

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BYLAWS  
OF THE  
GEORG VON TIESENHAUSEN CHAPTER  
OF  
THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

**ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Georg von Tiesenhausen Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Catholic High School.

Section 3. The NHS shall be under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537.

**ARTICLE II: THE PRINCIPAL**

Section 1. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2. The principal shall annually appoint a member(s) of the faculty as Chapter Adviser(s), who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3. The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 4. The principal shall receive appeals in cases of nonselection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

**ARTICLE III: THE CHAPTER ADVISER(S)**

Section 1. The Chapter Adviser(s) shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

Section 2. The Chapter Adviser(s) shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The Chapter Adviser(s) shall send the annual report to the national office.

Section 3. The Chapter Adviser(s) shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

Section 4. The Chapter Adviser(s) shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

Section 5. The Chapter Adviser(s) shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council.

Section 6. The Chapter Adviser(s) shall be a member of the faculty, appointed annually by the principal, and may serve consecutive terms.

#### **ARTICLE IV: FACULTY COUNCIL**

Section 1. The Faculty Council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The Chapter Adviser(s) shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the Faculty Council. (See commentary on pages 18 and 19 of the 1997 national handbook regarding the functions of the Faculty Council.)

Section 2. The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section 3. The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a semester to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and to consider nonselection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

Section 4. The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, disciplining, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with the national guidelines.

#### **ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2. Membership shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. The Faculty Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NHS advisers, adults, students with disabilities, or foreign

exchange students in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of the National Honor Society. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

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

Section 5. Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to be nominated by their chapters to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship Program.

Section 6. A National Honor Society member who transfers to another school and brings a letter from the former principal or Chapter Adviser to the new school adviser shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 7. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

## **ARTICLE VI: SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

Section 1. To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of the junior or senior class. Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester. (Some candidates may be ineligible for induction because of the semester ruling. Many students, including students of military parents, are required to move with parents or guardians that have transferred in their work. The present school principal should seek a recommendation from the previous school principal pursuant to the candidate's selection. On the basis of the recommendation of the previous principal, the Faculty Council may waive the semester regulation.)

Section 2. Selection of candidates shall be in January of the academic year.

Section 3. The minimum standard for scholarship shall be a cumulative scholastic average of at least 3.75 in all subjects. The average shall be based on five semesters for juniors and seven semesters for seniors. (With regard to the class of 2010 -- juniors at the time of this revision to the by-laws -- the GPA standard will remain at 3.5. All subsequent classes must meet and maintain at least a 3.75 GPA.)

Section 4. The minimum standard for service for students in the junior class shall be completion of 50 percent of required service hours by the first Friday after Christmas break of the junior year and a written plan for completion of 25 percent of required service hours during the spring semester of the junior year. The minimum standard for service for students in the senior class shall be completion of 100 percent of service hours by the first Friday after Christmas break of the senior year.

Section 5. The standards for leadership include successfully holding a school office or a position of responsibility. It is recognized that students can lead by example without holding an office.

The leadership criterion requires that candidates exercise a positive influence on peers in upholding Catholic High School rules and ideals.

Section 6. The standards for character are based on the multi-faceted definition of character known as the “Six Pillars of Character,” which are respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Section 7. The selection procedure shall first identify candidates who meet both the standards for scholarship and service. If these identified candidates also meet the standards in sections 7.1 and 7.2, they shall be considered for membership.

Section 7.1 Candidates shall submit an application to the Chapter Advisor(s) by the first Friday after Christmas break of the year of induction. Applications are available on-line and in the library. Completion of the application does not guarantee membership. Final selection is the responsibility of the Faculty Council.

Section 7.2 After review of disciplinary records, a candidate shall not be nominated for membership if the candidate was assigned any suspension during his/her sophomore, junior, or senior high school years. In the case of a suspension in the freshman year, the Faculty Council shall meet to review the record of this student and vote on his/her membership.

Section 7.3 In the event of non-selection by the Faculty Council, the student can appeal the decision by first meeting with NHS Chapter Advisor(s) to review the process for selection and then submitting an appeal in writing to the principal. After reviewing the case and conferring with the Faculty Council, the principal reserves the right to accept or reject the student’s appeal.

Section 8. A description of the selection procedure shall be published on the Catholic High School web site and in the school library.

## **ARTICLE VII: MAINTAINING MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. To maintain membership, the member shall hold a minimum grade point average of 3.50. (3.75, beginning with 2009 inductees)

Section 2. To maintain membership, the member shall complete 100 percent of the required service hours by the end of the seventh semester.

Section 3. To maintain membership, the member shall adhere to the CHS Handbook and Student Honor Code. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action that may lead to administrative referral and administrative censure and possible dismissal from National Honor Society.

Section 4. To maintain membership, the member shall violate no law.

Section 5. To maintain membership, the member shall not miss more than two meetings. Members shall be excused if absent from school or the Chapter Advisor(s) excuses the absence.

## **ARTICLE VIII: DISMISSAL**

Section 1. Members who fall below the standards that are listed in ARTICLE VII, Sections one through three shall be promptly warned in writing by the Chapter Adviser(s) and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. In cases of incurring any form of suspension or a violation of the law, a member shall be immediately referred to the Faculty Council for impending dismissal.

Section 2. After three warnings, a violation of the law, or a violation of school rules that results in any form of suspension, a member shall be referred to the Faculty Council for impending dismissal.

Section 3. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council. (Ed. Note: This is considered "due process" for all members.)

Section 4. For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required.

Section 5. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

## **ARTICLE IX: CHAPTER OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplain

Section 2. The nomination, selection and installation of officers shall take place no later than the end of the first quarter of an academic year.

Section 3. The duties of the President shall include assisting the Chapter Adviser(s) in leading the meeting and coordinating all service projects.

Section 4. The duties of the Vice-President shall include assisting the President as needed and coordinating a service project to address a need as seen by the Vice-President.

Section 5. The duties of the Secretary shall include taking minutes of each meeting, keeping attendance, and coordinating a service project to address a need as seen by the Secretary.

Section 6. The duties of the Treasurer shall include collecting and maintaining records of membership dues, maintaining a record of money spent on NHS projects, and coordinating a service project to address a need as seen by the Treasurer.

Section 7. The duties of the Chaplain shall include beginning each meeting with a prayer, and coordinating a service project to address a need as seen by the Chaplain.

Section 8. A resigning officer or an officer removed from membership shall be replaced by calling a special meeting of the membership for nomination and election.

## **ARTICLE X: ACTIVITIES**

Section 1. Meetings/service projects shall be held on an as needed basis.

Section 2. The chapter shall conduct three blood drives each year.

Section 3. The officers will each choose and implement one service project each year.

Section 4. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

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

## **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by the Chapter Advisor(s), the Faculty Council, or the Chapter members. After majority approval of the Chapter, the amendment then becomes effective with the approval of the Principal and a majority of the Faculty Council.