

Clearwater Fundamental Middle School  
Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society  
**Frequently Asked Questions and Membership Obligations**

**What is the basis of NJHS membership?**

- Enrolled as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Clearwater Fundamental Middle School
- 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade cumulative GPA greater than 3.50, unrounded
- No disciplinary referrals in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- No disciplinary probation following IAC activity in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- No "U" in conduct from any teacher in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- "N" in conduct from not more than one teacher in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- Not more than two (2) Academic Warning Notices in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade, cumulative
- Not more than two (2) detentions in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade, cumulative

The Faculty Council evaluates students who meet the above requirements based on leadership, service, and character. Once selected and inducted, members must maintain these standards.

**Can I be dismissed from NJHS?**

Dismissal from NHS is never automatic. Even if a student falls below the selection criteria, dismissal does not automatically follow. The right to a hearing must be applied as outlined in Article X, Section 4 of the NJHS Constitution. Once dismissed, a former member may never be reconsidered for readmission. However, it is essential to remember that National Junior Honor Society members do not automatically become NHS members. In such a case, the student would remain eligible for future admission into NHS.

**Who is the final authority on chapter affairs such as selection, projects, disciplinary action, etc.?**

The adviser is responsible for the chapter's day-to-day operation. The principal will serve as the arbiter if a question must be resolved at the local school level. As stated in Article V, Section 1 of the national constitution, the principal has the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter and has the final say in such matters.

**If I am a member of NJHS, will I automatically be eligible for NHS in high school?**

No. NJHS and NHS are separate Honor Societies, both at the local and national levels. NJHS membership may introduce middle-level students to the general concepts of the criteria, strengthen their talents, and familiarize them with the selection process; however, there is no formal connection between membership in the two Honor Societies. Membership in NJHS does not automatically confer the status of NHS membership upon a student arriving in high school, nor does it automatically make a student a candidate for consideration. Similarly, disciplinary actions against an NJHS member will not affect that student's candidacy for NHS membership.

**Is performing service to the community a requirement of NJHS?**

Yes. Article XIV of the national constitution mandates service projects as one of the annual main chapter activities. In addition, members must participate in individual service projects to maintain their service criteria. Since its beginning, NJHS has supported participation in service projects as a way for students to learn the value of service, provide needed resources for the school or community, help the school maintain a positive image, and reinforce the curriculum through involvement.

**What types of service count toward the NJHS requirement?**

Individual service projects should fulfill a need within the school or community and must have the support and sanction of the CFMS administration and Faculty Council. Appropriate examples include but are not limited to tutoring programs, reading programs for younger students, charity fundraising, serving meals at food banks, and servicing the needs of the elderly in the community. Being a member of NJHS allows students to try out different types of community service and become familiar with many worthy organizations in the Tampa Bay area. The following may NOT be counted toward service hours:

- Court-mandated community service
- Hours logged at "for profit" organizations (certain exceptions apply, such as nursing homes)
- An activity for which you are paid or receive a material benefit
- All forms of duty within the family
- Religious devotion or any activity which can be interpreted primarily as proselytizing
- An activity where there is no leader or responsible adult on site to evaluate and confirm student performance
- Working as a teacher's assistant during school hours

Qualifying hours must be documented on the Service Hours Documentation Form or provided on the letterhead of the benefitting organization and contain the same contact information required on the form.

**What colors and symbols are associated with the National Junior Honor Society?**

The official NJHS colors are blue and white. The Honor Society's motto is "Light Is the Symbol of Truth." The official flower of NJHS is the white rose. The emblem of this society is the flaming torch... "To bear forward the searching light of truth, to lead that others may follow in light, to keep burning in our school a high ambition for the enduring values of life, and to serve – these purposes are symbolized in the torch." Until the member has completed the eighth grade and successfully fulfilled the obligations of an NJHS scholar, ownership of any NJHS ribbon or emblem remains with the chapter. Members dismissed for any reason must surrender any emblem to the chapter adviser. The emblem and other insignia should always be worn with dignity and pride. Individual student members may not design their clothing or jewelry featuring official NJHS insignia.

**Where is the national office of NJHS, and how is it affiliated?**

The national office is located at the headquarters of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Dr., Reston, VA 20191-1537; Phone: 703-860-0200; Fax: 703-476-5432; Website: [www.njhs.us](http://www.njhs.us). The NASSP and its Board of Directors established a national constitution as the primary source of policy information for all chapters. All NJHS chapters function under this constitution and adopt by-laws consistent with the constitution to establish local procedures. The constitution is available on the NJHS website. The national, state, or regional affiliates do NOT serve as appeal boards for local chapter non-selection or dismissal cases.