

Bylaws of the Pewamo-Westphalia High School National Honor Society

These bylaws are in addition to the NHS National Constitution and supercede national requirements where applicable.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the James R. Cotter Chapter of the Pewamo-Westphalia High School National Honor Society.

ARTICLE II

Object

The object of this organization shall be to recognize, promote, and develop scholarship, service, leadership, and character in its members.

ARTICLE III

Selection of members

Section 1: Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by the 5-member faculty council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership and service.

Section 2: To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of the junior or senior class and be on a diploma track.

Section 3: The candidate must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 as a junior; or 3.4 as a senior. Beginning with the Class of 2019, all members must have a 3.5 G.P.A.

Section 4: The candidate must demonstrate consistent strength of character by not having multiple disciplinary infractions in their sophomore, junior or senior years. It is the intent of the Pewamo-Westphalia High School National Honor Society NOT to admit any candidate with a police record consisting of more than minor traffic violations.

Section 5: The candidate must verify qualifications by the deadline set by the governing committee. Information forms must be turned into the chapter advisor by the appropriate deadlines.

Section 6: A National Honor Society member who transfers to Pewamo-Westphalia High School from another school shall be automatically accepted as a member of the Pewamo-Westphalia High School chapter if the student presents a transfer of membership letter from the former principal or chapter advisor to the Pewamo-Westphalia High School chapter advisor.

Section 7: The chapter advisor can add to these requirements when the advisor deems it necessary. The requirements must be written down and approved by the Governing Committee.

ARTICLE IV

Member Responsibilities

Section 1: Each member shall maintain at least a 3.4 (senior) or 3.5 (junior) cumulative grade point average.

Section 2: Each member shall attend all general membership meetings or communicate to the chapter advisor, explaining why the member will not be able to attend the meeting.

Section 3: Each member shall continue to demonstrate strength of character by following the Pewamo-Westphalia High School Code of Conduct as described in the student handbook. Members who do not follow the Code of Conduct are subject to dismissal. See Article VIII for dismissal process.

Section 4: Each member shall earn at least twenty hours of community service per school year of NHS membership. Acceptable hours must be performed after acceptance into the National Honor Society, and must come from various activities that help to better the community. Each member shall keep track of his or her own hours on record sheets provided by the chapter advisor. Each member shall verify service hours with a signature from the service activity coordinator for that activity. Service hour sheets shall be turned in by the first school day in May.

Section 5: Each member may choose and participate in service projects which reflect his or her particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 6: Each member shall continue to demonstrate leadership, character, service and scholarship.

Section 7: The chapter advisor can add to these requirements when the advisor deems it necessary. The requirements must be written down and approved by the Governing Committee.

ARTICLE V Committees

Section 1: Members will fill and create committees to organize different activities and aspects of the PWHS National Honor Society.

Section 2: Members may suggest and create committees as necessary with approval from the governing committee.

Section 3: Every committee must have 1) a chair person (or 2 co-chairs), 2) at least four members.

ARTICLE VI Meetings

Section 1: General membership meetings shall be held as needed under normal school conditions during the school year.

Section 2: The governing committee shall meet the week prior to the general membership meeting to plan the agenda for the general membership meeting.

Section 3: Special membership meetings approved by the governing committee may be called by the committee chair.

ARTICLE VII Governing Committee

Section 1: The governing committee shall consist of those individuals chosen by NHS members as officers from submitted applications.

Section 2: The governing committee shall supervise the affairs of the chapter between its

meetings, make recommendations to the chapter, and perform other duties specified in these bylaws. All actions and recommendations of the governing committee shall be subject to the review of the chapter membership.

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

Section 4: The governing committee will meet the week before a scheduled general membership meeting.

Section 5: The governing committee is responsible for planning general membership meetings, deciding courses of action, planning activities, and coordinating standing committees.

ARTICLE VIII

Dismissal of members

Section 1: Each member shall be liable for dismissal if the member does not maintain the membership responsibilities prescribed in Article IV.

Section 2: In the case of flagrant violation of the Pewamo-Westphalia High School Code of Conduct -- including but not limited to flagrant insubordination, dishonesty, cheating, violence, or substance abuse -- or civic laws, a member shall immediately be brought before the faculty council for dismissal consideration.

Section 3: A member who fails to maintain the membership responsibilities prescribed in article IV shall be promptly warned in writing -- including e-mail -- by the chapter advisor. The member then has five school days to provide a written response -- including email -- to the chapter advisor. The chapter advisor(s) shall hold a conference with the member to discuss the problem situation and establish a plan to correct the problem. The plan shall specify a reasonable length of time for the member to correct the problem.

Section 4: If the member who has been warned of a problem regarding membership responsibilities fails to respond within five school days, the Faculty Council will move to dismiss.

Section 5: In the case of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the faculty council if the member has responded within the five school days time period.

Section 6: The dismissal of a member shall be determined by a majority vote of the faculty council. If the faculty council dismisses a member, the chapter advisor(s) shall immediately notify the student in writing -- including email. If the faculty council does not dismiss the member, the chapter advisor shall immediately notify the student.

Section 7: A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the faculty council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the Pewamo-Westphalia School District.

Section 8: Members who are dismissed or resign are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

ARTICLE IX

Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the chapter by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.