

MOUNTAIN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal – Danny Carter
Asst. Principal – James Evans
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Athletic Director – Dave Hobel



Allegany County Public Schools

Chapter Bylaws
of the
Mountain Ridge High School Chapter
of the
National Honor Society
Adopted: February 5, 2024

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Mountain Ridge High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

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 to encourage the development of character in students of Mountain Ridge High School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NHS. <https://www.nationalhonorsociety.org/about/constitution-governance/nhs-national-constitution/> . In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

Section 2. The chapter adviser(s) is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 3: Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 4: Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. 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, and character. Parents and students must understand that no student has a right to be selected for membership and students must be invited to apply for membership.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the junior or senior class.
- b. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Mountain Ridge High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative unweighted grade point average of 3.70 on a 4.0 scale. Guidance can provide candidates with GPA information.
- d. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall be enrolled in a minimum of four class periods each semester. At least one class each semester must take place at either Mountain Ridge High School or the Center for Career and Technical Education.
- e. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have fewer than 10 total unexcused absences prior to selection for membership.
- f. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have no Out of School Suspensions (OSS) and no more than one In School Suspension (ISI) prior to selection for membership.
- g. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, GPA, schedule, attendance and adherence to school policy standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council which consists 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. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the first semester of the school year.

Section 3. Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' records shall be reviewed by guidance and administration to determine eligibility.
- b. All students who are eligible (i.e., candidates) shall be notified by the chapter adviser(s). Candidates are asked to complete and submit the candidate information form, as well as, obtain an outside letter of recommendation for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official teacher recommendation form provided by the chapter adviser(s).
- d. The faculty council shall review the candidate information forms, faculty input, and outside letters of recommendation to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

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

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National 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/her membership.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Students selected for membership to the Mountain Ridge High School Chapter of the National Honor Society must participate in the formal induction ceremony to be considered new members. Students who do not attend the formal induction ceremony and do not have written approval from the principal will not be considered members of the National Honor Society.

Section 2. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$20.00. Dues will be payable to the chapter within 30 days of induction.

Section 3. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 4. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 5. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords at graduation.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer and during special situations, public relations officer.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the first meeting of each school year. All returning members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

Section 3. Voting shall be by secret ballot. 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.

Section 4. New officers shall be installed at a special ceremony held during the first meeting of each school year.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 6. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 7. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 8. The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 9. Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and 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.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be held each semester. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser(s).

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

Section 3. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

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

Section 2. All members should participate in at least one project during the school year.

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.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL of MEMBERS

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

Section 2. The 9-week marking period unweighted GPA, not the cumulative GPA, for each member will be reviewed by the Chapter Advisor(s) each 9-week term. Upon the first offense in which a member's 9-week marking period unweighted GPA falls below 3.70, a formal probation letter shall be given to the student and mailed to the parents, stating that if the member's 9-week marking period unweighted GPA again falls below 3.70, the student will be considered for immediate dismissal. Should that student's 9-week marking period unweighted GPA again fall below 3.70 in any future 9-week term, the student and parents shall be given written notification of dismissal.

Section 3. A schedule that is fewer than four class periods each semester is unacceptable to maintain National Honor Society standing. Any member who is enrolled in fewer than four class periods each semester will be considered for immediate dismissal. Any member who fails to take at least one class each semester at either Mountain Ridge High School or the Center for Career and Technical Education will be considered for immediate dismissal.

Section 4. Attendance will be reviewed by the Chapter Advisor(s) each 9-week term. Any member who has a cumulative total of 10 or more unexcused absences will be considered for immediate dismissal.

Section 5. Members must participate in at least one Mountain Ridge National Honor Society sponsored service project each year to maintain good standing. Any member who fails to participate in at least one NHS sponsored service project each year will be considered for immediate dismissal. Senior members failing to participate in at least one NHS sponsored service project during their senior year will be considered for immediate dismissal prior to graduation.

Section 6. Violations of the law can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to DWI/DUI, stealing, destruction of property, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 7. Any member violating the school conduct code and serving one day of In School Suspension (ISI) will be given a formal probation letter. A probation letter will also be mailed to the parents. If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code and serves a second day of In School Suspension (ISI), the member will be considered for immediate dismissal.

Section 8. Any member violating the school conduct code and serving any Out of School Suspension (OSS) shall be considered for immediate dismissal.

Section 9. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 10. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser(s)/faculty council indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. The member has the right to respond to the charge(s) against him/her at a hearing before the faculty council prior to any vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, 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 presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- e. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 11. In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, and REVIEW.

Section 1: These bylaws will be approved upon receiving a 2/3 affirmative vote of all

active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the administration.

Section 2: These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 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 IV, V, and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal.

Approved on February 5, 2024:

Principal Mr. Danny Carter: Danny Carter

Advisers Mrs. Vicki Hoover: Vicki Hoover

Mr. Todd Logsdon Todd Logsdon

Chapter President Jacqueline Geary: Jacqueline Geary

Chapter Secretary Kaylee Hardman: Kaylee Hardman