

Blair-Taylor High School Bylaws to the Constitution of the National Honor Society (Revised Fall, 2024)

Article I: Name of the Organization

The name of this chapter shall be the Blair-Taylor Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council of the National Honor Society, duly signed by the national secretary.

Article II: Purpose of the Organization

The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, promote worthy leadership, encourage the development of character, and stimulate a desire to render service in all students of the Blair-Taylor High School.

Article III: Powers Vested in the Organization

High School Principal

The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter. The principal shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as chapter advisor, who may serve consecutive terms. The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Advisory Council composed of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms. The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

Chapter Advisor

The chapter advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community. The chapter advisor shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter advisor shall send the annual report to the national office. The chapter advisor shall regularly review each member for compliance with society standards and obligations. The chapter advisor shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-official, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council.

Faculty Advisory Council

The Faculty Advisory Council shall consist of five voting faculty members. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the Faculty Advisory Council. The Faculty Advisory 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. The Faculty Advisory Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, disciplining, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with the national guidelines.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed of the chapter officers and the chapter advisor. The Executive Committee helps direct the business affairs of the chapter. This committee helps determine the dues structure, makes recommendations concerning the bylaws, time and place of the meetings, meeting agendas, special projects, member obligations, and the like. All actions and recommendations by the Executive Committee are subject to review by the membership.

Article IV: Definition of Membership

Membership in this chapter shall be based upon scholarship, leadership, character and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities (see Code of Conduct). Membership is divided into two categories: active or graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. To be eligible for election to membership in this chapter, students must have been in attendance for a period equivalent to one trimester in this school. Transfer members from another school must be automatically accepted into the NHS chapter of Blair-Taylor High School. If different from their former school, transfer members must meet this chapter's standards within one trimester in order to retain membership.

Article V: Procedures for the Nomination and Selection of Members

The selection procedure should be determined by the Faculty Advisory Council and must be published.

1. Students who have completed the first trimester of their sophomore year, or who are juniors or seniors are eligible for selection.
2. Academic records of students who are grade eligible will be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. Scholastic eligibility is defined as a 3.33 GPA on a 4.00 scale.
3. Students who are eligible scholastically will be notified, and told that for further consideration for selection to the NHS Chapter, they must complete and submit the Student Application.
4. All Blair-Taylor High School faculty members are then invited to evaluate the eligible students in the areas of leadership and character by rating each eligible student in each area on a scale of "1" to "4" with "4" being superior. All teachers' ratings will be averaged for each quality.
5. The Faculty Advisory Council will then review the Student Applications, the teacher evaluations, and any other verifiable information about each candidate.
6. Students who receive a majority vote of the Faculty Advisory Committee will be invited to be inducted into the chapter.
7. Students who are selected, and their parents, will be notified of their selection and given information regarding the upcoming induction ceremony and the obligations of membership in NHS.

Article VI: Discipline and Dismissal

1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Blair-Taylor High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National 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.
2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected, 3.33 on a 4.0 scale, he/she will be given a written warning and one trimester to bring the grade point average back to 3.33 or higher. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the trimester, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Advisory Council that could include dismissal from the chapter.
3. Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
4. Students who do not comply with regulations in the Blair-Taylor High School Student Handbook, such as use of profanity, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, noncompliance with the dress code, etc., will receive written notification. A conference may be requested by the Faculty Advisory Council, the student or the parents to discuss the warning. If the

student is involved in further violations of the handbook, he/she may be dismissed. Also, situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning; although, a hearing must still be held. (See below)

5. In all cases of impending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the advisor and Faculty Advisory Council indicating the reason for possible dismissal. The member and advisor will discuss the written notification in a conference.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him/her at a hearing before the Faculty Advisory Council prior to the vote on dismissal (in accordance with the due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or in writing. The Faculty Advisory Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Faculty Advisory Council vote will be reviewed by the principal, and then if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender membership emblems to the advisor.
- d. The Faculty Advisory Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.
- e. A student who is dismissed or resigns is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in National Honor Society.

Article VII: Duties and Responsibilities

Members

Members are to maintain the standards by which they were selected. In addition, members are expected to attend meetings if called for, and to perform both individual and chapter service projects during the year. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year. These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible, and be well planned, organized and executed. All members are required to participate in these projects.

Each member must also participate in a minimum of 15 individual community service hours yearly, which reflect his/her particular talents and interests and is approved by the chapter advisor. A year begins June 10th and runs through the end of the following school year. Hours cannot be banked from one year to be used the next.

Chapter Officers

The **president** will help to oversee, direct, organize and represent the chapter. The president may call meetings and help direct the induction ceremony.

The **vice-president** will act in the president's absence and perform specific duties delegated by the president. He or she will also help direct the induction ceremony.

The **secretary** will take minutes and keep attendance records. A copy of the minutes will be posted on the organization's bulletin board and given to the chapter advisor. The secretary may help conduct correspondences, such as induction invitations.

Article VIII: Procedures for Election of Officers, Removal from Office, and Filling Vacancies

Democratic principles of operation are employed for election of the officers. New officers shall be installed annually during the induction ceremony.

An officer will be relieved of duties if he/she is dismissed from NHS, disciplined by the Faculty Advisory Council, or reprimanded by the advisor for failing to fulfill duties assigned as an officer.

Should a vacancy occur for any reason, the advisor will inform the chapter members of the need for a new officer. Members will be nominated for the position. Those accepting

nomination will be included on the ballot. The new officer will be elected via majority vote at the next general membership meeting.

Article IX: Rules of Order

Rules of order and references for conducting Society business are *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Article X: Ratification of the Bylaws

The bylaws will be ratified by 2/3 vote of the Blair-Taylor National Honor Society chapter's membership. It must also be accepted by the Faculty Advisory Council, the high school principal and the chapter advisor.

Article XI: Amending the Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter membership. Notice of the proposed amendment must be given to members at least one meeting prior to the vote. Articles V and VI (member selection and discipline) may not be amended.

Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.

Chapter President

Date

Chapter Vice-President

Date

Chapter Secretary

Date

Advisor

Date