

Instruction

Honor Society

NMHS National Honor Society Selection Procedures:

1. Candidacy for the NMHS National Honor Society is open only to Juniors and Seniors who have attended NMHS for a minimum of one semester. Selection is a privilege, not a right. Students do not "apply" for membership. Instead, they are invited to submit information in support of their candidacy to be reviewed by a five member Faculty Council, representing the Faculty of NMHS.
2. In the Fall of the Junior and/or Senior year, students who have met the cumulative weighted GPA* requirement of 115.00 are invited to submit further information regarding their credentials for leadership, service, and character. This additional student information assists the Faculty Council to ascertain the degree to which a student candidate meets the overall selection criteria. The packets must be completed, signed by both the student and parent, and returned to the advisors by the specified deadline. Note that late or incomplete forms are taken as negative indicators and will have an impact on selection. (*Refer to "Report Cards" for explanation of weighted grading.)
3. Additional input collected from such sources as school records for academics, attendance, guidance, conduct, and administrative or professional teacher records may also be considered. In particular, a list of all scholastically eligible students is sent to members of the faculty and staff who are invited either to recommend or to not recommend the student based upon their knowledge of the student, as well as to elaborate on the strengths and weaknesses of any active student candidates in the areas of service, leadership, and character. If a faculty or staff member does not recommend a student, an explanation must be included. A single instance of non-recommendation will not eliminate the applicant.
4. Upon reviewing each active candidate's credentials, activity information, faculty evaluation, and other factors, the Faculty Council will give individual consideration to and conduct a review of every student in making a final decision.
5. All active candidates will be informed of the decision of the Faculty Council. If not selected, the candidate will be contacted personally by an advisor and will have the opportunity to review the decision. If selected, the candidate is notified usually by a current member of the NMHS Chapter of the National Honor Society. Candidates eventually get written notification from the Principal.

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6. Students wishing to appeal the outcome of the selection process should first meet with the advisors. Should the student still not be satisfied, the next level of discussion should take place with the Principal. If a non-selected student and/or parents wish to appeal the Principal's decision, they should follow the New Milford Public Schools chain of command procedure.
7. Complainants need to keep the following considerations in mind:
 - a. The Faculty Council membership is confidential so as to avoid subjecting the process to inappropriate influence or pressure tactics.
 - b. Decisions reached by the Faculty Council about the relative merits of the substance of a candidate's qualifications ought to be respected for the professional integrity and care which has been given to the process.
 - c. Since professional faculty judgments play a role in the process, there is a necessarily subjective nature to some of the membership requirements. That is why the selection is a group decision made with input from the faculty at large.
 - d. It would be incorrect and a distortion of the purpose to expect the Principal to substitute his or her judgment of a student in place of a group decision. For this reason, appeals to the Principal should be made only if the complainants believe procedural or technical problems have occurred.
 - e. The integrity of the National Honor Society selection standards should be upheld by the local chapter and the local chapter needs to comprehend the wide-ranging effects of being subjected to pressure tactics. The National Council of National Honor Society and the National Association of Secondary School Principals make it clear in their documents that they have no authority to review or overturn the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.