



Good Shepherd Catholic School
National Junior Honor Society
Constitution and By-Laws

Article I – Name

This organization shall be called the Good Shepherd Catholic School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), a program sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), in cooperation with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Article II – Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this organization is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, to develop character, and to encourage citizenship.

Section 2. NJHS is a community service organization. The chapter shall be involved in one or more community service projects during the school year.

Article III – Chapter Organization

Section 1. The **membership** consists of the students selected for participation.

Section 2. Chapter **officers** shall include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 3. The chapter officers, along with the advisor(s), shall comprise the **Executive Committee**, which administers activities within the chapter during and in between meetings.

Section 4. The **Faculty Council** is a five-member board. The council manages the selection process and handles formal chapter discipline and dismissal proceedings. The Faculty Council shall consist of at least one full-time middle school teacher and at least one special area teacher who teach middle school students. The Faculty Council members shall serve for a term of one year. Consecutive terms may be appointed. The advisor shall nominate faculty to serve on the Faculty Council, and then submit the names to the Principal for approval.

Section 5. The **NJHS advisor** shall be a non-voting member of the Faculty Council. It is the responsibility of the advisor to direct, supervise, and support the day-to-day operations of the chapter, its members, and its officers. The advisor is responsible for ensuring that the membership standards and obligations are maintained. The advisor acts as a liaison between the chapter and the faculty, administration, students, and community. The advisor maintains records of membership, history and activities. The advisor stimulates membership growth, orders supplies, and advises the chapter on national policies.

Section 6. The Principal has final veto power regarding all chapter activities, decisions, issues and concerns: including selection and dismissal of members.

Section 7: NJHS is under the sponsorship and supervision of the NASSP, in cooperation with the NAESP.

Article IV – Selection

Section 1. The selection procedure will be published on the GSCS website, and in the Parent/Student Handbook. Students with a qualifying GPA will be notified that they are candidates for membership. Membership is an honor, not a right.

Section 2. In order to be selected for membership, a student must have attended Good Shepherd Catholic School for one full grading period, be in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade, have a cumulative GPA of 94% in the five core subjects (Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Religion), complete a student information form (to document evidence of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship and character), and receive a majority vote of the Faculty Council.

Section 3. Candidates and parents will be notified of their selection or non-selection in person. Reasons for non-selection will be provided.

Section 4 . An NJHS member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from that transferring school's Principal to verify membership will be allowed membership at GSCS, and must maintain this chapter's standards.

Article V – Membership

Section 1. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony to be held at a school Mass.

Section 2. Each member is expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of 94% in the core subjects. This will be reviewed monthly and at the end of each grading period.

Section 3. Each member is expected to provide service to the school and community. This is accomplished through participation in group and individual service projects. Each member must complete ten hours of service per trimester. Hours must be logged on the forms provided and turned in at the end of each trimester. **NJHS service hours may not be shared with other class/school or club service hour requirements.** Group service projects must be attended by all members unless excused by the advisor.

Section 4. Dues shall not exceed \$25.00 per year, and are payable by the second meeting of the year. GSCS will cover the cost of all NJHS member dues.

Section 5. Members are expected to demonstrate leadership, character, and citizenship in and outside of school.

Section 6. Members are expected to attend all meetings, unless there is an excused absence from school on the meeting day.

Article VI – Dismissal / Due Process

Section 1. (Notice) Students who fail to maintain the expectations listed above will receive a *written warning* from the advisor. A warning will result when one or more of the following occur: cumulative GPA in the five core subjects falls below 94%; or behavior occurs that fails to demonstrate leadership, character, or citizenship in or out of school (this may be noted by a teacher on a discipline referral, detention notice, or other communication with the advisor.) Parents will receive this warning letter in the mail.

Section 2. (Probation) Failure to improve academically and/or correct inappropriate behavior as noted in the time specified in the written warning letter will result in probation from the organization. For the duration of the probationary period, students may not participate in meetings, activities, etc. A written notice of reasons and consequences of probation will be provided to the member and parent. At the end of the probationary period, the Faculty Council will meet and review the member's progress toward meeting the expectations. The Faculty Council will then determine whether the member will be returned to active membership or if dismissal is to be considered.

Section 3. (Dismissal) If a member continues to not meet expectations, the Faculty Council will meet to review the dismissal process. The Faculty Council may decide to dismiss, not dismiss, and/or administer further discipline consequences.

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Section 4. Members who are dismissed are eligible to re-apply for membership the following school year, however they will not be allowed to hold an elected office.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1. The chapter will meet a least 1 time each academic school month. Meetings may be held before school, during lunch, or after school, as determined by the advisor. Special meetings may be called by the advisor or the Executive Committee. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. The agenda will be created by the Executive committee prior to each meeting of the chapter.

Article VIII – Officers

Section 1. The officers shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. The president will lead meetings of the Executive Committee and the general membership.

Section 3. The vice-president shall fill in for the president when necessary. The vice-president will assist the president in all chapter meetings and projects.

Section 4. The secretary shall record minutes of meetings, and will read minutes of previous meetings at all scheduled meetings. Records of all meetings shall be kept for future reference.

Section 5. The treasurer shall keep track of all fundraising collections, disbursements, and any other financial matters related to the organization; and shall give a treasurer's report at each meeting.

Article IX – Procedures for Election of Officers, Removal of Officers, and Filling of Vacancies

Section 1. (Election of Officers) The officers will be voted upon at the last general meeting of the school year. All chapter members in good standing are eligible for nomination for an office. Members may nominate other members, or may self-nominate. Nominations will be accepted and voted upon for each officer in the following order: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. This procedure ensures that a member not elected for a particular office may be nominated for another. Elections shall be held by secret ballot. The student receiving the most votes will be elected. In case of a tie, the candidates receiving the same most votes will remain on the ballot for a second vote by the members. Students may hold only one office.

Section 2. (Removal from Office) An officer may be removed from office for failing to meet the requirements of the office, or as a disciplinary action by the Faculty Council. If an officer fails to meet the requirements of the office, it is the duty of the Executive Committee to provide a written warning of removal stating reasons and a timeline for correction. If the situation is not corrected, then a notice of pending removal will follow. At that time, the officer will have a hearing before the Faculty Council to determine whether or not removal is warranted. Once removed from office, a member may not be elected to any future office within the organization.

Section 3. (Vacancies) If an officer is removed or resigns, the position will be filled through an election at the first general meeting following the removal.

Article X – Ratification and Amendment of By-Laws

Section 1. These by-laws are based on, and cannot conflict with, the constitution of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 2. These by-laws shall govern the actions of the Good Shepherd Catholic School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 3. Any amendment to these by-laws must be approved by a majority vote of the members of the Faculty Council, and must be in accordance with the NJHS Constitution.

Section 4. The GSCS Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap.