

Handbook of the
St. Paul
Lutheran School Chapter
of the
**National Junior
Honor
Society**



St. Paul is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and therefore we have the pleasure of offering high-achieving students membership in the St. Paul Lutheran School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

The National Junior Honor Society chapter of St. Paul Lutheran School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this national organization. Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in five areas of evaluation: **academics, leadership, service, citizenship, and Christian character**. Standards for selection are established by the national office of NJHS and have been revised to meet our local chapter needs. Students are selected to be members by a five to seven member Faculty Council, appointed by the principal, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school. Membership in St. Paul Lutheran School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society is open to students who have attended St. Paul Lutheran School for at least one trimester and are either a sixth, seventh, or eighth grade student.

Students who have been NJHS members the previous year must complete all requirements except for the letter of recommendation. Prior membership does not guarantee membership for the following school year.

Academics

Students must have achieved an average of a 3.75 grade point during the application period. Scores will be weighted according to the current St. Paul Parent/Student Handbook. **Students must maintain the 3.75 grade point average to remain in the NJHS. If grades fall below a 3.75, a warning is given. Students then have one trimester to bring their GPA back up to the 3.75 requirement. If a 3.75 is not achieved, students will then be removed from the National Junior Honor Society. Eighth grade students will have their GPA figured before graduation, and if the 3.75 is not achieved, they will not graduate with NJHS honors.**

Leadership

For the Leadership criterion, nominees must exhibit positive leadership and Christian character qualities, both at St. Paul Lutheran School and in the community. These are demonstrated through offices or positions held, team cooperation, school spirit, and positive interaction with peers and faculty members, both within and outside of the instructional setting. **In addition, students must write an essay explaining how they show leadership in their daily lives and classroom community as well as how their leadership will impact our school. They must also obtain a signed letter of recommendation from someone outside the educational community who can attest to the candidate's character and leadership qualities.**

Service and Citizenship

For the Service and Citizenship criteria, candidates are required to complete paperwork documenting their involvement in school and community recreational and service activities.

Christian Character

To evaluate each candidate's character, the Faculty Council uses two forms of input. First, school disciplinary records are reviewed. Second, members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional reflections on a candidate's service activities, character, citizenship, and leadership. These forms are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. **Each student will be rated on a score of 1-4 on the NJHS components of Leadership, Christian Character, Service and Citizenship by the Faculty Council. An average of 3.25 is necessary for selection. Once students are members of the NJHS, they must maintain a high Christian character. If a member's name is placed on the Blue List for behavior three times in a trimester, a warning letter is sent home. If the student receives an after school behavioral detention, the student may be removed from St. Paul's National Junior Honor Society.**

There is no right to membership; it is a privilege bestowed upon students by the faculty of St. Paul. National Junior Honor Society is not an election, nor is membership automatically conveyed simply because students have achieved a specified level of academic performance. The candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection according to a predetermined schedule. Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all the newly selected members. **Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance in all five criteria that led to their selection. The NJHS is committed to serve others as Christ has served others: willingly, compassionately, and completely.** Students or parents who have questions regarding the selection process or membership obligations can contact the chapter advisers, Mr. Fischer at James.Fischer@splgraffton.org, Mrs. Yurk at Joy.Yurk@splgraffton.org, or Mr. Yurk at michael.yurk@splgraffton.org

Applications are due to Mr. Fischer or Mrs. Yurk on or before September 18th, 2020.

The NJHS is:

- A co-curricular activity that actively supports the educational goals of St. Paul Lutheran School
- A nationally recognized program established in 1929 by NASSP and currently found in public and private schools in every state
- An opportunity to involve chapter members in significant learning experiences, especially in the area of service
- Inclusive – open to all students who choose to apply themselves and consequently meet the five established criteria: scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and Christian character
- A chance for the faculty to bestow membership (through the actions of the faculty council/selection committee) – as a student privilege, not a right
- A program with national guidelines linked with opportunity for significant local input to reflect local educational standards
- A program for all middle level schools.

NJHS is not:

- A “junior” program of the NHS (junior simply means younger and is not tied specifically to the “junior high” experience)
- Elitist, where special privileges are granted, as membership is inclusive and open to all who meet entrance criteria

- An honor roll (more factors are considered in the selection process than just grades)
- Inappropriately exclusive – as with the definition of any selection process, NJHS will exclude those who do not meet the standards, but a fair and consistently applied set of procedures which are well-known to the entire school community can promote membership opportunity to all
- A program structured solely from national mandates

