

CHAPTER BYLAWS

of the Assumption Crusaders NJHS Chapter
of the National Junior Honor Society

Adopted: 1/9/2019

Edited: 5/11/2021

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Assumption Crusaders NJHS Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Elementary School (ABVM).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, promote leadership, develop character, and to encourage good citizenship in the students of ABVM.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1. This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NJHS. See www.njhs.us/constitutions. In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

Section 2. The chapter adviser 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. [For reference, see Article V, Section 1 of the National Constitution.]

Section 4. Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NJHS 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, 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 anonymous faculty council and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

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. Membership is a conferred honor and membership decisions are made by the Faculty Council of five (5). The Faculty Committee bases their decision on criteria outlined in the NJHS Informational Brochure and Eligibility Rubric on the Assumption website.

Section 4. Eligibility:

- A. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the seventh or eighth grade class.
- B. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, a candidate must be enrolled at ABVM for the two most recent consecutive quarters.
- C. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative middle school grade point average (GPA) of 3.800 on a 4.000 scale. GPA is calculated using letter grades for core subjects and will be averaged quarterly to determine the candidate's cumulative GPA, with midterms and finals bearing no weight.
- D. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, character, and citizenship. The publically available rubric and informational brochure further defines desired characteristics of each pillar, available on the school website.



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/staff members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisers shall be the sixth and seventh, **non-voting**, ex officio members of the faculty council.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

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

- A. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- B. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit by the due date the candidate

information form, including all supplemental materials indicated on the form, for further consideration.

- C. The faculty council shall review the candidate information forms, faculty input forms (two from current teachers), letters of recommendation, pillar video, educational and discipline records and other relevant information (including in-class behaviors, attitude, and participation) to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4. If a member wishes to appeal a non-selection decision, an appeal may be made to the principal. The principal then has the right to uphold the decision, overturn it, or send it back to the Faculty Council for reconsideration. Assumption follows the suggestion of the National Junior Honor Society Association in not offering due process in a non-selection situation.

[\(https://www.njhs.us/parents/student-membership/expressing-your-concerns/information-on-appeals/\)](https://www.njhs.us/parents/student-membership/expressing-your-concerns/information-on-appeals/)

Section 5. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 6. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 7. An active member of the National Junior 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. Dues for this chapter shall be \$20 annually. Dues will be payable to the chapter by April 15 of each year for members and within 30 days of induction for newly inducted members.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards of scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship, and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Junior Honor Society. [To be in good standing, members must comply with the minimum acceptable standards outlined in Article X.]

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last 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. 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 5. 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 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 7. The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.

Section 8. Officers may be relieved of their duties if the chapter's faculty council determines the officer is no longer a member in good standing [see Article X]. In the event that a chapter officer is removed from office, withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter, the chapter's faculty committee shall appoint a interim-officer until the next election.

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 monthly. Special meetings may

be called by the president with approval of the adviser..

Section 2. Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

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

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

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.

Section 4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in individual service projects which reflect his or her particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute. Students are responsible for collecting 4 individual service hours per semester.

Section 5. The chapter shall publicize and promote its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL of MEMBERS

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, character, or citizenship may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the ABVM chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member of the National Junior 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. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (3.800), he/she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member (see Section 5 below). These violations include, but are not limited to stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities or in the community.

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (faculty council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 5. 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 6. In all cases of pending dismissal:



- A. The member will receive written notification from the adviser/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 approval, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- D. If the member wishes to appeal a dismissal decision, s/he may present this appeal to the principal, who then has the right to uphold the decision, overturn it, or send it back to the Faculty Council for reconsideration. Once the principal rules, if the member wishes to appeal again, s/he may appeal to the pastor who has the same rights and privileges of the principal. Any decision made by the pastor is final. (Article V and X of the NJHS National Constitution)
- E. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 7. 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 two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the school principal.

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 two-thirds 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, X, and XII which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal.

Approved on 1/9/2019.

Edited 2/3/2021.

Signatures

Dr. Pat Hensley, Principal

Missy Neiswander, Chapter Advisor

Chapter President

Chapter Secretary

