

## National Honor Society Student Information Packet

Page 1 and 2 may be handwritten and signed. All other pages MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN.

Mark your grade level:             Junior     Senior

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guidance Counselor \_\_\_\_\_

The National Honor Society recognizes high school students who have outstanding achievements in scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Each year, members of the junior and senior classes who have been selected by the faculty council through a rigorous evaluation process are invited to participate in the National Honor Society induction ceremony and become members in good standing of this nationally recognized honor organization.

Your weighted grade point average meets the minimum numeric limit of 90. This is required of all potential inductees. To be considered further, you must also exhibit the qualities of good character, leadership, and service. Moreover, you must establish that you have done so in the past as well by filling in the attached student packet.

To assist the faculty council in the selection process, you are required to write an essay and include it with the carefully completed packet. Use a paperclip. **DO NOT STAPLE ANY PAPERS!** These are to be hand-delivered to Mrs. Weyant in room 126 or the English Office by 2:00 pm on:

**Thursday, October 25, 2018**

If the completed essay and information sheets are not returned by the time and date listed above, it will be understood that you do not wish to pursue the process of selection. If some truly extenuating circumstance prohibits you from getting the sheets in on time, you must see Mrs. Weyant and explain the mitigating circumstances prior to the deadline. Absolute emergencies will be considered after.

**This NHS application packet is available on the VTHS website under “Digital Backpack.” You are to enter information there and print out a clean hard copy. That completed copy is what you must have signed by ALL advisors, coaches and mentors. Any activity or service that does not have a legitimate signature will NOT be considered by the faculty council.**

If there are or have been unusual or extenuating circumstances in your life that you would like to be included in your information packet, which may have affected your participation in activities or service, you may attach a sheet explaining them to the council or include it in your typed essay.

Membership in National Honor Society is not a right. It is an honor. It is an unsolicited token of esteem bestowed freely upon one by others who recognize the outstanding qualities and contributions of that person. Congratulations on making it this far.

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***I understand and accept the criteria, guidelines, and procedures as detailed in this packet.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Signature of student***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Date***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Signature of parent/guardian***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Date***

## ESSAY

One – two typed page in length, 12-point font, double-spaced, error-free  
**Do NOT put your name on, or any identifying information in, the essay.**

The National Honor Society bases its selection of members on four criteria:  
Academics, Character, Leadership and Service.

### Topic:

Select and discuss one criterion above.  
Establish the value and merit of the selected trait  
and explain how you have demonstrated, expressed and/or  
exhibited this quality while a student at Vernon Township High School, either in or out of school.

### Assessment Criteria:

Coherent, cohesive and free of mechanical and grammatical errors;  
Reflects ability to express ideas clearly; advanced conceptual skills  
Reflects originality, creativity, substance;  
Quality of writing, choice of words and specific examples; do not be vague

Helpful Hint: Some students have not been selected for the National Honor Society Induction because of the poor quality of their essays. Use specific examples to show the point you are making about your trait. Have someone else, like a parent, proofread the essay. Mrs. Weyant is also available to help. Make sure it communicates a strong message.

### SIGNATURE:

Your signature is a very important item. In written form, your signature embodies all the desirable traits that you portray to others. It is who you are and what you represent. Attaching your signature to a form is not the same as filling in your name; it is an act that should not be taken lightly. Your signature below indicates that this form has been completed honestly, with no embellishments.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR NAME AND SIGNATURE SHOULD ONLY APPEAR ON THE FIRST TWO PAGES.**

**DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME, or a parent's name, ON ANY OTHER PAGE IN THE PACKET.**

**The Selection Process is completely anonymous. If there is a question, please see Mrs. Weyant before you complete your packet.**

**(SERVICE) ACTIVITIES TO SCHOOL**

Directions: Please complete all sections. You are required to type your answers on this form, attaching additional pages if necessary. Handwritten forms will not be accepted. Completion of this form does not guarantee selection.

**CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (school-related ONLY)**

List all Vernon Township High School activities in which you have participated. Include clubs, teams, musical groups, student government, publications, etc. List any major accomplishments you helped to attain, projects for which you volunteered, and elected or appointed offices you held. All supervisor and coach names **MUST BE TYPED IN**. Applications submitted without supervisors' signatures under their typed names **will not be considered**. If there are extenuating circumstances affecting your participation, please include an explanatory statement.

Activity	Grade(s) 9, 10, 11, 12	Involvement, Accomplishments, Projects (Give <u>specific</u> details about your involvement in each activity)	Supervisor's <u>Typed Name,</u> Contact Info & Signature

**(SERVICE) ACTIVITIES TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY (Unpaid only)**

List service activities not mentioned elsewhere in which you have participated and note any major accomplishment. These would be activities done inside and outside of the school day which have made your school or community a better place and/or increased the quality of life for others, yourself and your family. If there are extenuating circumstances affecting your participation in service activities, please include an explanatory statement. If the supervisor is not on the high school staff, please provide a phone number or email address for confirmation purposes. Signatures required.

- For example:
- a. church groups
  - b. first aid squad/fire department
  - c. scouting
  - d. equestrian, karate, travel teams
  - e. coaching
  - f. family roles

Activity	Grade(s) 9, 10, 11, 12	Involvement, Accomplishments, Projects (Give <u>specific</u> details about your involvement in each activity)	Supervisor's Typed Name, Contact Info & Signature

**RECOGNITION AND AWARDS (high school level only)**

List any honors you have received or special programs in which you have participated. Please briefly describe any program which may not be familiar to the council. These are NOT considered in the evaluation and have no bearing on the decision to offer membership in the NHS. But you may want to brag a bit.....

Award or Program	Date

**WORK EXPERIENCE – PAID ONLY (OPTIONAL)**

List any jobs you have had, your responsibilities, and hours worked per week if you think it is applicable. For example, if you referee for the Youth Soccer and receive a payment for it, give those details. This information is completely optional, but provides a space to avoid confusion between volunteer jobs and actual paying jobs. This has NO effect on your application.

Paying Job(s)	Date(s)

**LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES AND POSITIONS (CAN include management positions for paying jobs).**

**List all elected and appointed leadership positions which you have held while in high school.** List activities in which you were responsible for directing or motivating others. For example, if you were elected to class office or club office, if you were a committee chairperson or a team captain, if you were an editor or if you have responsibility for directing others at a work place, you would list these activities. List community activities for which you have assumed a leadership position. This does not have to be an elected position but you must explain how leadership was demonstrated. If there are extenuating circumstances affecting your participation in leadership activities, please include an explanatory statement. You may duplicate an activity listed elsewhere; this specifies leadership in that activity. All signatures are required.

Position	Grade(s) 9, 10, 11, 12	Activity/Organization/Position Held Explain/summarize activity/organization	Supervisor's Typed Name & Signature

**Your application should demonstrate how well you meet the criteria as described below. These are specific examples of these pillars in action. It is an incomplete list and included here only as a guide. Do not include this page in your packet. It is for your information purposes only. DO NOT INCLUDE THIS WITH YOUR APPLICATION.**

**LEADERSHIP:** According to the National Honor Society standards, the student who exercises leadership:

- is resourceful in proposing new 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 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.

**SERVICE:** The National Honor Society standards require that a student:

- 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
- 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

**CHARACTER:** Each eligible student will be evaluated by the faculty and administration according to the National Honor Society standards for good character, which state the student of 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
- shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others; observes instructions and rules
- exhibits concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
- manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment