

Celeste Eplen Chapter of the  
National Junior Honor Society  
Bylaws

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 – The name of this chapter shall be the Celeste Eplen Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society of Waller Junior High School.

Section 2 – The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and citizenship, and to encourage the development of character in students of Waller Junior High School.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

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

Section 2 – 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 3 – Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be in the second semester of sixth through eighth grade.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Waller Junior High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall maintain a cumulative (semester) average of an 85 or higher for core academic classes. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic 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.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and Report Card standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

### ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1 – The selection of members to this chapter shall be a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth, nonvoting, ex officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2 – Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete:
  - a. National Junior Honor Society Application
  - b. An essay (minimum of one paragraph maximum of one page) explaining why they should be considered.
  - c. Teacher Recommendation Form (minimum of 32 points on the Teacher Recommendation Form)
- c. The Faculty Council shall review the National Junior Honor Society Application, Teacher Recommendation Forms and student statement in order to determine membership.

Section 3 – The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

Section 4 – Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5 – Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 6 – An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the principal or chapter adviser.

Section 7 – An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his or her membership.

## ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

Section 1 – Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship or service may be considered for dismissal from the Celeste Eplen chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member of the National Junior Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

Section 2 – If a member's cumulative average for the core academic classes falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected (85); he or she will be given a written warning and a time period of six weeks for improvement. If the grade on a report card remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3 – If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4 – Violation of criminal law can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities.

Section 5 – Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. If a student receives In School Suspension will result in dismissal.

Section 6 – In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser or Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held.

- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 7 – In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Section 8 – Multiple violations of the sections listed above may result in dismissal at the discretion of the Faculty Council.

#### ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1 – The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

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

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. In the event of a tie, the decision will be referred to the Faculty Council.

Section 4 – It shall be the duty of the president to:

- a. Preside at the meetings for this chapter.
- b. In conjunction with the adviser compose the agenda for each meeting.

- c. Act as the official spokesperson for the chapter (ex: announcements and induction ceremony).
- d. Maintain close communication with the adviser.
- e. Coordinate activities.
- f. Complete any projects or responsibilities given to the office.

Section 5 – It shall be the duty of the vice president to:

- a. Preside in the absence of the president.
- b. Keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.
- c. Insure proper Parliamentary procedure in every meeting.

Section 6 –It shall be the duty of the secretary to:

- a. Take minutes of each meeting.
- b. Take roll as needed.
- c. Be responsible for all official chapter correspondence (ex: thank you notes).

Section 7 – The treasurer shall keep the record of chapter expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

#### ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 – The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 2 – The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

Section 3 – The executive committee shall hold a meeting no less than two days before each National Junior Honor Society meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1 – Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Special meetings approved by the Executive Committee may be called by the Faculty Adviser.

Section 2 – This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3 – All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings.

#### ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1 – The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2 – All members shall regularly participate in these service projects.

Section 3 – These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4 – Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project (minimum of 5 hours a semester) that reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 5 – The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

#### ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM

Section 1 – Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Junior Honor Society.

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

#### ARTICLE X: DUES

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

Section 2 – Dues will be payable to the chapter treasurer within 30 days of induction.

#### ARTICLE XI: POWERS

Section 1 – The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2 – The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3 – These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

#### ARTICLE XII : AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds 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 III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2 – Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society.

Date Approved:

Chapter President –

Chapter Secretary –

Chapter Adviser –

Principal –