

River Hill High School NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 as an organization that would recognize and encourage academic achievement as well as honoring and ~~enhancing~~ developing characteristics essential to citizens in a democracy.

The ideals of *scholarship, character, service and leadership* remain relevant today. Through NHS service activities, members maintain and extend the qualities upon which the organization was founded. Each year, as part of the NHS national guidelines, Honor Society chapters throughout the country collectively dedicate countless hours to school and community service projects for local, national and international causes. **Membership is both an honor and a responsibility. It is a commitment of your engagement and energy.** NHS membership is a distinction and honor that holds significance beyond a student's high school life.

In order to be considered, you must fill out and return the completed application packet to Ms. Galloway (room 131 or Ms. Johnson room 244) no later than 3:00 p.m. **Monday, September 28, 2015.**

The selection procedure as determined by the NHS Faculty Council at RHHS seeks candidates with demonstrated leadership, character, service, and scholarship. This packet is your opportunity to allow the NHS Faculty Council at RHHS to better understand you and your experiences as they apply to the NHS Organization. Students who satisfy all requirements, receive positive NHS Faculty Council at RHHS approval will be eligible for induction into National Honor Society. Membership requires students to continue to meet the NHS standards, including academic performance, service, and participation in NHS meetings and events.

The River Hill NHS site: <http://sites.google.com/site/riverhillnhs> is a valuable source of information for our chapter. Please bookmark it and review regularly to stay updated!

The NHS Faculty Council at RHHS wish you all the best as you proceed through the application process. Please communicate directly with Ms. Galloway or Ms. Johnson with additional questions. The school number is 410-313-7130. Information is posted on the NHS River Hill Facebook page, on the website and on the NHS board across from Room 131.

National Honor Society
River Hill High School
The Four Pillars of NHS

SCHOLARSHIP

The student who meets the scholarship requirement:

- Has spent at least one semester at RHHS prior to inductions
- Is a member of the junior or senior class
- Has a minimum weighted cumulative grade point average of 3.40
- Must be enrolled in **five** courses for credit at River Hill High School

CHARACTER

A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

In addition, a student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, and stability)
- Upholds principles of morality and ethics
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and is faithful both inside and outside the classroom
- Has powers of concentration, self-discipline, and sustained attention as shown by the perseverance and application to studies
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work and show unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

LEADERSHIP

The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing solutions to problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive influences on peers in upholding school ideals
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, and in other school or community activities
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted
- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.

SERVICE

The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work without complaint
- Participates in some activity outside of school, for example, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged

SELECTION FOR NHS MEMBERSHIP

Each fall, preliminary membership is open to qualified juniors and seniors with a cumulative weighted 3.40 or higher GPA and an exemplary disciplinary record. In accordance with the national NHS Constitution, only those students who have completed one semester at RHHS may be considered for membership. The selection procedure at River Hill High School, as determined by the Faculty Council in accordance with the National Council, is as follows:

- I. A student's academic records are reviewed to determine academic eligibility. A cumulative weighted GPA of a minimum of 3.40 is required at the end of the sophomore year. This GPA is established by HCPSS.
- II. All terms of preliminary membership must be fulfilled,
 - a. Students must complete and return all application forms to a chapter Advisor. Applications should be typed.
 - b. Students must continually **maintain a minimum 3.40 cumulative weighted GPA with no D's or E's.**
 - c. Students must complete 10 service hours each marking period (at least 5 in-school) for a total of 30 service hours (15 of which must be in-school hours). Hours will be documented on the NHS Service Hours form and submitted to room 131 or 244.
 - d. Hours submitted after posted deadlines will be considered late, with appropriate consequences.
 - e. **Attendance at the general membership meetings is mandatory** and must be verified by an assigned mentor.
 - f. An exemplary disciplinary record is expected and all members must abide by all "Requirements for Membership in Good Standing." "All" infractions will require a hearing before the NHS Faculty Council.
- III. The NHS Faculty Council, who are members of the RHHS staff and have been appointed by the principal, will review all submitted information and make membership selections.
- IV. The principal reviews all selections prior to student notification.
- V. In order to be **tapped** and invited to be inducted into the National Honor Society at an evening ceremony for parents, teachers, students and friends, applicants must:
 - ✓ Satisfy all requirements for academic eligibility and scholarship
 - ✓ Receive an exemplary cumulative score in character, leadership, and service as described on the application
 - ✓ Receive a majority vote of the NHS Faculty Council.

