

National Honor Society Western High School



Dear Students and Parents,

Thank you for considering membership to the national Honor Society of Western High School. For many, selection as a member into the Society is a pinnacle of their achievements in academia. This honor, recognized throughout the nation, is both the public recognition of accomplishment and the private commitment to continued excellence on the part of the new member.

Selection to National Honor Society is a privilege, and not a right. It is an extension on individual qualities and talents. The four pillars of this society, Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character are the foundation for individual success, integrity and discipline. These qualities and talents placed together and put to work collectively, leave a positive and enduring mark impacting peers, school and community.

I, along with National Honor Society Council and members and Western High School, look forward to your induction into the Society and fulfilling the motto by which the National Honor Society uphold, “Noblesse Oblige”, behavior that is honorable.

Sincerely,
Geysa Ortiz
National Honor Society Advisor



Application Deadline: March 18th, 2020
Open to current 10th and 11th grade students

Please Read Before Proceeding
NHS Information and Membership Application Instructions

When completing your membership application, please take the time to ensure that all sections are completed thoroughly and correctly. These include: **General Information, Eligibility, Letters of Reference, Leadership Experiences, Honor Pledge and Tutor Pledge (both *Pledges* requires Notary Public Signature)**. Your completed application will be reviewed and verified by the NHS Council at Western High School. Final verification and review will be completed by the NHS Advisor. **Any area of this application found incomplete or missing automatically renders your application ineligible for membership for the upcoming school year. Additionally, you must adhere to the application deadline above, no exceptions. Attendance at the induction ceremony is mandatory to be accepted in the National Honor Society.**

There is a membership fee that applies to all members once they are accepted and inducted. Membership dues are \$35 for the entire year, and are used to offset project and event costs that NHS conducts.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding this application or NHS in general, you may stop by Ms. Ortiz's room, room 1141 during school hours.. I wish you all much success!

Thank you.

General Information

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Number _____ Current Grade Level _____

Membership consideration in the National Honor Society is based upon achievement in the following eligibility areas as described in the NHS Constitution and the Broward County NHS Handbook: *Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service*. Please read each eligibility area's brief explanation of expectations listed below. Detailed instructions of required documentation for each area will follow as you continue through the membership application. **Please follow all directions as they are requested. Incomplete or missing information on any part of the membership application will warrant your candidacy ineligible for the upcoming school year.**

- I. **Scholarship-*Minimum required Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):*** 3.3 un-weighted GPA refers to the total academic performance as demonstrated by the grades received by the student while in attendance at the school where the chapter is founded. (NHS Constitution Article 4.2.1)
- II. **Leadership- *Two documented leadership observations with two letters of recommendation.*** The leadership criterion is considered highly important. Leadership exists in terms of the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations. However, leadership also exists outside of elected positions including participation in positions of responsibility in other activities offered on campus, such as athletic team captains, section leaders in band and chorus, and committee chairs in student groups. Leadership roles in both the school (one in-school leadership required) and community may be considered, provided they can be verified. (NHS Constitution Article 4.2.2)
- III. **Character- *Letter of Recommendation*** National Honor Society supports and recommends the use of multifaceted definition of character known as the Six Pillars of Character comprised of the following: *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship*. (NHS Constitution Article 4.2.4)
- IV. **Service- *Copy of Volunteer Service Record (minimum of 40 Community Service hours)*** Service is considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation. In considering service, the contributions a candidate has made to school, classmates, and community as well as the student's attitude toward service can be reviewed. (NHS Constitution Article 4.2.3)

Eligibility Area I – Scholarship

Please attach a copy of your last report card indicating your Cumulative GPA and service hours from Virtual Counselor.

- **Do not go to the Guidance Department to retrieve your academic records.**
- This will also satisfy Eligibility Area IV- Service

Eligibility Area II- Leadership

Achievement in the area of Leadership will be determined by:

Documented evidence of election, appointment, or experience in two (2) leadership positions: at least **one form of leadership must have been held in a sponsored organization or function at Western High School (WHS). Both leadership experiences may be within the school.**

The Leadership Section (required) must be completed and signed by the Teacher or Sponsor. Please complete the *WHS Leadership Section* documenting election, appointment, or experience in a leadership position at a Western High School organization or activity on the following pages. Give the form to the teacher or sponsor to complete. **The Leadership Section must be accurate and complete to meet Eligibility requirements.**

AND/OR

Community Leadership Section must be completed by a community, religious or other leader, documenting a **SPECIFIC INSTANCE** in which the student demonstrated leadership. You may use former teachers, principals, etc. Use this if you have only one leadership experience from within school.

