

National Junior Honor Society By-Laws

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the James Irwin Charter Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society of Secondary Schools.

Section 2. The object of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worth leadership, to encourage good citizenship, and to encourage the development of character in students of James Irwin Charter Middle School.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

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

Section 2. The Faculty Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NJHS Advisers, adults, students with disabilities, or foreign exchange students in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of the Adviser. Honorary members shall have no vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. 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 4. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at JICMS. Some students are sometimes required to move with parents or guardians who have transferred in their work, including students of military parents. The present school principal should seek a recommendation from the previous school principal pursuant to the candidate's selection. Based on the recommendation of the previous principal, the Faculty Council may waive the semester regulation.

Section 5. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the seventh, eighth, or ninth grade class. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 (out of 4.0, un-weighted grade point average). This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of 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. Their eligibility shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

Section 6. A list of all prospective members chosen by the Faculty Council will be given to the school principal, who has the absolute right of veto of any student based on service, leadership, or character issues.

Section 7. Members who are in good standing are eligible to be nominated by their chapters to compete in the National Junior Honor Society Scholarship Program.

The NJHS handbook can
be found online at
<http://www.nhs.us>

Section 8. A National Junior Honor Society member who transfers to another school and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter Adviser to the new school Adviser shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 9. The membership selection procedure will be held in accordance with the National Constitution and the rules as outlined in the JICMS student planner or other official school publication that is widely available to all students and parents of the school.

ARTICLE III: Meetings

Section 1. Each chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year on days designated accordance with school policy and regulations. The regularity of the meetings shall be designated by the Adviser and/or designated student leaders.

Section 2. Meetings are mandatory and must be attended except in cases of illness or emergency. Members who miss more than three (3) meetings (unexcused) will be dismissed and the Faculty Council will be notified.

Section 3. Chapters shall conduct meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* in all points not expressly provided for in these chapter bylaws.

ARTICLE IV: DISMISSAL

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

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter Adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. In the case of a flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a member does not necessarily have to be warned. Flagrant violations include, but are not limited to, the following, as listed in the James Irwin Middle School handbook:

- a. extortion, bribery or coercion
- b. insubordination
- c. false fire or 911 alarms
- d. obscene literature, pornographic materials
- e. cheating, plagiarism
- f. fighting, threats, bullying
- g. stealing, vandalism
- h. falsification or alteration of records or communication between home and school
- i. illegal drugs, controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, or tobacco possession, transmission of, and/or being under the influence during school hours, on school grounds, or at any school-sponsored events
- j. possession of, carrying, or transmitting any weapon or dangerous instrument
- k. criminal offenses which are subject to being reported to the police
- l. bomb threats or threats of community violence
- m. harassment or assault as defined by the Colorado School Violence Prevention and Student Discipline Manual
- n. sexual harassment

Section 3. In the case of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification of the reason for dismissal from the Adviser.

- b. The member may appeal the decision by scheduling a hearing with the Faculty Council in accordance with due process identified in the National Constitution. The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss.
- c. A letter of dismissal will be sent to the principal, student, and parents if the student is dismissed. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the Adviser.
- d. The member may appeal the Faculty Council's decision to the Principal.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may not be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society for one calendar year.
- f. Membership may be considered for the National Honor Society during a student's sophomore year in high school.

Section 4. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. A student liaison may also be appointed.

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

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.

ARTICLE VI: EMBLEM

Section 1. Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Junior Honor Society.

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

ARTICLE VII: DUES

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$10.00.

Section 2. Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer or Faculty Adviser according to posted due date.

Section 3. Membership may not be denied because of a student's inability to pay. Parents should describe the hardship in writing and give the letter to the Faculty Adviser before the posted due date.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 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 II and IV, which are developed by the Faculty Adviser and Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Junior Honor Society.