INDUCTION FEE

A **one-time \$25.00 induction** fee will be collected in October.

OTHER MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

NHS students who transfer to RHHS from another NHS chapter are automatically accepted into the RHHS chapter if they meet the RHHS chapter's requirements and upon presenting appropriate documentation to the chapter advisor. Transfer members will receive a letter of welcome, asked to submit a \$15.00 transfer fee, and return signed a copy of the Chapter's "Requirements for Membership in Good Standing."

DISMISSAL

Preliminary members and members of NHS are expected to maintain the standards of scholarship, character, leadership, and service, throughout membership. Members who fall below the standards will be invited to a NHS Faculty Council hearing to explain their actions. Members are allowed up to **two** hearings during their membership. In the case of a **flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a hearing is not required for dismissal.** If a member is dismissed, written notice of the decision by the NHS Faculty Council will be sent to the member, his or her parents, and the principal. The member has a right to appeal the decision of the NHS Faculty Council to the principal. If the dismissal is upheld, the member must **surrender the NHS emblem (NHS pin or other insignia) to the chapter advisor.**

National Honor Society
River Hill High School Chapter
Requirements for Membership in Good Standing

I. Attendance

Attendance at NHS meetings is mandatory for members. A meeting schedule is available on the NHS website. By submitting the Preliminary Membership Packet you are acknowledging you are responsible for attending all meetings. If you know you will be absent from a meeting, you must submit a *Missed Meeting Form* by the Friday prior to the meeting indicating you will be absent and the reason for your absence. **Two additional in-school service hours are assigned for unexcused absences and excessive tardiness.**

If two or more meetings are missed or you are late for meetings on a regular basis, you will be required to appear before the NHS Faculty Council.

II. Scholarship

As of July 1, 2013, a candidate enters the River Hill chapter with a minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.40 and will be expected to maintain this standard, with no D's or E's, for **every grading** period during preliminary and full membership. Should a member's GPA fall below the standard, he/she will receive a letter indicating that he/she is not a member in *good standing* and may be placed on probation or reviewed for dismissal.

III. Service

Each preliminary and full member is responsible for:

- a. Accrue 10 hours per marking period (a minimum of 5 hours to include in-school service). No service hours can be accrued for events that occur during the school day. A total of 30 hours for the school year, with at least 15 in-school hours, is required. Refer to the website for a list of acceptable service hours.
- b. Participate at least once each school year in the Chapter's service project, which is the Trotter Road *Adopt-A-Road Project*.

Each student must keep a record of these activities and request that the adult in charge of the activity verify the service hours with a signature and a phone number. This record should be kept on the Service Hours Sheet to be submitted by the given due dates. Hours submitted after posted deadlines will be considered late.

Summer volunteer service will constitute no more than 10 hours of the service requirement and must be submitted by the posted due date. **Only second year members are eligible for summer hours.**

IV. Character

NHS members are expected to serve as role models for the student body. The administration and faculty will receive a list of preliminary and current NHS members and will request information about any instances that may reflect less than exemplary character.

NHS members will:

1. Demonstrate academic integrity at all times, including but not limited to: homework class work completion, quizzes, tests, projects, papers or any other work assigned as the requirements of a course. This includes copying homework or giving work to others.
2. Treat all members of the RHHS community with respect. According to HCPSS Policy 9020, students have a responsibility for their own learning, for their personal conduct, and for the manner in which they exercise their rights. Students should respect their peers and adults at all times.
3. Maintain a courteous, civil, and cooperative attitude at all times.
4. Abide by the HCPSS/RHHS Code of Conduct.

Remember that NHS members are role models for the student body. While the guidelines in the National Honor Society Handbook state, “the goal of disciplinary measures by the Faculty Council is to re-educate the student to more appropriate behavior,” flagrant violations of the Code of Conduct may result in dismissal without warning.

V. Fundraising

The River Hill Chapter of the National Honor Society has selected *Hanging Baskets* as its annual fundraiser. This event is held in March, with delivery scheduled in May prior to Mother’s Day. Each NHS member is **expected** to sell a minimum of two hanging baskets per year. Please speak with the sponsors regarding any financial hardships related to participation in this fundraiser. Should any senior fail to participate in the yearly fundraising activity, he/she will **forfeit** the opportunity to wear the NHS stole at graduation.

2015-16 River Hill NHS Application Packet
Student ID # _____

National Honor Society
River Hill High School



NHS Motto:
Noblesse Oblige

Candidate Information Packet

Carefully read and complete all information sheets.

**Completed packet is due no later than
September 28, 2015**

Clearly Print your Student ID Number _____

Attach a recent photo to BACK of packet

Clearly type your last name and first name BELOW the photo

Student Acknowledgement

I understand that academic eligibility is one of four criteria upon which selection is based: the three other criterions for selection are leadership, service, and character. _____ **(Initial)**

I understand that I must type all application materials completely and accurately for the packet to be accepted. I acknowledge that once this packet is submitted, it becomes the property of River Hill High National Honor Society. _____ **(Initial)**

All application packets should be returned to Ms. Galloway in room 131 or Ms. Johnson in room 244 no later than **Monday, September 28, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.** _____ **(Initial)**

I have read and understand the *Requirements for Membership in Good Standing* with the River Hill High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. My signature below indicates my willingness to abide by these expectations. I understand that if I fail to meet any of the requirements, I may be asked to resign my membership or may be dismissed from the organization.

Student Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

National Honor Society
River Hill High School



NHS Motto:
Noblesse Oblige

Candidate Information Packet

Carefully read and complete all information sheets.

**Completed packet is due no later than
September 28, 2015**

Clearly Print your Student's ID Number _____

Parent Acknowledgment

I have reviewed the application packet and the selection procedures. I acknowledge and understand all terms of preliminary membership.

I have read and understand the *Requirements for Membership in Good Standing* as identified for membership in the River Hill High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Any packets received after 3 pm on 9/28/2015 will be designated as late to the Faculty Council and may result in a non-selection decision.

Instructions for Completing the Application:

- Do not list activities that you completed once or occasionally.
- These should be activities you have been involved with while in high school. Do not include middle school activities.
- Do not list organizations you intend to join this year. However, you may list first-year activities if you have completed significant preparation and can submit documentation.
- Do not list classes such as drama or band, unless you go above and beyond class requirements or hold a leadership position as part of the class activities or any honors you may have received.
- You may list religious activities such as teaching a class, but do not list attendance at regular services. You may list summer service trips that were part of an organized program.

I. You may provide a resume or complete the following Relevant Experiences section:

Include all elected or appointed leadership positions or other positions of responsibility held while at RHHS, in the community, or at work. You may also want to provide a written or email message to verify the information you listed. **Continue on another page if needed.**

<u>Estimated Hours/Week</u>	<u>Activity or Organization</u>	<u>Position Held</u>	<u>Description</u>

Student ID # _____

II. Recognition and Awards may be detailed in your resume or you may post below:

Please list any honors or recognition you have received during **high school** that support your application. This is *not a specific criterion* for membership, but it may provide additional background to the NHS Faculty Council.

