

National Honor Society By-laws Conestoga Christian School



Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the CCS Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2. The object 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 CCS.

Article II: Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members have no vote.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of outstanding scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 3. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate shall have been in attendance for a period of at least two trimesters at CCS.

Section 4. Candidates for election to this chapter must be members of the junior or senior class. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.700 (out of 4.000) and a course load that demonstrates academic excellence. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. Invitation to apply will be determined by majority vote of the Faculty Council based on demonstration of good character. Candidates' eligibility shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character, both in and outside of school.

Article III: Selection of Members

Section 1. The final selection of members to this chapter shall be by majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the Head of School. The chapter advisor shall be the sixth, non-voting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council.

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

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. The Faculty Council shall discuss the character of students who meet the scholastic requirements. Invitation to apply will be extended to all candidates who receive a majority vote from the Faculty Council.

- c. Candidates nominated by the Faculty Council shall be notified and invited to complete the Student Activity Form for further consideration for selection.
- d. The faculty shall be requested to comment on candidates who submit the Student Activity Form. Candidates must receive recommendations from 80% of the major-subject teachers to be eligible for acceptance into the NHS.
- e. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Forms and faculty recommendations.

Article IV: Dismissal

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be dismissed from the CCS chapter of the National Honor Society.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (3.700), he/she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below the standard at the end of the allotted time period the student will be dismissed from the chapter.

Section 3. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain an active role in service to his/her school and community. Any member who fails to complete either an individual or group service project by the end of the current school year may be dismissed.

Section 4. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to demonstrate leadership at school and in his/her community. This may include, but is not limited to, initiating appropriate discussions in the classroom, mentoring younger students, making announcements in chapel or at other schoolwide events, speaking up about doing what is right, and leading the student body in prayer. Any member who is not taking initiative in leadership may be given a time period and specific instructions for improvement. If improvement has not been shown by the end of the time period, the student may be dismissed from the chapter.

Section 5. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, excessive absences or 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 may be dismissed.

Section 6. Violation of criminal law or school regulations may result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, DUI; theft; destruction of property; cheating; bullying; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Suspension from school may result in dismissal of a member. Expulsion from school will result in immediate dismissal from the National Honor Society.

Section 7. In the case of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification of the reason for possible dismissal from the advisor/Faculty Council. The member and advisor will discuss the written notification in a conference.
- b. The member will be offered a hearing with the Faculty Council prior to dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss.
- c. A letter of dismissal will be sent to the Head of School, high school principal, student, and parents if the student is dismissed. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the advisor.
- d. The member may appeal the Faculty Council's decision to the Head of School.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 8. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

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 first meeting of each school year. All returning members are eligible to run for a position as an officer.

Section 3. A majority vote by NHS members 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 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 shall be responsible for correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer shall be responsible for handling money collected from members or raised through fundraisers.

Article VI: Executive Committee

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the faculty advisor and the chapter officers.

Section 2. The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to review of the chapter members.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be at least once per trimester and as needed.

Section 2. The advisor or executive committee will call meetings.

Section 3. This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VIII: Activities

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3. These 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. In addition to a chapter project in which all members participate, each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project comprised of at least 8 hours that reflects his/her particular talents and interests and is approved by the chapter advisor. These service hours are separate from the hours required for the missions and service program but may be included in the hours needed for special recognition at graduation.

Section 5. The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

Article IX: Emblem

Section 1. Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem of National Honor Society.

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

Article X: Amendments

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 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, which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the Head of School.

Section 2. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.