

Chapter Bylaws of the Daniel Distasio Chapter of the Greater Nanticoke Area National Honor Society

Last Updated: June 6, 2023

Article I: Name

The name of this chapter shall be the Daniel Distasio Chapter of the National Honor Society of Greater Nanticoke Area High School.

Article II: Purpose

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 of students of the Greater Nanticoke Area High School.

Article III: Powers

Section 1. This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the NHS National Constitution.

Section 2. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 3. Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 4. Our chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1. 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 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Honorary members are selected at the discretion of the faculty council. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be full time members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class that are taking and completed 1 honors course or AP course.
- b. Students will be eligible for selection after completion of the first semester of the sophomore year at Greater Nanticoke Area High School.
- c. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must be enrolled for a period of one semester at Greater Nanticoke Area High School and meet the attendance policy requirements as stated in the school handbook.
- d. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative unrounded grade point average of 94.000. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
- e. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character. Candidates who become eligible for membership during their senior year must earn ten (10) hours of community service before graduation.

Article V: 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. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the candidate information form for further consideration for selection.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The faculty council shall review the candidate information forms, faculty input, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 3. The selection of new, active members shall be held once a year after the third marking period has concluded.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership signed by the principal and adviser.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter with a signed letter from the previous school indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the principal or adviser. 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/her membership.

Section 7: Should it be judged that a student does not meet all of the selection criteria, the faculty council may consider bestowing honorary membership upon a student.

Article VI: Obligations of Members

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$10.00. Senior inductees are responsible for payment of dues upon induction.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be granted the privilege to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall surrender the privilege of wearing the emblem to the chapter.

Section 4. Active chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords at graduation.

Section 5. Attendance is required at the Induction Ceremony each year to be a member and receive the NHS tassel and cords for graduation.

Article VII: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected in the last semester of the school year. All returning active members in good standing are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office. Rising juniors are eligible to run for vice-president. Rising seniors are eligible to run for president, secretary, and treasurer. If there are no rising senior candidates for a given office, a rising junior may run for the office in question.

Section 3. All active members in good standing of the chapter are eligible to vote by secret ballot. Voting may not be done by proxy. 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.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

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 and attendance records of meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

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

Section 8: The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser(s) and the chapter officers. 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 the review of the chapter members.

Article VIII: Meetings

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be held monthly. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser.

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

Section 3. Members are expected to attend all regularly-scheduled chapter meetings.

Article IX: 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 with a minimum service requirement of 30 hours per year to maintain membership. Effective during the 2022-2023 school year and beyond, a minimum of fifteen (15) hours are due by the last day of the second marking period, and an additional minimum of fifteen (15) hours are due by the last school day in April. If a member fails to attain this requirement, a warning letter will be issued. Failure to reach this house requirement may result in dismissal.

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. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects their particular talents and interests and is approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute

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

Article X: Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be dismissed from the Daniel Distasio Chapter of the National Honor Society. Members of the National Honor Society are expected to maintain their academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to their school and community.

Section 2. Members whose cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when they were selected will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council that can include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, DWI; stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (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 or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 5. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 6. In all cases of pending dismissal:

A. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser/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.

B. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against them at a hearing before the faculty council prior to the vote on dismissal (in accordance with

due process identified in Article X of the NHS National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present their defense either in person or via a written statement in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, the faculty council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of 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 result of the faculty council vote 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 building principal according to provisions of the school district discipline policy.

E. When students are dismissed or resign, they are no longer members and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society. If the student is dismissed or resigns, the student will sign the Resignation Form and it will be kept on file until after graduation.

Section 7. In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Article XI: Ratification, Approval, and Review

Section 1. These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council and approval by the administration.

Section 2. These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

Section 3. The executive board may propose an addition or amendment to the bylaws in writing to the faculty council.

Article XII: Amendments

Section 1. Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.

Approved on June 6, 2023

Signatures:

Niko Butzypinski

Chapter President

Amy L. Sebek

Principal

Karen Gray

Co-Adviser

Barbara Warman

Co-Adviser

