

Chapter Bylaws
of the
Mariner Chapter
of the
National Honor Society
Adopted: June 22, 2023

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Mariner Chapter of the National Honor Society of Narragansett 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 Narragansett 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: The chapter adviser(s) is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the High School principal.

Section 3: Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the High School principal.

Section 4: Nondiscrimination. 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, 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 council and shall be based on the criteria of outstanding scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 2: Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Alumni 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, or senior class.
- 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 Narragansett High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative average of 3.4 (unweighted average) over the first two years at the high school.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and academic standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their outstanding service, leadership, and character. The determination of what constitutes outstanding service, leadership and character by a member is left to the discretion of the faculty council based on common understood standards. Violations of school conduct code(s), school regulations or policies or a violation(s) of civil or criminal law are all examples of conduct that is contrary to the standards the society sets for its members with respect to outstanding service, leadership, and character.

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

Section 5: Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Section 6. Upon request, 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.

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 five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser shall be the sixth non-voting member of the faculty council.

Section 2: The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the first semester of the school 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) shall be notified in writing. Students can then choose to complete and submit the Candidate Information Form for further consideration.
- c. The school faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible.
- d. The faculty council shall review the candidate applications, faculty input, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4: An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be

automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The faculty council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1: Annual Dues

- a. Annual dues are to be determined for each member of the chapter and are due by the end of the first semester.
- b. Dues must be submitted to the treasurer. A failure to pay dues will result in the member not receiving honor stole at graduation.
- c. If a member is not financially able to pay dues, the adviser may waive the fees.

Section 2: Each member of this chapter must complete 15 hours of community service each semester. Failure to complete the community service hours will result in probation. Outstanding community service hours must be completed within the probationary time. Failure to do so will result in dismissal.

Section 3: 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 adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 4: Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 5: Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the **privilege** of wearing the honor stole at graduation.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public relations officer, and mentor coordinator.

- a. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter, and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions (and any other responsibilities deemed essential to serve the chapter).
- b. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.
- c. The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.
- d. The treasurer shall keep the record of business expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter.
- e. The public relations officer shall notify all NHS members or entire school to any or all NHS events; shall use any or all methods deemed necessary (school announcements,

fliers, notes, newspaper, radio, etc.) and take pictures.

- f. The mentor coordinator shall be responsible for pairing mentors with their mentees and organizing a meeting schedule and activities.

Section 2: Students who are interested in applying to be a chapter officer must submit an application to the chapter adviser by the designated date. Officers will be selected by the advisers and the faculty council.

Section 3: Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular meetings of this chapter shall be monthly. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser.

Section 2: Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.

Section 3: Members who do not participate in National Honor Society-sponsored activities and/or have poor attendance at meetings shall be warned. If this problem should continue, those members shall then be declared inactive and shall have their membership withdrawn.

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1: The chapter shall determine a service project for each semester of the school year.

Section 2: All members are required to 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: 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 outstanding scholarship, outstanding service, outstanding leadership, or outstanding character may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Mariner 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 and demonstrate good character at all times. Members who engage in conduct that violates the standards of outstanding scholarship, outstanding service, outstanding leadership, or outstanding character will be subject to

immediate disciplinary action including dismissal from the Society.

Section 2: Scholarship: If a member's GPA falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (see GPA scale in Article IV, Section 3.c)), he /she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the GPA 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 School Conduct Code: Violation(s) of the school conduct code are considered grounds for immediate disciplinary action including dismissal of a member from membership in the Society. *Examples of School Conduct Code violations may but are not limited to include the use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, improper use of technology on or off school grounds that have an impact on school campus activities, disruptive behavior, detentions, bullying, etc.*

Section 4: Violations of Civil or Criminal Law: Offenders of civil or criminal law, while on school grounds, at a school sponsored activity, or in the community will be grounds for immediate disciplinary action including dismissal of a member from the Society. *Examples of 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, etc.*

Section 5: **Disciplinary Action and Due Process**

In all matters referred for disciplinary action, including dismissal, a member will be afforded the following:

i. **Notice:** Written notification from the adviser/faculty council clearly stating the charges against the member and indicating the reason for consideration of disciplinary action.

ii. **Hearing:** A 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 disciplinary action including dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution).

iii. **Evidence:** A member has the opportunity to review the evidence to be used at a hearing in support of discipline action.

iv. **Hearing Rights:** At a hearing a member has the right to:

- a) present evidence;
- b) cross examine witnesses and to present witnesses;
- c) to present his/her defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing.

v. **Decision:** A majority vote of the faculty council is needed to take any disciplinary action including dismissing a member from the society membership.

Disciplinary Action: The faculty council has authority to render disciplinary action against a member for violations of school code of conduct, civil or criminal law, or Honor Society membership standards of outstanding scholarship, outstanding service, outstanding leadership, or outstanding character. The faculty council retains authority to render disciplinary action as the council deems fit, subject to appeal. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to probation, corrective action, or dismissal from the Society.

A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser and remove National Honor Society designation from all official transcripts.

A member placed on probation must comply fully with the conditions set by the faculty council before being reconsidered for membership in good standing. Failure to cooperate fully with the terms of probation may result in further disciplinary action or dismissal from the Society.

Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

vi. **Appeal—Principal Review:** A member is entitled to appeal any final disciplinary action of the faculty council by submitting a notice of appeal to the High School Principal within five (5) school days of receipt of a final decision of the faculty council.

Appeal Procedure: All appeals of disciplinary actions of the faculty council are presented to the High School Principal for review referred to as a: Principal Review. Upon notice of an appeal, the High School Principal will:

- a) review the evidence and action taken by the faculty council;
- b) render an independent decision based on a review of the record in the matter;
- c) provide a copy of a final written decision to the member and their parent(s)/guardian.

vii. **Appeal—Superintendent Review:** A member has the right to appeal the final decision of the Principal Review to the Superintendent. If requested by the member, the superintendent will review the matter and render a decision.

viii. **Appeal--School Committee:** A member has the right to appeal a final decision of the Principal Review (or Superintendent Review if applicable) to the School Committee according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.

ix. **Consolidation—Discipline Proceedings:** Notwithstanding the above disciplinary procedures, actions that could lead to a disciplinary process by the Chapter may result in a parallel disciplinary action by school administration or by another organization including legal proceedings. The faculty council reserves the right to accept the results of those discipline procedure findings and rulings; eliminating the need for dual due process proceedings. The faculty council may take disciplinary action based on the findings and rulings of those proceedings. Faculty council final discipline determinations reached following the acceptance of findings and rulings under a parallel proceeding are subject to the same appeals process outlined within.

ARTICLE XI: Faculty Council

Section 1: The appointment of the faculty council shall be at the election of the High School Principal.

Section 2. Appointed faculty council members shall serve at the discretion of and for terms designated by the High School Principal who shall have the authority to remove faculty council members with or without cause.

Section 3. Appointed faculty council members shall provide service as a non-compensated privilege.

ARTICLE XII: 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 school 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 bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty council, and approval by the school

administration.

Approved on June 22, 2023: (Indicate date of last approved revisions)

Signatures/Names of the Chapter President, Secretary, Adviser, and Principal.