Charles Brooks Chapter of Stanton’s National Honor Society

Bylaws
2019-2020

A. Eligibility for membership

I. Initial eligibility is based solely on the student’s cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 as reported in the sports eligibility report at the end of the sophomore year for junior induction, or the end of the junior year for senior induction. GPAs are not rounded up. Members of other chapters can transfer their existing membership to the Charles Brooks chapter upon verification.

II. Once a student is notified of eligibility, he or she must submit a formal application by the published deadline documenting community/volunteer service and leadership positions held (formally and informally). Any student with a disciplinary history including a Class II (or higher) disciplinary referral or an Academic Integrity violation are automatically barred from membership.

III. Submitted applications will be forwarded to our Faculty Council for review. The names of the prospective members are not included as part of the review and will be removed from the profile. The Faculty Council will screen the applications to decide whether each candidate meets the requirements for membership as demonstrated based solely on the application submitted.

IV. Students are notified via school mail as to whether or not they have been accepted.

V. Any student who intentionally misrepresents himself or herself during the application process will have their membership status revoked with no opportunity to reapply.

B. The Faculty Council

I. The Faculty Council shall consist of 15 faculty members from varied departments appointed annually by the principal. These members will be grouped into 3 cohorts of 5 voting faculty members to more efficiently screen the large number of applications received by this chapter. The principal and the faculty sponsors shall serve only a supportive, advisory roll in the council.

II. Before Faculty Council members receive applications to review, the names of the prospective members will be removed so that each profile is evaluated without bias by its five member committee. The final decision to invite a student to be inducted is determined by a “blind” vote, so members of the committee do not
know how other members vote. A simple majority earns an invitation to the student.

III. The Faculty Council will hear any student appeals for membership that are not addressed explicitly in the bylaws. A 75% majority vote is required to reverse any denial/dismissal.

C. Appeals

I. Students are explicitly instructed in advance about the criteria for membership and that their applications are the only evidence the Faculty Council will use to determine membership. Therefore, failure to include relevant volunteer service activities or leadership positions, failure to adequately communicate the relevancy of these experiences, failure to include required sponsor signatures and contact information, failure to include the time span of documented activities, and failure to produce a legible application are NOT grounds for an appeal. Juniors denied membership for these reasons are allowed to apply again during their senior year provided they still meet the eligibility requirements.

II. Any student wishing to make a formal appeal must do so in writing within two weeks of notification of denial/dismissal. The principal will determine the merit of the appeal and forward it on to the Faculty Council for review in a timely manner. A 75% majority vote is required to reverse any denial/dismissal.

D. Maintaining Membership

I. Members will automatically be placed on probation if their unweighted GPA falls below a 3.0.

II. Any Class II (or higher) or integrity violations (warning or referral) will be automatic grounds for dismissal. It is the student’s responsibility to report such infractions as soon as they occur.

III. There is a mandatory requirement of 16 service hours to be fulfilled and recorded on or before the first day of the fourth quarter. To be considered NHS service hours, activities must be completed after acceptance into NHS and on a voluntary (nonpaid) basis and must support the Stanton community or represent Stanton in support of our local/global community. The event must also be completed outside of school hours and unrelated to current course work. It cannot in any way be connected to school fundraising activities. No single service project will count for more than 4 hours unless approved in advance.

IV. Members will be provided with a list of preapproved service projects/organizations at induction and afterward attend a mandatory meeting where they can ask for any needed clarification. Members may seek approval for an activity or event not preapproved. Only the sponsors can grant prior approval.
V. Members are required to get at least 6 of the overall 16 service hours from participation in NHS sponsored events. The other hours must meet the aforementioned criteria.

VI. Members must turn in an hour verification sheet detailing the activity and signed by the sponsor for any non-NHS sponsored event. The sponsor must be a Stanton teacher or staff member. No more than 4 hours will be accepted for any one event and only one type of service may be recorded on a sheet. All hours are subject to verification. Simply filling out a verification sheet does not guarantee hours. It is the member’s responsibility to follow up on the status of an hour verification sheet. All hours are subject to verification, even those included on the list of NHS approved service activities above.

VII. Members must pay a one-time membership fee of $30.00 to cover the cost of the induction ceremony, t-shirts, and various club supplies.

VIII. All members are notified via school mail as of their status at the end of their junior year and at least once a semester during their senior year.

IX. Any member who fails to meet the standards for academic performance, character, and service as outlined in the bylaws by May 1 of their graduating year will forfeit their membership in NHS and will not wear the stole at graduation.

E. Officers

I. The Charles Brooke chapter of NHS has the following officers: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and public relations (historian).

II. Only members in good standing who have paid their membership dues will be eligible to run for office during the spring of their eleventh grade year. All members in eleventh grade will be informed of this opportunity, the responsibilities of being an officer, and the day(s)/time of the general election at a mandatory meeting held after induction. Those interested and eligible will complete an officer application form and their names will be placed on the nomination ballot. The votes will be tallied by the chapter sponsors and the candidate with the most votes for a given office will win.

III. Officers are required to adhere to the same guidelines of membership as other members. Loss of membership will result in an automatic forfeit of office. The appointment of a vacant office is determined by the chapter sponsors.

IV. In addition to their regular duties, all officers are responsible for planning, organizing, and facilitating at least one NHS event during their senior year.