

NJHS Information Meeting

What is NJHS?

National Junior Honor Society was established in 1929 and is a premier national student organization that recognizes outstanding junior high students. It focuses on five pillars. The five pillars are: Scholarship, Citizenship, Character, Leadership and Service. According to the NJHS website, "Five main purposes have guided chapters of NJHS from the beginning: to create enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to render service; to promote leadership; to encourage responsible citizenship; and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. These purposes also translate into the criteria used for membership selection in each local chapter."

<https://www.njhs.us/about/>

What are the 5 pillars and what do they mean?

Scholarship: academics (grades) requirement of 85% or higher and value of education

Citizenship: importance of civic involvement; regard for freedom, justice and our society; mature and responsible participation at school; deals with conflict in a responsible and civil manner

Character: Takes criticism well; accepts recommendations/ feedback graciously; uphold high values, morals and ethics on campus within hallways, classrooms, at events or even off campus; high standards of honesty, reliability, loyalty, and courtesy; deep respect for all students and staff; demonstrates perseverance in academics and within NJHS; avoids cheating; is not a bad influence to others; makes positive decisions on campus, off campus and through social media

Leadership: initiative in making our school better; exercise influence on peers by upholding high standards on and off campus and through social media; uphold office responsibly and diligently; dependable

Service: participate in outside school activities; volunteering; putting others before self; gladly available to help others; 10 service hours at Lamar JH

Who is eligible to apply for NJHS membership?

Students with an 85% or higher in core classes: Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies
No previous ISS or OSS in 7th grade year- automatic disqualification if it happens;
probation or dismissal from NJHS in 8th grade if ISS or OSS occurs

If I apply, will I automatically be accepted into NJHS?

No, your application will basically be graded by a rubric based on the 5 pillars of NJHS. Some students may even interview before the Faculty Council (4-5 staff members). The decision is not made based off of the advisor alone.

How many people will be accepted?

I am not sure yet. Possibly 45-60 students is my guess based on previous patterns.

If accepted, what does it require me to do?

You MUST fulfill 20 service hours (10 hours each semester), maintain a GPA of 85% or higher in core subjects (Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies); no discipline issues and MUST attend monthly NJHS meeting—requirement. Also must pay \$15 dues and t-shirt purchase (approximately \$15)

Failure to comply will result in probation or dismissal from NJHS.

Does it help with your future?

Yes, NHS in high school will help you qualify for scholarship and admittance into college. Looks really good on college applications and we work to build better individuals using the 5 pillars. This is not just a club to join—we are constantly doing a project on campus or have something coming up... Running for office will also help to build even more leadership skills in NJHS members. Start thinking about whether you would like to run for office: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Parliamentarian

What do you do with Service Hours page and when do you start those?

Using 6th and 7th grade volunteer experience, write down the best estimate of service hours complete and list contact information for a witness (prefer not to be parents). Perhaps list a description as well. I do not need their signature... just their contact number or email.

Do Service Hours all have to be from the same place?

No, just a sum of 10 hours every semester during your 8th grade year. For now, as you apply, the more, the merrier. Use any UNPAID volunteer hours from 6th or 7th grade. Use your best estimate and include details.

What can we use as Leadership experience?

If you served on Boy/ Girl Scouts, played area league sports, club volleyball, LJV athletics, TSA, Theatre performances, church leadership or youth organization, all of those can be counted towards leadership. Unsure? Just send me an email or come by my room during advisory or 6th period, please.

Letter of Recommendation—why do I need it and what should it be about?

Letter of Recommendation is there if you do not have service hours or leadership experience. If someone writes one for you, it should be to show that you are a student who exemplifies the five pillars: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship.

When do I find out if I made it into NJHS?

We will tell students no later than Friday, May 11th. No need to come ask. Trust me, we will find you! 😊 If you are selected for an interview, you will be expected to interview May 7-10th before the Faculty Council.

Because of the amount of applicants and the extremely tight deadline, I cannot make exceptions on application deadlines. Be sure to get this in on time!

As the advisor, I want the best of the best to be a part of NJHS. We have had such a successful year because Lamar JH NJHS students have exemplified Leadership, Service, Character, Citizenship and Scholarship. They are leaders who are willing to serve others and represent our school as best as possible. I want students with character who want to be a positive influence to our nearly 900 students. I have a heart for this organization and I want to pass it on to you!

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