



# Challenger Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

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**Section 1**—The name of this chapter shall be the Challenger Middle School (CMS) Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

**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 Challenger Middle School (CMS).

### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

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**Section 1**—Membership in this chapter shall be known as active only. The CMS chapter does not bestow nor recognize honorary memberships.

**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, citizenship, and character.

**Section 3**—Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be in the second semester of their seventh grade year.
- 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 Challenger Middle School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.8 (out of 4.0). This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, 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. Once a member has been inducted in the CMS chapter, he/she must maintain minimum cumulative GPA of 3.8 (out of 4.0).
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

### ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

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**Section 1**—The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser(s) shall be the sixth, nonvoting, ex officio member of the Faculty Council. Selection to NJHS is a privilege, not a right. Students do not apply for membership in the National Honor Society. Instead, they provide information to be used by the local selection committee to support their candidacy for membership. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council in each school on the condition of their having met the standards for selection.

**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 invited to complete and submit the Student Activity Information Form for further consideration for selection. Successful completion of the application packet, including teacher recommendations, does not guarantee acceptance into the chapter.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership. Such evaluations (teacher recommendations) are expected to be used only by the Faculty Council, the adviser, and the principals and should be considered confidential unless local or state policies dictate to the contrary.

The following criteria are considered in the selection process-

- Cumulative 7<sup>th</sup> grade, grade point average of 3.8 or higher
- Careful consideration of the student's citizenship, character, leadership, and service.
- Positive faculty member recommendations, three or more
- Successful completion of membership application
- Record of positive behavior
- At least one semester of attendance at Challenger Middle School

No applications will be considered after the official membership applications have been submitted spring of a student's 7<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**Section 3**—The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

**Section 4**—Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony. New members are invited to attend the spring induction celebration where they are awarded a membership certificate.

**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. Newly inducted seventh grade members are expected to serve as year-long members during their eighth grade year.

**Section 6**—An active member of the National Junior 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 Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. Proof of membership such as a letter from a former principal or advisor or a membership certificate may be submitted to the Faculty Council upon enrollment. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one quarter to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his or her membership.

## **ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL**

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**Section 1**—Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship or service may be considered for dismissal from the Challenger Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member of the National Junior 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.

**Section 2**—If a member’s cumulative GPA falls below a 3.5 average, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

**Section 3**—If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a 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.

**Section 4**—Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities.

**Section 5**—Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council, student, or parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

**Section 6**—In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. The Faculty Council will then 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 reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council’s decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

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

## **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS**

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**Section 1**—The officers of the chapter shall be president and vice president.

**Section 2**—Student officers shall be elected at the first meeting of each school year. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

**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.

**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.

**Section 6**—If the president or vice president are relieved of their duties due to disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, Principal or advisors, a new election of said officers will be held at the next monthly meeting. This may also take place if the said officers move to another school or school district during the school year.

## **ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**Section 1**—The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser(s) and the chapter officers.

**Section 2**—The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

## **ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS**

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**Section 1**—Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly, falling on the first Wednesday of the month, during homeroom class.

**Section 2**—All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings.

**Section 3**- Expectations during meetings:

- to listen and participate in a positive manner
- to speak only when called upon during group discussion
- to follow instructions
- be respectful and attentive to others needs

All members who in attendance for monthly meeting days are expected to attend chapter meetings. Attendance will be recorded.

## **ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES**

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**Section 1**—The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each 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**—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 contribute. Members will log 25 or more volunteer hours through their 8<sup>th</sup> grade academic year. Twelve or more hours must be logged by the end of first semester and the remaining hours must be completed by May 15. Official log sheets will be available from chapter advisors. Members must log each volunteer event, date, number of hours, and the name of the adult supervisor, and any supporting documents from volunteer organizations.

Almost any volunteer activity can be counted as community service as long as no monetary compensation or any other recognition is earned and the activity falls outside of the regular school day. Volunteer activities may not be counted as service hours if they also count as required activities for another club or organization. Some examples of activities might include:

- Soup kitchen, zoo, Pikes Peak Library District, Humane Society or other non-profit organization
- Neighborhood cleanup organized by members
- Challenger Lift-off, elementary school carnivals and festivals, elementary school field days
- Helping a neighbor with fall cleanup, snow shoveling, mowing, etc.
- Baby-sitting, church nursery supervision, etc. w/o compensation
- Helping an elementary teacher grade papers or organize materials in their classroom
- Teaching religious education classes, helping a peer with a Boy/Girl Scout service project
- Peer tutoring

If a member is unsure whether or not a volunteer activity is eligible for service credit, that member should consult the advisor for approval.

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

## **ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM**

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**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 Junior Honor Society.

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

## **ARTICLE X: DUES**

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**Section 1**—Annual dues for this chapter shall be ten dollars.

**Section 2**—Dues will be payable to the chapter by September 30 of the member’s eighth grade year.

## **ARTICLE XI: POWERS**

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

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

**Section 3**—These bylaws 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**

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**Section 1**—These bylaws 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 month 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**—Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society. Additional articles can be added as needed. It is often convenient to have the last article dealing with amendments. Also, be sure to include the following at the end of your chapter bylaws:

Date: May 30, 2012.

Signatures:

Adviser(s)

Principal

## The Five Constitutional Obligations of a Duly Inducted Member\*

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1. **Dues (Article IV, Section 3)**—Members may be asked to pay annual chapter dues. The constitution limits this amount to \$10 per student per year.
2. **Maintaining standards (Article VIII, Section 1)**—Once selected, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected.
3. **Meetings (Article XIII, Section 1)**—Chapters hold meetings and may require members to attend.
4. **Chapter service projects (Article XIV, Sections 1 and 2)**—All chapters are required to sponsor chapter service projects and all members are required to participate, assuming that the project meets the criteria as outlined in the constitution.
5. **Individual service projects (Article XIV, Section 4)**—In addition to the chapter service projects, members are to engage in additional service according to their own talents and interests. The quantity of this service and the degree to which the chapter monitors this activity should be defined in the chapter bylaws. (25 hours community service time during the current school year; see Article VIII, Section 4 above.)

\*As outlined by The National Junior Honor Society Handbook, 2006 Edition, published by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Reston, VA.



# Challenger Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society

## BYLAWS

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As a member of the Challenger Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, I have read and agree to uphold and maintain the standards by which I was selected for membership. I understand that failure to do so could result in probation, in-active status or dismissal from the society or other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the chapter's Faculty Council.

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**Printed Name of Member**

**Signature of Member**

**Date**

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**Parent or Guardian Signature**

**Date**