Independence High School Chapter of the National Honor Society

**National Honor Society**

Election to membership in the National Honor Society represents the highest honor and trust that can be bestowed upon a student in the junior or senior year of high school. The National Honor Society recognizes students for outstanding SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER and SERVICE. Membership in the society is indicative that the student has attained and is demonstrating and promoting all of these qualities, and is exerting an effort to improve conditions in the school and community. Meeting the grade point average requirement is not the sole criteria for acceptance into the National Honor Society. Schools that select members solely on the basis of scholarship are placing their charters in jeopardy, for it violates the Constitution of the NHS. Evidence that you meet the qualifications of LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER, and SERVICE requirements are necessary to be eligible for membership.

**Membership**

Selection for membership is by a faculty review of applicants and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities. Members who resign or are dismissed are no longer eligible for membership or its benefits and they may not reapply for membership.

**Information Regarding the National Honor Society Selection of Members**

For many students, selection as a member of the National Honor Society is the pinnacle of their achievements in school. This honor, recognized throughout the nation, is both the public recognition of accomplishment and the private commitment to continued excellence on the part of a new member. Because of the importance placed upon this aspect of secondary school life, Independence High School has created a selection process that conforms to the national guidelines, is applied fairly and consistently to all candidates, and provides meaningful recognition of deserving students. Much care and attention has been given to the formulation of the guidelines contained herein, all of which are based on existing provisions of the national constitution.

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 for the equivalent of one semester.
2) Applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5
3) Junior applicants must have thirty (30) documented service hours and seniors must have forty (40) documented service hours on file at IHS.
4) Students who have met the above criteria must complete the NHS Teacher/Staff Recommendation Agreement and submit to the NHS advisor on designated due date.
5) Students must fill out an application on-line (IHS homepage) and submit by the designated due date. **Handwritten and/or late applications will be discarded.**
6) Students must complete two (2) “Verification Statements of Leadership” that show a commitment of leadership for a substantial period of time during high school.
7) All applicants will be required to submit one essay with the application.
8) The names of candidates who have submitted a completed application on time will be included on a Faculty Evaluation Form that is to be distributed to all faculty members, coaches, and staff. Each staff member will be asked to provide an evaluation/recommendation for each candidate with whom they are familiar. Each staff member will also be encouraged to include comments, which will be shared with the Faculty Council. A staff vote for membership is not permissible, but the Faculty Council strongly considers input from the staff.

9) Discipline records of all candidates will be checked by the Chapter Advisor(s), and any disciplinary referrals occurring after freshman year will be shared with the Faculty Council. Students who have had more than three (3) detentions or a suspension should not apply.

10) Once the Faculty Council has had time to review the submitted/collected material, they will convene (in closed session) to discuss and vote on candidates. Candidates must receive at least 3 of 5 votes to qualify for membership.

Applications will not be accepted unless the following are turned in completed at the same time:

1) \textit{ALL typed forms completely filled out}
2) \textit{ALL appropriate signatures}
3) \textit{Typed essay}

We have reviewed this information and understand the criteria for selection to the National Honor Society. We are also aware of the requirements for application and recognize that failure to comply with these standards may disqualify the application. We also understand that students selected for the National Honor Society must attend meetings and functions as required. We recognize that students will be required to perform community service hours.

Student Signature: ________________________________________________

Parent Signature: ________________________________________________

Date: __________________________________________________________
Please make a copy for yourself.