Leadership Documentation Form

WHS Leadership Section

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Leadership position held: _____ year(s): _____

I certify that the student named above held the position indicated and successfully demonstrated leadership qualities while carrying out the duties of that office.

Sponsor Name (please print): _____

Sponsor Signature: _____ Date: _____

We would appreciate your writing a letter of recommendation which will convey to us your personal observation of a specific instance during which you observed leadership qualities in this student. **Please do not write a general recommendation.**

Suggestions for writing leadership observations.

Holds office in....	Devised a system to....	Chairs a committee for....
In charge of....	Team captain of....	Teacher of....
Board member of....	Coach of....	Manager of....
Editor of....	Implemented project to...	Co-director/sponsor of....

NOTE: The following phrases are not considered acceptable as documentation of proven leadership: *class discussion leader, tutor, babysitter, good participant, being responsible, assisting peers with work, has leadership potential, etc.

*Receipt of the Letter of Recommendation will be considered as proof of leadership only if the form documents a **specific instance of leadership**. This letter can NOT be used in lieu of the second *Leadership Documentation* form. In addition, recommendations will not be accepted from a student's family.

Leadership Documentation Form

WHS or Community Leadership Section

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Leadership position held: _____ year(s): _____

I certify that the student named above held the position indicated and successfully demonstrated leadership qualities while carrying out the duties of that office.

Sponsor Name (please print): _____

Sponsor Signature: _____ Date: _____

We would appreciate your writing a letter of recommendation which will convey to us your personal observation of a specific instance during which you observed leadership qualities in this student. **Please do not write a general recommendation.**

Suggestions for writing leadership observations.

Holds office in....	Devised a system to....	Chairs a committee for....
In charge of....	Team captain of....	Teacher of....
Board member of....	Coach of....	Manager of....
Editor of....	Implemented project to...	Co-director/sponsor of....

NOTE: The following phrases are not considered acceptable as documentation of proven leadership: *class discussion leader, tutor, babysitter, good participant, being responsible, assisting peers with work, has leadership potential, etc.

*A Letter of Recommendation from a community leader, religious leader, or an employer documenting a **SPECIFIC INSTANCE** in which the student demonstrated a leadership role must be separately attached. It is recommended that it be written or typed on the organization's official letterhead.

*Receipt of the Letter of Recommendation will be considered as proof of leadership only if the form documents a **specific instance of leadership**. This letter can NOT be used in lieu of the second *Leadership Documentation* form. In addition, recommendations will not be accepted from a student's family.

Eligibility Area III- Character

Please provide a *character* reference in the form of a letter of recommendation from a source *other than those indicated in the Leadership Section* of this application. The National Honor Society reserves the right to investigate high school records for disciplinary measures that have been documented and speak with former teachers regarding the students behavior in class.

Eligibility Area IV - Service

Remember to attach a copy of your Virtual Counselor report verifying you have at least 40 hours of qualified service.

- This was also satisfied in Eligibility Area I

**If a copy is not attached, this area will be considered incomplete and your application will be denied.
(Attach copy only once)**

Honor Pledge

I, _____, as a student of Western High School, understand that upon my official acceptance into the National Honor Society Chapter, I am expected to exhibit exemplary character as indicated by the national guidelines of our organization.

In view of this, I will refrain from any violation of testing procedure including, but not limited to: cheating or aiding in any form or participating in acts that violate that Student Code of Conduct. This honor pledge also encompasses any situation where I attest to my performance and/or participation in any given activity.

I understand that my membership in the National Honor Society will be at risk if any incidents of inappropriate academic behavior are filed. I further understand that the advisor of the Western High School National Honor Society has the final authority to suspend and/or remove my membership in the Western High School Chapter of the National Honor Society if I violate any of the above stated guidelines.

In addition, I further pledge to regularly participate in NHS meetings and sanctioned events and activities, as outlined by the NHS Membership Constitution, its Officers, Advisor, and Council of this organization, and hereby certify that all of the information provided for and about me in this application is true and correct.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Notary

Date

Tutor Pledge

I, _____, as a student of Western High School, understand that, upon my official acceptance to the National Honor Society Chapter, I am expected to perform regular tutoring duties as outlined by the NHS Advisor, Officers, and Senators throughout the school year.

I also understand that if I unable to meet my responsibility due to an unexpected emergency, or pre-arranged appointment, I must notify my NHS Senator, at least two days prior to my assigned tutoring session if it is a pre-arranged absence, and arrange for another member to attend in my place. I understand that I must make up my missed tutoring session on a different date.

I understand that my failure to meet my tutoring responsibilities could result in probation, suspension, or termination of my membership in the National Honor Society.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Notary

Date