

# **National Junior Honor Society**

## **General Information**

### **What is Honor Society?**

The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization which recognizes outstanding Middle School students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character. The organization seeks to create an enthusiasm for superior scholarship, develop citizenship, promote leadership and instill exemplary qualities of character.

### **When do I become eligible?**

Students are inducted into the NJHS at the end of seventh or eighth grade. Sixth grade students are NOT eligible. However, your grades, actions, school involvement and your community service during all of your middle school years are the main determining factors for eligibility. There will be a meeting to distribute application packets in February.

### **Who can I talk to if I have questions about Honor Society?**

Mrs. Malik (Room 216) and Mrs. Murphy (Room 203) are the advisors.

### **What requirements do I have to meet in order to be considered for Honor Society?**

Initial and continued membership in the National Junior Honor Society depends on conforming to the criteria listed below.

<h2><b>Scholarship</b></h2>
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For initial eligibility, you must have an **overall** average of 90% or above. This average will be calculated using the last two quarters of the previous school year and the first two quarters of the current school year.

## Character

Your overall character should be of **high quality**. The NJHS Faculty Council will evaluate overall character based upon the criteria described below.

A student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior based on the Code of Conduct
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside the classroom
- Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps to rid the school of bad influences or environment

## Service

Students must complete ten hours of voluntary service to the school and/or community from the beginning of 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the due date of the application. These hours must be documented by a signature from the individual or organization receiving the service. This documentation must be presented when your application is submitted. Hours performed during the summer will be counted.

The student who serves:

- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain loyal school attitude
- Participates in some outside activity: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer services for the aged, poor or disadvantaged, family duties
- Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition
- Performs committee and staff work uncomplainingly
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers and students

## **Leadership**

We are looking for students who demonstrate leadership in the classroom, at work and in school athletics and activities. The NJHS Faculty Council will evaluate leadership qualities based upon the criteria described below.

The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles and making suggestions
- Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities
- Exercises influence on peers in upholding school activities
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducts business efficiently and effectively, and is reliable and dependable without prodding
- Demonstrates leadership in the classroom and in school activities
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted

You will need to demonstrate a commitment in at least two extra-curricular activities while at Oregon Middle School (either in or out of school), as verified by a coach or advisor. Music class is part of your regular class work and does not qualify as a club or activity. Select music organizations that meet after school or in the evening do satisfy this requirement. Students who are unable to meet these requirements because of family obligations or special circumstances should meet with the advisor to find additional activities that would satisfy this requirement.

## **Citizenship**

The student who demonstrates citizenship shows mature participation and responsibility through involvement in school clubs and activities. The qualified student understands the importance of civic involvement, and has a high regard for freedom, justice and respect for the American form of government.

This criteria will be evaluated in conjunction with leadership.

### **What else is part of the application process?**

All applicants must turn in:

- a completed NJHS application packet.
- a letter of approximately 150 words (typed and double spaced) explaining why you want to be a member of the National Junior Honor Society.
- a letter of recommendation written by an adult who signed the application (ex: coach or club advisor)

### **What happens after I am selected to be in the National Junior Honor Society?**

You will receive a letter in the mail telling you the faculty council's decision after looking at your application. There will be a rehearsal in preparation for the Induction Ceremony. Your family will be able to share in the induction evening, where you will take your official oath.