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Recognition, Award, or Honor</u>	<u>Organization or Activity</u>	<u>Description</u>

IV. **Personal Statement**: Candidates must demonstrate a commitment **to all four pillars** to be inducted into the National Honor Society. The Personal Statement is your opportunity to present yourself to the NHS Faculty Council. Please attach to this application.

Why do you want to become a member of the National Honor Society at River Hill High School? Include your experiences and how they relate to the four pillars.

- Share how scholarship is a priority in your pathway to success.
- Consider the difference between being a leader and being a participant.
- Describe what challenges may have influenced your character and the person you are today.
- Finally, what does service mean to you and how will you serve your community?

IV. Additional Information

If you would like to include any additional information about your activities that might influence your eligibility, please add a narrative statement and attach to this application.

V. Disciplinary Experience

Have you received any disciplinary referrals?

_____ YES

_____ NO

If you have any disciplinary referrals and checked YES above, please describe the incident(s), the outcome, and what you learned from the experience.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
River Hill High School
ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION WAIVER

Throughout the year the River Hill National Honor Society will maintain an online photo album and website. Event updates, names and photographs of various NHS members may appear. Due to the public nature of these items, the RHHS NHS requests permission to display both the name and photo of the student who signs below. These items will be used only as NHS records or public messages to inform members and the community about NHS activities and service.

In addition, the National Honor Society employs the use of an e-mail database with its members to communicate important events and reminders. For prospective members who currently have an e-mail address, it is important to provide the email address to ensure all members are informed.

Agreement

I have read and understand the purpose of this waiver. I agree to grant permission to the RHHS National Honor Society to use my name, picture, or both on the website or online photo album, strictly for purposes of communicating information or describing NHS activities to the public. Also, I understand that the National Honor Society uses a website and e-mail to provide vital information. **I recognize my responsibility to check my e-mail and the NHS website on a regular basis, at least once a week, to maintain relevant communication with NHS.**

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

I have read and understand the purpose of this waiver. I agree to grant permission to the RHHS National Honor Society to display my son's/daughter's name or picture, or both on the website or online photo album, in addition to the use of his/her e-mail address.

Parent Printed name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

HOWARD COUNTY
Department of Public Works-Adopt-A-Road Program

PARENTAL PERMISSION OF MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

The undersigned, being a parent of the child under the age of 18 years old listed below, does give permission for his/her child to participate in the Department of Public Works Adopt-A-Road Program with the group/organization River Hill National Honor Society, which has adopted the county road Trotter Road.

The undersigned further acknowledges that he/she is aware that certain risks may be involved with this undertaking and voluntarily chooses to allow his/her child to remove trash along the road.

The undersigned further agrees to hold harmless Howard County for any injuries his/her child may sustain due to involvement in the Department of Public Works Adopt-A-Road Program.

Only those students under 18 years of age who have parental permission below are authorized to participate in the Department of Public Works Adopt-A-Road Program.

DATE	PRINT MINOR'S NAME	*Is minor under 16?	PARENT'S SIGNATURE	PHONE #

*NHS must provide additional adult chaperones for students under age 16.

NHS Students and Parents:

The permission slip above is used in correlation with River Hill's chapter service project. The permission slip will be copied and forwarded to the Department of Public Works. The permission slip does not designate a specific date in which the clean-ups will be done. Clean-ups occur once a month with exceptions of June, July, and January. Each student can select the date in which he/she is available to participate. The dates and times of the clean-ups vary, but are announced at monthly meetings and are listed on the NHS Calendar. All NHS members are required to participate once a year.

Sometimes the clean-up activity involves working on the school grounds since a limited number of students may be needed to clean Trotter Road. If a student's parent chooses to deny permission to clean the road, the student will work on school grounds. The parent should indicate on this form that permission is denied to participate in the Adopt-a-Road program.

Questions? Call 410-313-7120

Ms. Galloway and Ms. Johnson
NHS co-sponsors