

National Honor Society
Chapter Bylaws

- Article I The West Albany High School Chapter of National Honor Society is the Takena Chapter.
- Article II West Albany High School is proud to be a part of National Honor Society (NHS) and to provide this excellent opportunity for our students. Membership in NHS has become recognized nationally as one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a high school student. Membership is, however, more than an honor; it carries with it a responsibility and should be considered the beginning of an obligation, not merely the achievement of recognition and honor. The students of NHS embody the four pillars of NHS, which are Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Although the organization honors those who focus their attention towards their studies, there is a strong emphasis on community service.
- Article III Faculty Council includes all counselors and Asst. Principal. At any time and for any reason the principal of West Albany High School has the right to veto any student he/she does not feel is a strong candidate for NHS.
- Article IV **Eligibility for Membership**
- Below are the national standards of National Honor Society membership. Each inductee must fulfill the following requirements in each of the four pillars.
1. *Scholarship* - A student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.65 or higher after their sophomore year. Students may be inducted during the fall of their junior year. Seniors who meet the requirements and have not yet been inducted may also be inducted in the fall.
 2. *Leadership* - As judged by the faculty, students must demonstrate the qualities of good leadership, including dependability, willingness to accept responsibility, concern for others, and self-motivation.
 3. *Service* - As judged by the faculty, students must demonstrate that they have participated actively in some outside activity such as a school club, church group, or volunteer service project within the past year. Generally speaking, service activities are those which are done for or on behalf of others (not including immediate family members) for which no compensation (monetary or other) has been given.
 4. *Character* - The faculty will consider the degree to which each student demonstrates the following qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, citizenship.
- Article V Students have four semesters to qualify for NHS. Each student, with a GPA of 3.65 or higher, will be evaluated by faculty in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character. If the student is a good candidate for NHS an invitation will go out to the student. A copy will also be mailed home to parents/guardians. If the student is interested in being a part of NHS they will attend a **mandatory** induction meeting
- Article VI Meetings will be held approximately once a month with some exceptions. There will be 10 opportunities to attend meeting and members are required to attend at least 8. If a member misses more than 2 meetings, additional volunteer hours will be added to the member's total hours, as the faculty council sees fit. The induction ceremony is included in these 10 opportunities and the **induction ceremony is mandatory for ALL members**. If a student is unable to attend the induction ceremony due to illness or family emergency alternative plans will be made with the NHS Advisor.
- Article VII **Duties and Responsibilities**
- Members – Members are responsible for attending 80% of meetings, voting for officers, attending nomination ceremonies, completing 16 hours of community service per year, being involved in the Takena Chapter group service project and maintaining the four pillars of NHS; Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.

Officers – Officers are required to attend all officer meetings before regularly scheduled member meetings. They will run all meetings, have a significant role in the induction ceremony and the officer installation ceremony and will assist new officers in their roles for the following year.

Advisor – The Advisor is responsible for setting up meetings and notifying members, working with faculty to select members, organize induction ceremony, keep records of community service hours and meeting attendance, promote chapter activities.

Article VIII The procedure for electing officers will be a democratic one. Nominees will be recommended by their peers and will be voted in by the other members of NHS. If an officer does not maintain the standards of NHS, they can be removed from office by recommendation of the faculty council. If this should take place a new process of nominations and voting will take place.

Article IX **Community Service**

NHS members must complete at least 16 hours of community service per year to remain in good standing. 8 of these hours must be completed before the end of the 1st semester. Members must document their individual community service hours on the appropriate forms available in the counseling office. Note: These forms must be signed by the supervisor in charge to verify the service activity (the supervisor may **not** be an immediate family member).

If a member fails to complete 8 hours of community service before the end of the semester, he/she falls into poor standing and will be placed on probation for the following semester.

Probation

A member whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.65 or who does not complete 8 hours of community service each semester, will be placed on probation and considered a member in poor standing.

Members have one semester to achieve a 3.65 GPA or complete the requirements for community service. A member who fails to do so will be dismissed from NHS. However, a student may reapply for NHS membership their senior year if they meet all the requirements. Members who do complete the requirements will be reinstated as an active member in good standing.

Members are subject to dismissal if they do not maintain the standards of the four pillars of NHS (Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character) that were used as a basis for their selection. For example, cheating, plagiarizing, negative behavior at any time, swearing, disrespecting teachers and staff, and fighting are all considered grounds for probation and/or dismissal. Members who are in poor standing or on probation for two consecutive semesters will be asked to leave the organization. Dues are not refundable under any circumstance.

Article X The Chapter Bylaws will be reviewed annually by the advisor. If any changes need to be made, they must be presented to the faculty council. If the faculty council is in agreement with the changes, then the changes will be made. After changes are made members will be given a copy of the new bylaws and the changes will be reviewed. The same procedure is used for amending the bylaws.