

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society recognizes seniors and juniors who have distinguished themselves in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. As its name implies, NHS is a nationwide organization under the auspices of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Earning this distinction denotes excellence.

Each member school is given considerable leeway in the formation of its NHS chapter. In an effort to develop a selection process which is as objective and equitable as possible and to honor those students who have distinguished themselves, Helias has formulated the following method for considering senior and junior applicants for NHS:

1. **Scholarship:** In order to qualify for admission or retain membership in the NHS, a student must have a cumulative 3.75 or higher GPA. If a student fails to maintain the GPA requirement at the end of any semester, he/she will be placed on probation. A second semester below 3.75 would result in dismissal. All seniors and juniors who qualify with a 3.75 GPA are welcome to complete the membership application. That application will include an essay explaining why the student believes he/she should be inducted into the National Honor Society at Helias Catholic. The application will also include a one-time \$25 membership fee to cover cost of induction certificate, membership pin, and graduation honor cord.
2. **Leadership:** The leadership section of the application will evaluate student involvement at Helias Catholic High School. Students will be asked to list the school-sponsored activities/clubs in which they participate(d). In order to be considered for NHS membership, a student must have completed a minimum of 4 Helias school-sponsored activities/clubs and be currently enrolled in a minimum of 1 more activity. The application form will require the signature of the activity sponsor to verify that the student was/is a member in good standing for the duration of the activity.
3. **Service:** In order to qualify for admission to the NHS, a student must have completed and submitted a minimum of 30 of the 50 hours of service that are required for graduation. (*For the 2017-2018 school year, applicants will be required to have completed and submitted all 50 hours.*) After being selected into the NHS, all members, as a condition of membership, will be required to assist at a designated number of Diocesan, Helias Foundation, or school events, as specified and pre-approved by the NHS moderator. In addition, NHS members will be asked to list at least two subject areas in which they are willing to tutor students looking for extra help.
4. **Character:** The character requirement is based on evaluations by the faculty. Each faculty member is asked to rate the character of each applicant of whom they have personal knowledge on a 1 (low) to 4 (high) scale. To be eligible for NHS, a student must have a character accumulative rating of 3.5 or higher. Students who receive a rating between 3.0 and 3.5 will be further reviewed by a designated faculty committee. In addition, any student who accumulated more than 3 or more minor discipline referrals (i.e., dress code, cell phone, etc.) in the previous school year will be disqualified from applying. A student found guilty of cheating by the honor council is disqualified from applying for membership in the National Honor Society for his/her first year of eligibility. A second guilty finding by the honor council will result in permanent ineligibility for application to the NHS. If, in the opinion of the administration, a cheating incident is flagrant, the principal may declare a student, on a first offense, permanently ineligible for NHS. Any current NHS member found guilty of cheating by the honor council will be dismissed from NHS. Finally, a student who has been arrested or referred to the juvenile authorities resulting in punitive measures for anything other than minor traffic violations or tested positive for drugs will be eliminated from consideration.

Conduct Unbecoming an NHS Member

Any of the following constitute conduct unbecoming a member of the NHS:

- failure to maintain the required minimum GPA
- failure to complete service hours as explained above
- failure to attend all service commitments unless excused in advance by the moderator
- violation of Helias' expectations for honorable, ethical, Christian behavior
- accumulating 3 or more minor discipline referrals (i.e., dress code, cell phone, etc.) during any year in which the student is an NHS member

On a first violation of conduct unbecoming an NHS member, the student will be notified in writing that the student is on probation. If no other offenses occur within the probationary period, the probation will be lifted and the student will once again be in good standing at graduation. A second violation of the conduct unbecoming provisions will result in permanent, irrevocable dismissal from NHS. A student on probation at the time of graduation will not be permitted to wear the honor cord at graduation.

Causes for Dismissal from NHS

- student is found guilty of a violation of the honor code
- student is determined to be guilty of possession, use, or distribution of illegal or illicit drugs
- student is determined to be guilty of a legal offense excluding minor traffic violations
- student is determined to be guilty of violating Helias policy regarding alcohol possession or consumption
- student receives 1 major discipline referral (i.e., resulting in ISS/OSS)
- a one-time egregious violation of Helias, Catholic, or societal standards so serious as to bring embarrassment upon Helias or the National Honor Society
- failure to maintain the required minimum GPA for a second semester
- failure to complete the required service for a second semester