

National Honor Society 2017/2018

Marymount International School, Rome
Romarian Chapter of the National Honor Society

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Selection to NHS is a privilege, not a right. Students may not apply for membership in the National Honor Society; instead, they provide information to be used by the Faculty Council to support their candidacy for membership.

Membership is granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council at our school. This is not an election, nor is membership automatically granted simply because a student has achieved a specified level of academic excellence. The NHS is more than just an honor roll and the extent to which our local chapter emphasizes the other components of the selection process (leadership, service, and character) are carefully included and assessed in the selection process.

The selection process is public information, available to parents, students, and faculty upon request. Proper dissemination of information about the chapter, particularly details concerning the selection process used at the school, will help prevent problems with faculty, students or parents who may wish to question the process.

Selection for membership to the chapter is always by a majority vote of the Faculty Council, (3 out of 5) however, the council members may obtain information to assist them in making their decision.

A common vote by the general faculty is never permitted for the basis of selection of a member to the National Honor Society.

Prerequisite Conditions for Selection

1. According to the Constitution, only those students who have attended the school for the equivalent of one semester may be considered for membership. This period is necessary for students to establish themselves and for the faculty to get to know them.
2. Membership is open to qualified sophomores, juniors and seniors.

3. Academic requirements must be the same for all candidates in all classes. All candidates must have a **cumulative Marymount GPA of 3.5 or higher**.
4. There is no specific quota or percentage of NHS membership per class. Those students who meet the criteria are inducted regardless of the number. If it is necessary to limit chapter size, the academic requirement for all candidates may be raised.

The Criteria

The Faculty Council of the chapter selects students who demonstrate outstanding performance in all four criteria of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The Chapter Advisor firstly identifies all students with the prerequisite GPA. The faculty is then surveyed and faculty members may evaluate those candidates who meet the academic requirement based on the student's performance in the areas of leadership, service, and character.

While the academic criterion is important and should be considered first and foremost, membership should never be considered on the basis of grades alone, even though our Faculty Council may consider scholarship as the most important of the four criteria.

In evaluating potential members in the areas of leadership, service, and character, the Faculty Council selection procedure begins with a review of the definitions of the following criteria. These definitions should also appear in the public description of the selection process.

Scholarship

The scholarship requirement is based on a student's cumulative grade point average. The minimum GPA acceptable at the Marymount International School of Rome's *Romarian* Chapter of the NHS is a 3.5. All students who meet this requirement are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. Although the Faculty Councils may wish to interpret leadership in terms of the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations, it is important to recognize that leadership also exists outside elected positions including effective participation in other co-curricular activities offered on campus. Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified. The student's cultural background is also taken into consideration when evaluating this criterion.

The student who exercises leadership: sets a good example; is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions; demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities; exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school

rules and ideals; contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school; is able to delegate responsibilities; exemplifies positive attitudes; inspires positive behavior in others; demonstrates academic initiative; successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability; is a leader in the classroom, at work, and in other school or community activities; is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted; and is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.

Service

Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service. In considering service, the contributions that the candidate has made to school, classmates, and community, as well as the student's attitude toward service can be reviewed.

The student who serves: volunteers and provides dependable and well organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance; works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities; cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school; is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition; does committee and staff work without complaint; participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer service for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged; mentors persons in the community or students at other schools; and shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students. Candidates will need at least 10 hours of community service to be considered for membership.

Character

Character is probably the most difficult criterion to define. The Faculty Council should consider the positive as well as the negative aspects of student's character. All judgments in this and other selection criteria should be free of speculation and rumor.

The National Honor Society is a member of the *Character Counts! Coalition*. Through this activity, the society supports and recommends the use of a multi-faceted definition of character known as the "Six Pillars of Character." A student of character demonstrates the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

In addition, it can also be said that the student of character: takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously; consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability); upholds principles of morality and ethics; cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office halls, etc.; demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability; regularly

shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others; observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and faithful both inside and outside the classroom; has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies; manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others; and actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

Student Activity Information Forms

In order to ascertain the degree to which a student candidate meets the selection criteria, the Faculty Council will utilize a Student Activity Information Form. This form will help the Faculty Council to obtain information directly from the students regarding leadership and service activities and to elaborate on the student's perspectives concerning the honor society and its values.

This form should not be considered under any circumstances as an application for membership. The form exists only to support the student's candidacy by providing relevant information for use by the Faculty Council alone.

Faculty Evaluation Forms

A faculty evaluation form or survey-form supplied by the Chapter Advisor may be used to support the strength of a student's candidacy in the areas of service, leadership, and character.

A faculty member, staff member or administrator may also write an independent letter in support of a prospective student's candidacy. A similar letter may also be written to object to the suitability of a candidate's membership. In the event of a letter of complaint against a prospective member's candidacy it is always important to verify the reasons for such a complaint, avoiding "speculation and rumor." All data contained therein should be based on verifiable evidence and/or moral certitude.

Any evaluations by the faculty members, staff or administration may be brought to the attention of the Faculty Council with information not otherwise represented on the information forms provided by the students. Upon reviewing the evaluations, and verifying their accuracy, the Faculty Council is still required to undertake a vote on each candidate, selecting each student who receives a majority vote.

All evaluations, surveys or letters must be signed, and each evaluator must be prepared to support information with substantiating data based on sound professional judgment and action.

The Chapter Adviser serves as the liaison between the Faculty Council and the faculty and any other evaluators, and may conduct informal interviews with those persons who provide any evaluations or ratings.

Faculty evaluations are considered working documents to assist the Faculty Council in making sound decisions regarding membership. Such evaluations are expected to be used only by the Faculty Council, the adviser, and the principal. These documents are to be considered confidential and will not become part of the student's official school file.

Notification of Inductees

Those students selected will be notified by the chapter adviser or principal. Students not selected will also be informed.

- **Compiled by Ms. Marta Guglielmi**
- **Approved by Faculty Council**
- **Approved by High School Principal**
- **Modified to reflect clarity, 2017 by Ms. Diana Valentini, NHS Advisor**