

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
BYLAWS OF THE STEM CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE CHAPTER

2016-2017

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Hamzah Chaudhry

NHS CREED

I pledge myself to uphold
The high purposes of the STEM
Circle of Excellence Chapter of the
National Honor Society to which I
have been selected; I will be true to
the principles for which it stands; I
will be loyal to my school; and will
maintain and encourage high
standards of scholarship, service,
leadership and character.

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SCHOLARSHIP



SERVICE



LEADERSHIP



CHARACTER



“The excellence for which we strive is a habit, not an act. It takes practice and consistent perseverance.”

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ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1—The name of this chapter shall be STEM Circle of Excellence Chapter of the National Honor Society of Wake STEM Early College High School.

Section 2—The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and citizenship, and to encourage the development of character in students of Wake STEM Early College High School.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1—Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and honorary. Honorary members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2—Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 3—Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for induction to this chapter must be in grades ten (10) through twelve (12).
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Wake STEM Early College High School. Furthermore, a student may have no more than ten (10) unexcused tardies, and no more than five (5) unexcused absences per school calendar year.
- b. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative un-weighted GPA of 3.750. **This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed. Rounding and averages of grades below the aforementioned criteria shall not occur under any circumstance, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy.** All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
- c. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1—The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of a minimum of five (5) faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, nonvoting, ex officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2—Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Student Activity Information Form for further consideration for selection.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.

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d. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

e. Upon completion of the Student Activity Information Form and review of this form by the Faculty Council, eligible students will participate in a second-round interview to be led by the Faculty Council. This interview will serve as a further means of evaluation of each eligible student. Interview questions should be posed to gain a better understanding of the student's character, goals, and ability to interact interpersonally.

Section 3—The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year. (Alternative or additional selection periods may be added.)

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

Section 4a- Attendance at the special induction ceremony is mandatory for previously inducted members of NHS. Special circumstances (family emergencies, religious days of observance, etc.) serve as exceptions.

Section 5—Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 6—An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the principal or chapter adviser.

Section 7—An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his or her membership.

Note: The selection process used at the local level may vary from the procedure outlined above; however, such variations must still conform to the national constitution.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

Section 1—The Faculty Council, in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society, shall determine the procedure for dismissal. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.

Section 2—Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from The STEM Circle of Excellence Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community. If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a specific time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter. In the case of flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a member does not have to be warned.

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

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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 to the principal and thereafter under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

Section 6—NASSP shall hear no appeals in dismissal cases. (Note: Refer to Article VIII, Section 7 regarding the permanent consequences for members when dismissed.)

Section 7— In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Section 8—The Faculty Council holds the liberty to dismiss any NHS member due to any other circumstances not mentioned above that goes against the standards and expectations held by the Wake STEM Early College High School of the National Honor Society.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1—The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, parliamentarian and treasurer.

Section 2—Student officers shall be elected at the second to last meeting of each school year. All students who have been members for at least one (1) full year are eligible to run for a position as an officer. In addition, if the candidate is on probation during the election cycle, they should be aware that if they do not improve to satisfactory standing by the end of their probationary period, they must step down from their position.

Section 2a — All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote. [Note: The timing of the election of chapter officers is determined locally.]

Section 3—A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any 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. [Note: Plurality can be used to determine the outcome of elections as an alternative to a majority vote.]

The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter:

Section 4—It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5—The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6—The secretary shall produce the agenda, keep the minutes of meetings, keep record of attendance, and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

Section 7—The treasurer shall keep the record of chapter expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

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Section 8 – The parliamentarian shall maintain order within the meetings and keep president on task in alignment with the meeting agenda.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Section 3a-Social-This committee will be responsible for planning and organizing various types of enjoyable and engaging activities throughout the academic year (on- and off-campus) in order to increase the positive interaction among NHS members and supporters.

Section 3b-Community Service- This committee will be responsible for planning and organizing various types of service projects throughout the year (on-and off-campus) that will engage students in meeting the needs of the school and community. These activities should also promote civic responsibility and service-learning among NHS members.

Section 3c-Promotion & Advertising- This committee is responsible for promoting and advertising all NHS projects and events in a positive and genuine manner. Members are responsible for creating fliers and other promotional items for NHS. This committee is also responsible for updating the school NHS bulletin board and helping to update the STEM Early College High School NHS website.

Section 3d-Community/Parent/Student Liaison- This committee will assist in keeping this NHS chapter's supporters informed and engaged in the activities during the academic year. This committee is responsible for ensuring that NHS events and activities are placed on the school calendar and published in various school publications. This committee increase interaction between NHS, Wake STEM Early College High School students, staff, parents, and community members.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1—Meetings of this chapter shall be Monthly and published at least two weeks in advance.

Section 2—This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3—All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings. No member shall miss more than one (1) meeting per semester without advanced notification. Excused absences will be considered on a case by case basis in the event of illness, doctor's appointment, transportation concerns, etc. For NHS scholars with conflicts due to their status as official active participants on an Athens High School sports team, two (2) weeks lead notice must be given to the Faculty Council of the conflict. For student-athletes, a signed note from the Athletic Director or coaching staff. For other circumstances, a signed note must be received from the location where student spent the meeting time. A note must be received in advance if a student will miss a meeting. In this case, the scholar is responsible for securing a copy of the minutes as well as for any responsibilities distributed during the missed meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1—The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

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Section 2—All members shall regularly participate in these projects and attendance will be taken at all activities.

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—Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members must contribute. All members should complete the required number of hours determined by the executive board at the beginning of the school year.

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

ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM

Section 1—Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

[Note: The content of this section parallels Article XV, Section 3 of the national constitution, revised 2008.]

Section 2—Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 3—Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords or other insignia adopted at the local level at graduation.

ARTICLE X: DUES

Section 1—The non-refundable annual dues for this chapter shall be \$35.00. Previously inducted members are also obligated to pay chapter dues each year that they are a member of the Wake STEM Early College High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Section 2—Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer within 10 days of induction for new members and within 25 days of the start of the school year for returning members unless members are unable to fulfill this obligation due to personal financial circumstances for which the Faculty Council has been made aware of in advance. Accommodations created by the Faculty Council and the member's family may be arranged in these situations.

ARTICLE XI: POWERS

Section 1—The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

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Section 2—The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3—These by laws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1—These by laws may be amended by a two- thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one week prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2—By laws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society.

Section 3- These bylaws must be reviewed at the beginning of every academic year by the Faculty Council and current NHS members for the purpose of making any necessary amendments to fit the needs of the chapter.

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May 2, 2017

Date of last approved revisions:

Signatures:

Isabella Sarria
Chapter President

Richan Patel
Chapter Vice-President

Nichole Miller
Chapter Treasurer

Poonak Patel
Chapter Secretary