**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE**

**BELLEVUE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**CHAPTER OF THE**

**NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY**

**Article I**

**Name and Purpose**

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the Bellevue Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society of Bellevue Middle School.

Section 2: The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of excellent character and citizenship in the students of Bellevue Middle School.

**Article II**

**POWERS**

Section 1. This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the NJHS National Constitution.

Section 2. The chapter advisers are 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. Our chapter of NJHS 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.

**Article III**

**Membership**

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and shall be based upon scholarship, character, leadership, citizenship, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. The faculty council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NJHS advisors, or others in recognition of outstanding service to the school in keeping with the purpose of the National Junior Honor Society. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 4. A NJHS member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter advisor to the new school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school’s chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter’s standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 5. Eligibility:

1. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the sixth-, seventh- or eighth-grade class.
2. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for the previous semester at Bellevue Middle School. (For those transferring from a previous school, see Section 4 above).

c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative quarterly scholastic average of 93 or above in academic courses, not including electives. (Academic courses for sixth, seventh, and eighth include math, social studies, science, and language arts.)

d. Students who have been in in-school suspension or suspended from school for any reason during the year in which they are being considered for membership are not eligible for admission to NJHS.

e. Final selection of members after meeting the grade level, enrollment, and scholastic average will be based upon a combination of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship.

Section 6. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership.

**Article IV**

**Selection of Members**

Section 1. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who meet eligibility requirements above are invited to be considered for selection into the chapter.

Section 2. Students are asked to submit two letters, one which outlines their strengths related to each of the five standards of the National Junior Honor Society (leadership, citizenship, service, scholarship, and character) and one written by a community member who has worked with student-candidates and can vouch for his or her ability to demonstrate **each of the five standards.**

Section 3. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the **official evaluation form provided by the chapter advisers.**

Section 4. The Faculty Council, consisting of the faculty advisors and the principal, shall review the candidates’ letters and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 5. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

**Article V**

**OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS**

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be $20. Dues will be payable to the chapter within 30 days of induction.

Section 2. Each member of this chapter is required to attend a monthly meeting. Additional meetings may be called based on the needs of specific committees on which various members may serve.

Section 3. In the event a student is unable to attend a monthly meeting, notification from a parent to one of the chapter advisors is necessary to excuse the absence. Members must check in with a faculty advisor or NJHS officer for details of the missed meeting.

Section 4. Each member of this chapter is required to participate in one school-sponsored community service project each semester, and is also required to participate in four additional hours of community service each semester within the community.

Section 5. Each member of this chapter is required to maintain a quarterly average of 93 or above.

**Article VI**

**DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL of Members**

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship, or service may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Bellevue Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership in his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member’s quarterly cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (93), he/she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the quarterly grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Chapter Advisors that can include 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.

Section 4. Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary actions taken by the chapter advisors and/or principal.

Section 5. A member who resigns or is dismissed may never again be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 6. When a member is dismissed, his/her emblem shall be returned to the sponsor of the chapter. Notice of such action must be reported to the National Secretary of the NJHS.

**Article VII**

**Officers**

Section 1. The officers of this chapter shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Section 2. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the meetings of the chapter.

Section 4. The Vice President shall fill the chair of the President in case of absence and otherwise assist in carrying out plans of the chapter.

Section 5. The chapter Secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, a record of business, and all records on file.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall be in charge of maintaining the books for chapter activities.

**Article VIII**

**Supervision**

Section 1. The activities of this chapter shall be subject to the approval of the advisors and the principal.

Section 2. This chapter will operate with the guidance of the faculty council consisting of five voting faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the council. The faculty council will meet to selection members and consider dismissal, non-selection, and warning cases.