

Chapter Bylaws
Of the
Ardrey Kell High School Chapter
Of the
National Honor Society

Adopted: 4/4/16

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Ardrey Kell Chapter of the National Honor Society of Ardrey Kell High School.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

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 students of Ardrey Kell High School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

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

Section 2: This chapter will remain an active member of the state association of North Carolina, by paying annual dues and participating in state functions when possible.

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.

Section 4: Non-discrimination. Our chapter of NHS 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, sex (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 faculty and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the Junior and Senior classes only.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Ardrey Kell High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50 on a 4.0 scale.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

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 faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisers are non-voting, ex-officio members of the Faculty Council.

Section 2. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the first (fall) semester for seniors and during the second semester, (spring) of the school year for Juniors and once a 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) are invited to complete and submit the Activity form for further consideration, as well as 250 word maximum personal statement(s), in response to a prompt, selected by the Faculty Council.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Activity Forms, faculty evaluations and personal statements.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony. All candidates **MUST** be inducted at the first available induction ceremony. Candidates failing to attend the scheduled induction must present a written explanation for the absence before the induction date. The candidate must then be inducted at the next ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be considered for membership in this chapter upon validation of compliance with this chapter's membership requirements.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. **Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$35**, (this will include senior cord) for juniors and seniors, (this will include membership pin and certificate), payable within the first 10 days of notification. All new inductees must pay dues within the specified time prior to induction. Failure to do so will result in removal from the chapter.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem and/or graduation cords adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 3. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return their membership certificate and any emblem and/or cord to the chapter.

Section 4. Service hours will be as follows:

Seniors must complete 25 hours of community service between the first day of the month of August and May 1st the following year.

Juniors must complete 10 hours of community service prior to the last day of classes that school year.

There will be no "double dipping" of community service hours. "Double Dipping" is defined as using service hours from one event to benefit multiple goals. (Ex: 3 hours for Young Professors cannot be used for NHS hours)

Section 6. Each chapter member is required to participate in/donate hours to the philanthropic organization chosen by the club each year. **These activities will count towards the service hours for the year.**

Section 7. Each chapter member is required to represent NHS in either the homecoming parade or Spring Fest. Neither of which will count towards the service hours for the year.

Section 8. Each chapter member is required to attend at least one induction ceremony per year.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each 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 an individual service project which reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

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, leadership, character, or service may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Ardrey Kell 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.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the **standard 3.5 in effect** when he/she was selected, 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 DWI, 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 then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.

d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.

e. A member who is dismissed or resigns, may never again be considered for membership in the National 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 administration.

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 by-laws may be amended by a 2/3rds 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 V and X, which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal (selection and discipline).

Approved on June 2019

Approved April 2021

Changing the Bylaws

Once the bylaws have been accepted by a vote of the chapter and approved by the Faculty Council and the administration, they become the 'law' or guiding principles of the organization. If this principle is adhered to, it will be necessary to change the bylaws only occasionally, due in large part to their specificity and detail.

Occasionally, the bylaws may have to be revised or completely rewritten. The revision is usually drafted by a specially-appointed Bylaws Revision Committee.

After a change has been proposed and a draft has been prepared, the members of the chapter should be informed and given copies so that they can review and discuss the issues before they come to a final vote. Proposed amendments or revisions most commonly require a two-thirds vote of the chapter for adoption. NOTE: Sections dealing with revisions to the procedures for selection, disciplining, and dismissal of members can be changed only by the Faculty Council, though input from the chapter is allowed and encouraged.

Some chapters are criticized for spending too much time amending their bylaws instead of dealing with other chapter concerns. However, there are times when an outdated set of bylaws is a real hindrance to the chapter. Some good reasons for amending bylaws are:

- statements no longer suit the chapter or school situation
- bylaws are arranged so poorly that essential information is hard to find (this situation sometimes occurs when an old document has been added to and amended over a period of years).
- bylaws contain elements that have caused long-standing disagreement
- bylaws violate individual rights or local/state policies
- bylaws prevent the chapter from adapting to change.

It is important that each time the bylaws are reviewed or changed, that the date of approval be updated and included on the new document. Old, now outdated copies should be destroyed except for those kept on file for historical purposes.

Copies of chapter bylaws, in addition to being available for use by chapter members, should be readily available for use by the principal. Some school systems require that these organizational guidelines be approved by the local school board or be on file with the central office. This is another reason for careful review and preparation of the text as a representative document of the chapter.