

National Junior Honor Society

Lopatcong Township Middle School



Information for NJHS Candidates

All sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who have achieved the required minimum cumulative average or higher are invited to apply for NJHS membership. The selection process consists of five parts, correlating with the five pillars of the National Junior Honor Society organization including Scholarship, Leadership, Character, Citizenship, and Service. All five parts are equally examined to determine if a candidate should be inducted into the Lopatcong Township Middle School National Junior Honor Society.

Scholarship

As a Lopatcong Township Middle School student, you must meet the minimum cumulative criteria of 90.0%, however a high cumulative average needs to be complimented with being an active, positive influence in the classroom in order to be considered for membership. In the review process, the Faculty Council respects the student who develops interests in a variety of endeavors, including the fine and performing arts, physical education, technology, and so forth. Continuation of your positive classroom influence and demonstration of excellent scholarship are qualities that must be maintained for membership in National Junior Honor Society.

Leadership

National Junior Honor Society candidates should demonstrate experience in leadership. While leadership can be defined as the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations, it can also include leadership roles within the classroom and other activities such as athletic team captains, and participation in student activities like Student Council and Drama Club. Leadership activities outside of school are also excellent examples of experiences the Faculty Council recognizes and admires. Examples that the Faculty Council does not consider leadership activities include babysitting, membership in Boy or Girl Scouts without a leadership role, or participation in a sports team without a leadership role.

Character and Citizenship

A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. In the school environment, your character and citizenship are demonstrated daily by the way you carry yourself in the classroom and other school settings - the behaviors you do or don't do, the way you interact with those around you, the respect you show teachers and peers, and how you handle both positive and negative situations. Some good examples of character and citizenship include a time when you did the right thing even when it was the unpopular thing to do, or a time when you went beyond what was expected without expectation of reward or recognition. Examples of not showing good character include allowing someone to copy your work, sharing test questions with other students, or excessive or unexcused tardies or absences.

Service

Service is considered to be actions done for others in our school and community without any financial or material compensation. As a candidate for membership, you should have a previously demonstrated interest in service. National Junior Honor Society will provide further service opportunities. Some good examples of service include volunteering in most any capacity, tutoring other students, visiting nursing homes, working in soup kitchens, or in some way giving back to an organization. Some not-so-good examples of service include any yard work you did for hire, regular household chores, babysitting, or self-serving projects.

The Faculty Council and the Selection Process

The faculty council is made up of five certified staff members from different departments throughout the school who have high standards for excellence. This group reviews candidate information packets and gives the final recommendation of a candidate for induction. During the review process, the Faculty Council works to recognize not only a student's cumulative grade point average, but also all five pillars of NJHS. Shortly after the packets are due, the Faculty Council meets to discuss the qualifications and standards that indicate a strong candidate. Candidate information packets are sorted by grade. Faculty Council members read through each packet, scoring each of the four areas according to the scale below and then adding them for a total score. In addition to using a rubric, the Faculty Council will take into consideration teacher recommendations, interviews, and other relevant information in helping to determine the most qualified candidates.

- Scholarship
Not scored - already assessed via 90.0% cumulative grade point average requirement

- Leadership
3 = highly qualified; two or more formal leadership positions or awards
2 = well qualified; at least one formal and information leadership position
1 = possibly qualify; at least one informal leadership position within the class/club/team
0 = not qualify; little or no documented leadership experiences/characteristics

- Service
3 = highly qualified; more than two community service activities
2 = well qualified; at least two community service activities
1 = possibly qualified has participated in a community service activity
0 = not qualified; has no community service experience

- Character
3 = highly qualified; has no negative behavior referrals
2 = well qualified; has one negative behavior referral
1 = possibly qualified; has two negative behavior referrals
0 = not qualified; has multiple behavioral referrals

- Citizenship
 - 3 = highly qualified; actively involved in three school activities AND one or more community activities which promote citizenship
 - 2 = well qualified; actively involved in two school activities AND one community organization which promote citizenship
 - 1 = possibly qualified; actively involved in one school activity AND one community organization which promotes citizenship
 - 0 = not qualified; has not participated in both a community and school activity that promotes citizenship

- Personal Statement
 - 3 = highly qualified; statement is thoughtful, succinct, and adds to the overall impression of the student; free of errors and neatly written or typed
 - 2 = well qualified; gives helpful information about the student; there are a few errors but written or typed neatly
 - 1 = possibly qualified; tends to repeat, rather than add additional information or insight; grammatical and/or typographic/written errors
 - 0 = not qualified; does not add to the overall impression of the student; appears hastily put together with multiple errors

The Faculty Council works very hard to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Throughout all meetings, the group discusses the scoring process and standards to help ensure a fair outcome. No one outside the Faculty Council is allowed to see packets or scores, including candidates or parents. There are no quotas for either number or percentage of candidates that are recommended for induction. The Faculty Council's mindset is to review the information packets searching for reasons to recommend a student. The list of those candidates the Faculty Council recommends for induction is given to the NJHS adviser who then reports the final list of inductees to the principal for approval. Students are then notified of their recommendation status via personal letter. If a student is not recommended for induction, the Faculty Council encourages the candidate to continue to develop themselves in the four areas of NJHS and to become a candidate again in the future.

Congratulations on your high level of achievement! The entire Lopatcong Township Middle School community supports you and your continued success, and thanks you and your family for your support of the NJHS candidacy process.

Stacy Conner, Lopatcong Township Middle School NJHS Adviser