**BASHA HIGH SCHOOL**

**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I:  NAME AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1**. The name of this chapter shall be the Basha High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

**Section 2.** 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 the students of Basha High School. We strive to promote the official Basha High School Mission Statement of Benevolence, Honor, and Scholarship.

# ARTICLE II: LOCAL CHAPTERS

# Section 1. Any secondary public school is eligible to establish a new chapter. Nonpublic secondary schools accredited or approved by state departments of education or by accrediting agencies approved by NASSP are eligible to apply for a chapter. Each school shall have its own chapter except in cases where a school’s size precludes the formation of a full Faculty Council. In such cases, a chapter can be shared as long as all other constitutional requirements can be met. A middle level unit in the same building with a high school unit will be appropriate for two separate chapters (one for the National Junior Honor Society and one for the National Honor Society). (See Chapter 4 for clarification of this last provision of Section 1.)

# Section 2. Deleted.

# Section 3. Each school with a chapter shall pay an annual affiliation fee approved by the NASSP Board of Directors.

# Section 4. The annual individual member dues paid to a chapter or state affiliate, if any, shall not exceed twenty (25) dollars inclusively. The exact amount shall be determined by the executive committee of the chapter and shall be subject to the approval of the chapter membership.

# Section 5. Duly chartered local chapters shall conform to this Constitution as set forth by the NASSP Board of Directors. Failure to do so may result in the loss of the charter.

# ARTICLE III: THE PRINCIPAL

# Section 1. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

# Section 2. The principal shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as chapter adviser, who may serve consecutive terms. Co-advisers may be appointed where necessary.

# Section 3. The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of five members of the school’s faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

# Section 4. The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

# ARTICLE IV: THE CHAPTER ADVISER

# Section 1. The chapter adviser shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

# Section 2. The chapter adviser shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter adviser shall complete the annual survey and submit it to the national office.

# Section 3. The chapter adviser shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

# Section 4. The chapter adviser shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

# Section 5. The chapter adviser shall be an ex officio, nonvoting, sixth member of the Faculty Council and shall facilitate all meetings of the council.

# Section 6. The chapter adviser shall be a member of the faculty, appointed annually by the principal, and may serve consecutive terms.

# ARTICLE V: THE FACULTY COUNCIL

# Section 1. The Faculty Council shall consist of five (5) voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be an ex officio, nonvoting, sixth member of the Faculty Council. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the Faculty Council. (See commentary in Chapter 3 regarding the functions of the Faculty Council.)

# Section 2. The term of the Faculty Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

# Section 3. The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and to consider non selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

# Section 4. The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with this Constitution and NHS policies.

# ARTICLE VI:  MEMBERSHIP

**Section I.** Membership in the local chapter is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Council and is based on the scoring of applications regarding outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

1. In this chapter, members will demonstrate these qualities through the following:
   1. Turning in forms and dues on time
   2. Maintaining a 3.8 weighted GPA
   3. Maintaining attendance at member meetings
   4. Completing 30 hours of service each year
   5. Participation in the chapter’s service projects
   6. Observing laws and school regulations

**Section 2.** Membership shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members shall become alumni members at graduation. Alumni members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty council, and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

**Section 3.** Members of the Faculty Council shall support the school leader in creating and sustaining a school environment in which each student is known, accepted, and valued, trusted and respected, cared for and encouraged to be an active and responsible member of the school community. As such, the Faculty Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to students who warrant special consideration—including those who receive accommodations for a disability, or foreign exchange students—in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of the National Honor Society. The Faculty Council might also award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NHS advisers, or other adults. Honorary membership grants to the recipient all the privileges of membership without the obligations associated with active member status (See Chapter 3 of the National Honor Society Handbook for additional information).

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

**Section 5.** Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to apply and compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship program.

**Section 6.** An NHS member who transfers to another school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter adviser to the new school adviser shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school’s chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter’s standards within one semester to retain membership.

**Section 7.** Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

**ARTICLE VII:  SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of those classes (sophomore and junior) designated as eligible in the chapter bylaws. (Freshmen [ninth graders] are not eligible.) Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester. On the basis of the recommendation from the previous school, the Faculty Council may waive the semester regulation.

**Section 2.** The national minimum standard for scholarship shall be a cumulative scholastic average of at least 85 percent, B, or 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or the equivalent standard of excellence. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character. Local chapters may raise the cumulative GPA standard above the national minimum, or increase standards for the remaining selection criteria, apply them fairly and consistently, and include these standards in their locally published selection procedures

1. The chapter’s minimum standard for scholarship shall be a cumulative scholastic average of at least 3.8 (out of 4.0; weighted grade point average). Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

**Section 3.** The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser shall review with the principal the results of the Faculty Council’s deliberations.

**Section 4.** A description of the selection procedure shall be published in an official school publication that is widely available in a timely fashion to all students and parents of the school. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Faculty Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of NHS.

1. The selection procedure shall include a review by the faculty council of the candidates’ application, which should include the candidate’s academic, extra-curricular and service activity. The application will be graded by a rubric and will determine the candidate’s eligibility based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. The faculty council will select upcoming members with the top scores based on the rubric.

**Section 5.** NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

**ARTICLE VIII: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL**

**Section 1.** The Faculty Council, in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society, shall determine the procedure for dismissal. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.

1. The chapter’s procedure for dismissal shall be the following:
   1. Members shall be placed on warning and given a written notice when attendance, service hours or other requirements of the chapter have not been met.
   2. If the member fails to correct or continues to fail to meet the chapter requirements, a member will be placed on probation, and a written warning will be issued. The member will be given a date to which they need to correct their requirements and attend an appeal process.
   3. If a member fails to correct the requirements by the set date on their probation letter or does not attend the appeal process, they will be dismissed from the chapter based on the Faculty Council’s determination.

