

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

PALM VALLEY ACADEMY



By-Laws

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1.

The name of this chapter shall be the Palm Valley Academy Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2.

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership and character, and to encourage citizenship in the students of Palm Valley Academy.

Article II: Powers

Section 1.

This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the NJHS National Constitution.

Section 2.

The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by a school administrator.

Section 3.

Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with a school administrator.

Section 4.

Our chapter of the National Junior Honor Society 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, or disability.

Article III: Membership

Section 1.

Membership is an **honor and a privilege bestowed upon deserving students** by the faculty and shall be based on outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

Section 2.

National Junior Honor Society member who transfers from 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 this chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 3. Eligibility

a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the upcoming eighth grade class and must be in attendance at Palm Valley Academy for a minimum of one semester.

b. Scholastic criterion for eligibility for all members is a minimum of five "A's" and two "B's" in the most recent semester and previous school year.

c. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and grading standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

Article IV. Selection of Members

Section 1.

The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council which consists of five faculty members. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, non-voting member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2.

The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester.

Section 3.

Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. Grading standards are determined to be five "A's" and two "B's" in the most recent semester and previous school year.

b. Student candidates will be required to obtain seven (7) supporting references from faculty members and one (1) reference from a community member (coach, mentor, pastor, etc.) that discusses community service outside the school day.

c. The Faculty Council shall review the Candidate Forms, faculty evaluations, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4.

Candidates become members when notified by email followed by an induction ceremony.

Section 5.

An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Article V. Obligations of Members

Section 1.

Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$20. Dues will be payable to the chapter by the due date of the application. In the event that a student cannot pay the dues for financial hardship, the parent or student should contact the chapter advisor for support. Otherwise, failure to pay membership dues can be a consideration of non-admittance into the chapter.

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 Junior Honor Society.

Section 3.

Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem of the chapter revoked.

Section 4.

Each member of this chapter is required to attend all meetings of this chapter. Monthly (General) meetings will be held before or after school, the dates of which shall be posted in advance. Additional meetings may be called based on need.

Section 5.

In the event a member is unable to attend a general or special meeting, notification of at least one day in advance to the chapter adviser is necessary to excuse the absence. Members must check in with the faculty adviser following the missed meeting. Members who miss a meeting without the absence being excused will be placed on probation until the next meeting date. If the member is again absent without excuse, dismissal from the chapter will be considered.

Section 6.

Each member of this chapter is required to participate in the service projects decided upon by the chapter. **In addition, each member must complete three (3) hours of service on their own, each quarter.**

Section 7.

Each member of this chapter is required to maintain a minimum of six “A’s” and one “B” for all courses each quarter. The exception would be if you are taking a HS honors class. You would then be allowed a 2nd B. Grades must be shown to the adviser within a week of them being available online. Failure to do so will place the member on probation.

Article VI. Officers

Section 1.

The officers for this chapter shall include: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. All officers are expected to participate in all chapter activities, including service projects and meetings.

Section 2.

Student officers shall be elected at the first meeting after induction during their 7th grade year. Intention to run forms and speeches must be provided prior to that meeting. Results will be shared at the end of year celebration. All members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

Section 3.

Voting shall be by secret ballot. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect an 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.

Officers of NJHS cannot serve as officers of Student Council.

Section 5.

Officers who repeatedly fail to fulfill their duties as stated in these by-laws shall be removed from their post as decided by the Faculty Council (Article VIII. Section 6).

Article VII. Activities

Section 1.

The chapter shall determine one service project for each quarter of the school year.

Section 2.

All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

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.

These projects should reflect the member's particular talents and interests. Copies of each member's Community Service Tracker should be turned in by the last week of each quarter and should show a record of both service activities in which the member participated. **Summer experiences in August will count towards the First Quarter requirement.**

Section 5.

Failure to participate in and fulfill the aforementioned service activities will result in disciplinary action on the part of the Faculty Committee and could lead to the member's dismissal from NJHS.

Section 6.

This chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

Article VIII. Discipline and Dismissal of Members

Section 1

Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship, or service may be considered for discipline and dismissal from the Palm Valley Academy chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership in our school and community.

Section 2.

If a member's quarterly grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (6 A's and 1 B, (unless taking a HS honors course where a 2nd B will be allowed), he/she will be placed on probation for the remainder of quarter. They will be given a written warning via a message in Schoology They will have until progress reports for the next quarter to bring their grade back to the required minimum. If the quarterly GPA remains below standard at the end of the probationary period, the student will be dismissed from the chapter and a formal letter will be sent home.

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, receiving ISS or OSS, 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.

Members who violate the student code of conduct receiving ISS will receive written warning notification and placed on probation for the remainder of the marking period. If the member is

involved in another violation of the student code of conduct, the member will be dismissed. Members who violate the student code of conduct receiving OSS will be dismissed immediately.

Section 5.

Members on probation lose their voting rights but maintain their obligations to attend and participate in chapter meetings and events. Once their probationary period is over and the Faculty Council has deemed them eligible, members on probation may return to the status of members in good standing.

Section 6

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 7.

In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser/Faculty Council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal. This will be in the form of an email through Schoology and/or a letter.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge(s) against him/her within five (5) school days if they want a hearing before the Faculty Advisor prior to any vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of a face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, the Faculty Advisor will meet with the Faculty Council so they can vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be presented to the overseeing administrator for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the overseeing administrator and afterwards according to the provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- e. A member who is dismissed or resigns from the chapter may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Article IX. Ratification, Approval, and Review

Section 1.

These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a majority vote of the Faculty Council, and approval by the administration.

Section 2.

These bylaws shall be reviewed annually and, if necessary, revised as per the needs of the chapter members, adviser, and/or administration.

Article X. Amendments

Section 1.

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Faculty Council and approval by the administration, two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. **The exceptions are Articles III, IV, and VIII, which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the overseeing administrator.**