



National Junior Honor Society

How does a student become a member?

During the third trimester of seventh grade year, all students with a 95 or higher cumulative average during 6th and 7th grade will be invited to fill out an information packet. In addition to meeting this academic criteria, a successful candidate will have volunteer hours for 6th and 7th grade years, will be involved in multiple school activities during 6th and 7th grade, and will have a clean discipline record.

Step 1: Becoming Eligible for Membership

All students who meet the academic requirements and wish to be considered for membership must also meet or exceed the required number of volunteer hours. There is a minimum of **four volunteer hours** during the 6th grade year and **four volunteer hours** by the end of the second trimester in the 7th grade year. As students complete volunteer hours, they should get a letter from the director of the volunteer activity stating the name of the activity, a description of the nature of the activity, the amount of hours volunteered, the adviser's name, position, and contact number, the signature of the adviser. Please keep these letters until invited to fill out a candidate information form and then include the letters in the completed candidate information packet.

To achieve membership, students must also meet or exceed the requirements for school activities. Each candidate must earn a minimum of **two school activity points** during 6th grade and an additional **three school activity points** by the end of the second trimester in 7th grade. Each school activity has an assigned point value that correlates to the level of commitment required. After receiving the candidate information form, students must list all school activities from 6th and 7th grade years, and obtain a signature from each school activity adviser.

Step 2: Membership Selection

After the second trimester of the seventh grade year, students with a cumulative average of 95 or higher in all classes from the start of middle school, are eligible to provide information to our Faculty Council to determine membership. Students must be prepared to show a **minimum of four volunteer hours in sixth grade and four volunteer hours by the end of the second**

trimester in seventh grade. In addition, eligible students will need to show four points in school activities during their sixth grade year and three points by the end of the second trimester in seventh grade. Necessary documentation of volunteer work, including the signature of the adviser of the volunteer activity, will need to be provided as stated above.

Providing information does not guarantee membership. Students must meet rigorous criteria which exemplify the five standards for selection. Students will explain their commitment to each standard listed below in a formal essay.

- **Scholarship:** Scholarship is shown through one's commitment to learning. A student must maintain a cumulative average of 95 or above in all subject areas. He or she must be willing to spend hours in reading and study, knowing the lasting benefits of an educated mind.
- **Citizenship:** Citizenship is assessed in terms of attitudes regarding freedom, justice, patriotism, and respect for fellow human beings.
- **Service:** Service is defined in terms of a student's willingness to work for the benefit of others without monetary compensation; to volunteer time and talent to help others.
- **Leadership:** Leadership is taking initiative in class and school activities to go forward when others hesitate. To be self-confident and exert a wholesome influence on the school.
- **Character:** Character is defined as the product of constant action and daily striving to make the right choice. It is the demonstration of honesty, responsibility, fairness, respect, tolerance, and cooperation that must be provided by example.

Step 3: Induction

Those chosen to be members pledge to uphold the standards of the NJHS at an annual Induction Ceremony, which takes place in the spring. This ceremony is hosted by the eighth grade officers and current members of the society. As the names of the inductees are called, each new member will sign the Upper Township Chapter register book and receive an official National Junior Honor Society membership certificate.

Step 4: Maintaining Membership

Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate the qualities of the NJHS throughout the duration of their middle school enrollment. Students are required to fulfill the membership requirements of the local chapter including participation, academic, and behavioral standards. Attending meetings, organizing and carrying out fundraisers and charitable events, displaying leadership and good character, and maintaining the minimum grade average are all necessary to remain an active member.

Members in the National Junior Honor Society who do not maintain the minimum grade average will be placed on probation for one trimester. A member may only be granted one probation period, and will be removed after the second trimester if the minimum average is not achieved. Similarly, members who do not earn the required amount of volunteer hours or participation points will be granted probation until improvement is shown in the following trimester period.