**Section 2**. Members who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except that in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a member does not have to be warned.

**Section 3.** The Faculty Council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

**Section 4.** In all cases of pending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Faculty Council. (Note: This hearing is required and is considered “due process” for all members.)

**Section 5.** For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required.

**Section 6.** A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the principal and thereafter under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

**Section 7.** NASSP shall hear no appeals in dismissal cases. (Note: Refer to Article VIII, Section 7 regarding the permanent consequences for members when dismissed.)

**Article IX: Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of the chapter, their duties, and the method of their election shall be determined by teacher recommendation, the Faculty Council and the principal, and described in the chapter bylaws.

1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, media coordinator, and blood drive coordinator(s).
2. Student officers shall be elected at the end of each school year.
3. All active returning members in good standing are eligible to run for a position as an officer.
4. The adviser and faculty council will interview and vote on candidates to determine suitable officers for the following year.
5. It shall be the duty of the **president** to preside at the meetings for this chapter. They are responsible for maintaining communications with members about service opportunities, fundraising events, etc.. They are expected to prepare the agendas and facilitate the club meetings, and to attend every officer and club meeting. This position must be held by a senior member.
6. The **vice president(s)** shall preside in the absence of the president. VP(s) will maintain updated and accurate records of members’ service hours. The position of vice president may be filled by more than one person. They are expected to attend every officer and club meeting. They are expected to attend every officer and club meeting. This position must be held by a senior member.
7. The **secretary(s)** shall preside in the absence of the president and vice president(s) and shall also keep the minutes and agendas and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence. A copy of the minutes needs to be supplied to the sponsors within 1 week of the meeting. Attendance should be entered for each meeting on the online database. The position of secretary may be filled by more than one person. They are expected to attend every officer and club meeting. They will also plan one fundraiser per quarter with the help of the entire club. This position must be held by a senior member.
8. The **media coordinator** will keep records of pictures, outings, news articles, and events in which the chapter participates in and maintain the chapter’s social media with integrity and honor. This position must be held by a senior member.
9. The **blood drive coordinator(s)** shall be in charge of promoting awareness of and organizing the blood drives on campus. This position serves for two years. The blood drive coordinator(s) mentors junior blood-drive coordinator(s). The position of blood drive coordinator may be filled by more than one person. They are expected to attend every officer and club meeting. These positions must be held by two senior members and two junior members.
10. Any officer failing to meet the attendance and community service requirements of the chapter will be dismissed from his or her position as officer. Hours for community service must be documented.
11. If an officer is absent from more than two meetings (officer or club) without a valid excuse such as sickness, family emergency, conflicting field trips, or other valid excuses accepted for school absences, he or she will be dismissed from the office.
12. If an officer fails to uphold the responsibilities of their position, as noted in Article 5, Sections 4- 11, he or she will be dismissed from the office.
13. If an officer position becomes available during the course of the year, the adviser and faculty council will run an election and interview candidates to choose their replacement.

**Section 2.** New officers shall be installed at a special ceremony. (See sample officer installation ceremony in Chapter 3.)

# Article X: Executive Committee

**Section 1.** The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the chapter and the chapter adviser.

**Section 2.** The executive committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between its business meetings, make recommendations to the chapter, and determine and perform such other duties as are specified in the chapter bylaws. All actions and recommendations of the executive committee shall be subject to the review of the chapter membership.

**Section 3.** The executive committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations.

# Article XI:  Meetings

**Section 1.** Each chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year on days designated by the executive committee and in accordance with school policy and regulations.

**Section 2.** The regularity of the meetings (i.e., weekly, monthly, bimonthly, etc.) shall be designated in the chapter bylaws.

**Section 3.** The chapter president or other designated student leader may call special meetings approved by the executive committee.

**Section 4.** Chapters shall conduct meetings according to Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised in all points not expressly provided for in this Constitution or the chapter bylaws.

# Article XII: Activities

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

1. The chapter’s service projects shall be the following:
   1. 3-4 Blood drives a year- The chapter will organize and host blood drives
   2. Annual Service Project
   3. Any others to be decided each year by the officers and adviser(s)

**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; be well planned, organized, and executed.

**Section 4.** Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

**Section 5.** Each chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

# Article VIII: Official Insignia

**Section 1.** This organization shall have an official emblem. The emblem shall be uniform and its distribution and rules for its use shall be determined by the NASSP Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** Each active, honorary, or alumni member in good standing with the chapter shall be entitled to wear this emblem.

**Section 3.** Any member who resigns or is dismissed shall return the emblem to the chapter adviser.

**Section 4.** All insignia must be procured from the national office of the National Honor Society, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA, 20191. All insignia are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and may not be copied by anyone without written permission of the NHS national office. (See also, Logo Usage Guidelines at www.nhs.us/logo.)

**Section 5.** The motto of the National Honor Society shall be Noblesse oblige.

**Section 6.** The official colors of the National Honor Society shall be blue and gold.

**Section 7.** An alumni member may purchase a replacement for a lost emblem by verifying membership to the national office.

**ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This Constitution may be amended by the NASSP Board of Directors based on the recommendations of the Student Programs staff and approved by the NASSP Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** The Constitution may also be amended by the Executive Committee, and Faculty Council and should be reviewed annually in January of each year to ensure that the chapter standards align with its goals and are in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society.

Date: May 22, 2024

Signatures:

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Chapter President Chapter Secretary (Primary) Chapter Adviser

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Chapter Principal