

National Junior Honor Society

What is National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)?

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is one of the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding middle school students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS (and NHS in High School) serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of **Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character, and Citizenship**.

Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in activities of the NHS and NJHS. NHS and NJHS chapters are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. Territories, and Canada. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

What are some things that NJHS members do?

Milton Somers' Chapter of NJHS holds general meetings each month after school. These meetings, run by our four student officers, focus on everything from preparing for upcoming events or projects to further developing leadership, communication, and team-work skills. Each year, the members coordinate the school's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive as a service project for the community. NJHS also sponsors and promotes at least one RISE assembly for the school. NJHS' biggest project is planning the 8th grade semi-formal dance each spring. These are just some of the big projects NJHS has been involved in this year. What the organization does is really up to its members, so if you have a good idea for how to continue to develop scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship in the club next year, we would love to hear it!

How can I become a member of NJHS?

Any 7th grader (or 8th grader) who wishes to be considered for induction into NJHS must apply. Applications will be made available in your Language Arts classes. Completing the application and essay is the first step toward being accepted; however, not all that apply will make it. A 3-part selection committee will examine your grades, get feedback from your teachers on your performance in the classroom, and review your application and essay. From there, accepted candidates will receive a letter in the mail (sometime in early April) indicating that they have qualified for membership into NJHS.

How can I make sure that I stand out?

Membership into NJHS isn't something you can fake your way into. You can't be on your best behavior for a week and expect teachers to give you good scores on your NJHS evaluation. NJHS members should *routinely* demonstrate distinguished scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship in the classroom and exceed expectation in these areas. These five characteristics should be natural and part of who you are on a daily basis. Leadership doesn't always mean being the loudest, most outspoken member of a class. Quiet students can lead by example when it comes to following directions, completing their homework, etc. Scholarship isn't just getting good grades; scholars are dedicated to their learning at all times, even when it doesn't count for a grade! Service in the classroom can be anything from volunteering to assist a new student in class or simply agreeing to deliver a message to another classroom for your teacher when asked. Character and citizenship are more than just "being good". Students with good character understand the consequences of their actions and therefore think before acting. When students of good character do make errors (no one is perfect!), they do what they can to correct it, and most importantly learn from their mistakes. Good citizens are those students who are positive members of the school community. Good citizens do what they can to demonstrate RISE at all times, perform their best on tests like PARCC, and add to the encouraging atmosphere of the school. Do these character traits sound like you?

INTERESTED 7TH AND 8TH STUDENTS CAN START THE APPLICATION PROCESS IN FEBRUARY OF 2018.