

National Honor Society

Procedures for Membership

Membership in the Haltom High School, Richland High School and Birdville High School Chapters of National Honor Society (NHS) is an honor bestowed upon individual students by the faculty council on behalf of the faculty and administration. Selection is based on four criteria: scholarship, leadership, character and service. Qualified students in residence all of the semester preceding the selection process shall be considered for membership. For more detailed information please see www.nhs.us.

1. Student academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. A list of eligible students shall be posted for one designated week. Students (both juniors and seniors) will be invited to become members of the NHS during the fall.
2. A student must have an accumulative weighted numerical grade average of ninety-two beginning with the ninth grade to be eligible scholastically.
3. Scholastically eligible students may obtain and complete a Student Activity Information Form as the next step in the selection process. All students desiring consideration for membership shall return the information by the designated deadline.
4. All faculty members shall be offered the opportunity to give input on eligible candidates in the areas of service, character and leadership and shall be on a yes/no basis in these areas. The majority vote of the faculty council shall represent the ultimate selection for chapter membership as required by the National Constitution .
5. The five members of the faculty council, appointed by the principal, shall make final selections after Student Activity Information Forms (in #3 above) and the faculty recommendations.
6. Students selected for membership shall be notified by written invitation.
7. Students who question their non-selection shall request and receive an opportunity to present their opinions to a committee consisting of the principal, advisor and five member faculty council and may be accompanied by their parent(s).

Philosophy for Selection/Non-Selection of Members

The philosophy for the selection/non-selection of members to the NHS in the high schools of BISD has been guided by the standards for selection/non-selection set forth in the NHS Handbook. The following are excerpts from the Handbook that govern selection/non-selection.

Selection

- Students may not apply for membership in the National Honor Society. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the faculty council in each school.
- Membership should never be considered on the basis of grades alone, even though a faculty council may consider scholarship as the most important of the four criteria.
- In evaluating potential members for leadership, service and character, the faculty council develops working definitions of these criteria. The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. Some faculty councils may wish to interpret leadership in terms of number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations, although it is important to recognize that leadership also exists outside of elected positions. Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified.
- The criterion of service is often defined in terms of value of contributions. Common questions are: What contribution has the candidate made to school, classmates and community? What is the student's attitude toward service? All judgments should be free of hearsay and rumor.

Non-Selection

- Chapters are not obligated, however, to share with parents and students information concerning specific students not selected for membership in the Society. Technical errors might include the inadvertent omission of a student's name from the list of those qualified for induction, the erroneous averaging of grades, or the like.
- The principal must choose five persons in addition to the faculty advisor to serve on the faculty council in whom he/she can place a high degree of trust.
- In the absence of specific evidence to the contrary, however, the principal must assume that the members of the council are exercising their discretion in a legitimate manner and with the good faith expected of them.
- Reconsideration of a faculty council's decision must be a rare occurrence if the council is to be expected to take its assignment seriously. It is important to uphold the integrity of Society standards and to recognize the potential danger of yielding to pressure tactics.