

### Section 1

The selection of members of this chapter of the National Honor Society shall be by the following process:

#### Step 1

A fall selection will be utilized in this chapter.

#### Step 2

All juniors and seniors are eligible to be considered for admission if (a) they have a cumulative grade point average of a minimum of a 3.50, unrounded, at the conclusion of their sophomore or junior year and (b) have completed their application and turn in all required paperwork by the given deadline. Juniors not selected for membership will have an opportunity to reapply if they continue to meet the eligibility requirements.

#### Step 3

Students applying to join the National Honors Society are required to attend one of the NHS informational meetings sponsored by the NHS Officers. These meetings will cover the pillars of NHS and go over the responsibilities as a member.

#### Step 4

The Faculty Council will make the final determination of whether or not a candidate is granted membership. The Faculty Council will consider the high standards of National Honor Society as set forth in the National Honor Society Handbook in reaching their final decision as to a candidate's admission. With respect to character, the Faculty Council shall consider the positive, as well as the negative, aspects of character and shall use the Honor Society's multifaceted definition of character known as the Six Pillars of Character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship). The Faculty Council shall consider those factors endorsed by the National Council, including "an outstanding record of conduct and behavior with regard to school and community rules, guidelines, and policies or be able to demonstrate sufficient growth and improvement to compensate for previous inadequacies." Leadership is also highly important for membership selection. The Faculty Council may consider the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations, as well as other activities including athletics, band, orchestra, choir, student groups, and classroom activities. Leadership can also be demonstrated through leadership in the classroom, dependability, inspiring positive behavior in others, resourcefulness, and exercising positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit.

### Step 5

During the interview process with the Officer and Faculty councils, a requirement of a minimum of three of the four pillars of National Honors Society must be exemplified in the student for eligibility into the NHS.

### Step 6

Students are notified of admission or non-admission by a letter sent to their school email.

### Step 7

New members are formally admitted during an induction ceremony.

### Section 2

Any applicant who is denied admission is entitled to appeal the decision. A request for an appeal must be submitted in writing, with an explanation of why they should be in NHS, and received by the Principal within five school calendar days after notification of non-admission. If necessary, a meeting may be called by the Principal to determine the student's acceptance into the chapter, at which meeting, the student (not parent) will meet with the Principal. The Principal's decision is final.

## **Article VI: Chapter Meetings**

### Section 1

This chapter of the National Honor Society will meet frequently. Members shall arrive on time and attend the meetings in their entirety. The elected officers of the chapter will run the meetings with agenda approval by the Faculty Advisor.

### Section 2

Special meetings approved by the officers may be called by the chapter president, advisor, or other designated student leader (committee chairperson). Attendance at these meetings is also expected as part of your obligation to the chapter.

## **Article VII: Selection and Responsibilities of Officers**

### Section 1

The officers of this chapter shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Available for senior members of National Honor Society.

### Section 2

A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. Run-off elections may be held in the event no officer receives a majority of the votes.

### Section 3

It shall be the duty of the president to formulate an agenda and facilitate the meetings of this chapter and suggest and arrange club community service activities subject to Faculty Advisor approval.

### Section 4

The vice president shall supervise and coordinate the subcommittees of this chapter. He shall take the place of the president in his absence.

### Section 5

The chapter secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings, attendance, and a record of all business including service hours for each member. It is the secretary's responsibility to immediately notify the president and/or Faculty Advisor if any member does not meet the requirements of maintained membership.

#### Section 6

The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the chapter and shall keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements in accordance with school regulations. The treasurer is also responsible for overseeing chapter fundraising activities.

#### Section 7

Officers are subject to all of the requirements of membership to this chapter of NHS. If an officer fails to meet any of his/her responsibilities, the NHS Faculty Advisor has full authority to ask them to step down from their position.

#### Section 8

If a vacancy shall occur in one of the offices, the NHS Faculty Advisor shall have full authority to appoint a replacement from the existing membership if deemed necessary.

### **Article VIII: Requirements of Active Membership**

#### Section 1

No fees are associated with membership.

#### Section 2

Members shall maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 or better, evaluated at the conclusion of each academic quarter.

#### Section 3

Members shall complete 5 hours of chapter-approved service activities each semester of their active membership.

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#### Section 4

Members shall maintain admirable character and leadership while a member of the National Honor Society both in and out of school. Suspensions, violations of the school Code of Conduct, Brother Rice Co-curricular Code of Conduct, and violations of state or local laws may be grounds for dismissal.

#### Section 5

Members shall attend 80% of scheduled meetings, in their entirety.

#### Section 6

Members shall participate in any building and district programs involving the National Honor Society. (mentoring, induction ceremonies, etc.)

### **Article IX: Discipline Action and Dismissal**

#### Section 1

Members who fall below the standards, which were the basis for admission, will be notified by the NHS Advisor that they no longer meet the requirements of active membership and will be dismissed from the National Honor Society.

#### Section 2

A member who has been notified of impending dismissal has the right to appeal the decision to the Faculty Council. The appeal must be submitted in writing with an explanation to the NHS Advisor within three calendar days of notification of the dismissal.

#### Section 3

In all cases of impending dismissal appeals, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council.

#### Section 4

For purpose of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required.

## **Article X: Supervision**

### Section 1

The activities of this chapter will be subject to the approval of the Principal and Faculty Council.

### Section 2

There shall be an NHS Advisor(s), approved by the Principal.

## **Article XI: Amendments**

Brother Rice High School reserves the right to amend the bylaws with approval of the Faculty Council.