

SCHOLARSHIP

The Sigma chapter of the NHS at Suffield High School requires that each student maintain a minimum cumulative Quality Point Average (QPA) of 5.1 out of a 6.0 scale.

LEADERSHIP

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. The National Honor Society states that a student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new solutions to problems, applying principles, and making suggestions;
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities;
- Exercises influence 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 school offices or positions of responsibility conducts business effectively and efficiently and demonstrates reliability and dependability;
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities;
- Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted;
- Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.

The Sigma chapter of the NHS at Suffield High School requires that each student has held a minimum of three leadership positions or positions of responsibility while in high school.

Two of these leadership positions must be at the high school and one of these two must be in a position beyond athletics. Membership in organizations or having an elected position does not necessarily demonstrate leadership. The student must show that they were in charge of a group or that they were in charge of running an activity as examples of leadership.

Examples of leadership activities include but are not limited to:

- Officer of an activity or organization;
- Editor of a publication;
- Team captain, coach, or manager;
- Crew chief or production manager in a dramatic or musical production;
- Camp counselor;
- Eagle Scout;
- Committee or Project Chairperson

SERVICE

Service is generally considered to include those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service.

The National Honor Society standards states that a 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: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, youth groups affiliated with religious institutions, volunteer services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged;
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools;
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

The Sigma Chapter of the NHS at Suffield High School requires members to participate in a variety of Suffield High School activities but also to serve the greater community outside of the school. The chapter requires that members demonstrate on-going participation in service to their school and community and in this regard expect students to participate in a minimum of 40 hours of documented community service annually. This service should be done over several areas (i.e. not all service for one organization).

Candidates for membership must demonstrate this level of service, and current members are expected to maintain this level of service.

CHARACTER

The National Honor Society is a member of the Character Counts Coalition. The Society supports and recommends the use of a multi-faceted definition of character known as the “Six Pillars of Character”. A person of character demonstrates these six qualities:

Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

Each eligible student will be evaluated by the faculty and administration according to the National Honor Society standards for good character, which state that a student of strong character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously;
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, 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 faithful both inside and outside the classroom;
- Exhibits concentration, self discipline, and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies;
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in academic work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others;
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or negativity in the environment.

In addition, the Sigma Chapter of NHS at Suffield High School also believes that the student of good character:

- Has an excellent work ethic;
- Works well with other students and with faculty members;
- Maintains a positive attitude and is a positive influence to others around him/her.

At Suffield High School, character will automatically be questioned by events leading to formal discipline (suspension from school, detentions, etc.), consistent lateness, cheating, or other offenses brought forth by a member of the faculty or administration. Any concerns regarding a student’s character will be researched by the advisors, and all relevant information will be forwarded to the faculty council for consideration.