



Saint Cecilia School

National
Junior
Honor
Society



The National Junior Honor Society Pledge

I pledge to myself to uphold the high purposes of the National Junior Honor Society to which I belong;

I will be true to the principles for which it stands;

I will be loyal to my school,

and will maintain and encourage high standards of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

What is National Junior Honor Society?

Established in 1929

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since their beginnings in 1929.

Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in activities of the NHS (High School) and NJHS (Middle School). 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.

(Taken from www.nhs.us.)

Who is eligible for an invitation to apply for candidacy into NJHS?

At Saint Cecilia School, in accordance with national standards set by NJHS, students will qualify for an invitation through their demonstration of success in the following.

- 1. Students eligible for election to this chapter must be in grade 6, 7 or 8 and have attended Saint Cecilia School for at least one semester. Students having 7 or more unexcused absences will not be eligible for membership. (unexcused absences are those absences that do not have a medical excuse from a doctor)*
- 2. Students must have a 90 or higher cumulative average in all subjects.*
- 3. Students demonstrate integrity for academic honesty. In other words, students involved in confirmed incidents of academic dishonesty during the academic year, including plagiarism, copying or cheating, shall not be eligible for candidacy.*

What is next after a candidate has been invited to apply for candidacy into NJHS?

Students will then fill out the candidacy forms demonstrating their accomplishments in the remaining areas of leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Therefore, just because a student qualifies based on their academic standards (scholarship), they will not automatically be inducted into the NJHS. The Saint Cecilia Faculty Council will then determine if the requirements have been met and eligible candidates will receive an invitation to participate in the induction ceremony at the end of the school year. The faculty council also serves as the group who determines if a student should be dismissed because of a failure to maintain expectations in one of the five areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character, or citizenship.

What does an exemplary NJHS candidate look like?

Scholarship: *as stated above*

Service: *This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation. Student provides dependable assistance to the agencies where service is being performed, works well with others, cheerfully and enthusiastically renders service. A minimum of 10 individual service hours must be completed and active participation in the Saint Cecilia School NJHS Chapter service project (to be determined by the NJHS members). Students will complete service hour logs and obtain signatures from supervisor/sponsor of these activities.*

Leadership: *Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from mature participation and responsibility gained*

through involvement with such activities as athletics, scouting, community organizations, and school clubs. Candidate must be an active participant in their activities, demonstrates and inspires positive behavior, and demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities. Students will complete an essay as part of this component.

Character: *The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others, consistently observes rules and regulations, is punctual to school and classes, and generally maintains a positive lifestyle. Input from faculty and staff will be considered as determinants of character.*

Citizenship: *The student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of civic involvement and has a high regard for freedom, justice and democracy. The Faculty Council will consider your discipline record as evidence of your citizenship.*

What can I do to become a better candidate for NJHS in 6th, 7th and 8th grade?

One of the best things you can do is to have really strong grades. Also, becoming involved in school clubs and activities, following all school rules and being a great role model for other students will start you on the right track to becoming a member of the NJHS Saint Cecilia School Chapter. In addition, outside of school, you can begin to track community service hours (work in which you don't receive some kind of pay) in order to strengthen your information sheet.

What do you do in NJHS?

Officers will be elected from the NJHS members, and all members are expected to meet on a regular basis to plan activities where students can develop their leadership skills and participate in service to the community/school. Other than that, the activities are up to the NJHS members. Things like car washes, fundraisers, leadership retreats, and team-building activities are all ideas that can be discussed, but plans will not be made until our chapter members are inducted this spring. NJHS members will begin their meetings in the following school year and must maintain all requirements for the following year to remain a member. Students must reapply for each school year.

What if I do not maintain the ideals of NJHS after induction?

It is expected that active members of NJHS continually strive for excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character. If the ideals within any of these categories should become a concern, the member will receive a warning and placed on probationary status. If the violation of the ideals continues, the member may be considered for dismissal, from NJHS by the Faculty Council.

**Saint Cecilia School
National Junior Honor**

Society

Candidate Application 2017

Name _____

In the space provided, please write a short essay that describes an incident in your life that exemplifies one of the following pillars of the National Junior Honor Society.

Saint Cecilia School NJHS Service Project Form

Complete one form for each type of activity; make as many copies as needed. Remember you need a minimum of 10 hours of community service.

NJHS Candidate's Name:

Service activity:

Date(s) of activity:

Time(s) of activity:

Total hours:

Adult supervisor of activity:

Phone number or email of supervisor:

Describe activity:

How did the service activity help others or the community?

Explain what you learned by being a part of this service activity?

NJHS Candidate signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian signature:

Date:

Adult supervisor of activity signature:

Date:

Leadership

Please list all activities in which you were an active participant; include all athletics, scouting, community organizations, and school clubs. These activities should have occurred within the last two years. Include what months and years you were involved in the activity. Active participation is defined as attendance/involvement in at least 80% of the meetings, practices, or games related to the activity. Paid private lessons for music, voice, specific athletic skills, etc. are not considered activities that demonstrate leadership. **On a separate sheet of paper please provide a typed essay on how you have demonstrated leadership skills in any of the listed activities.**

Group/Organization

Start date

End date

*Example: Alter server

Oct. 2013

still a server

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This packet is due by May 18, 2017+

Please include \$15 membership fee. If you are writing a check, please make it out to Saint Cecilia School, and on the memo line please write "NJHS due's".

I do hereby declare that the information in this evidence packet, to the best of my knowledge, is true, accurate, and verifiable. If accepted into the National Junior Honor Society, I agree to follow the rules of the organization and will continue to live up to its standards.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date
