



Chariho Regional Middle School
Chapter
of the
National Junior Honor Society

Chapter By-laws

Effective February 2018

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this chapter shall be the Chariho Regional Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

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 and citizenship in students of Chariho Regional Middle School.

ARTICLE III: POWERS

Section 1. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities of the Chapter.

The principal shall annually recommend to the Superintendent of Schools a member of the faculty as Chapter Advisor; co-advisors may be appointed. The principal shall annually appoint a volunteer Faculty Council, of no more than five members. The principal shall hear appeals in all matters related to these by-laws in accord with the District's Appeal Policy found at <http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/policy>. Authority over all activities of the Chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 2. The Chapter Advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the Chapter and act as a liaison between the faculty, administration, students, and community, as delegated by the school principal. The Chapter Advisor will maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions.

Section 3. The Faculty Council shall be composed of up to five volunteer Chariho Regional Middle School faculty members, appointed annually by the principal. The Faculty Council shall meet, as needed, to revise these bylaws, select members, and to consider matters related to student selection, discipline and retention.

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. 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, character, and citizenship.

Section 2. Active members constitute the membership of this chapter.

Section 3. Eligibility:

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be in the second semester of seventh or eighth grade.
- b. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 92.5, without rounding-up, each marking period.
- c. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

Section 2. 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 and asked to complete the "Intent of Membership" by the posted deadline.
- c. Candidates who have submitted the "Intent of Membership", by the posted date, will participate in all NJHS activities and meetings and will submit the "Candidate Information Form" by the posted deadline, for further consideration.
- d. The Chapter Advisor shall review the "Candidate Information Forms" and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

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

Section 4. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 5. An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this Chapter.

ARTICLE VI: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The chapter shall have regularly called monthly meetings during the school year.

Section 2. Attendance at NJHS meetings is an expectation for members. Excessive unexcused absenteeism prevents the chapter from fulfilling its goals and makes it difficult to disseminate information. More than two unexcused absences per semester will result in warning and review of membership status.

Section 3: Members of the Chariho Regional Middle School Chapter of the NJHS shall fulfill the following duties and responsibilities each year:

- a. Maintain the standard by which they were selected. Set an example of scholarship, leadership, character, and service for others to follow.
- b. Follow the Chariho Regional Middle School Behavior Code.
- c. Attend all meetings on a regular basis.
- d. Participate in one leadership activity for both first and second year students.
- e. First year students: Participate in one citizenship activity.
Second year students: Participate in two citizenship activities.
- f. First year students: document a minimum of eight hours of community service.
Second year students: document a minimum of fifteen hours of community service.
- g. Documentation of community service must include participation in at least one school-service project.
- h. Attend and participate in the induction ceremony for new members and recognition of second year members.

Section 4: Students are expected to comply with all requirements as stated in Article VI, Sections 1-3 to maintain active membership. Those students who do not fulfill all obligations are subject to have their membership status reviewed by the Faculty Council and may be subject to dismissal. Dismissal procedures are outlined in Article X.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be once a month, beginning in February, for first year students and beginning in September for second year students. Special meetings can be called by the Chapter Advisor. The Chapter Advisor reserves the right to cancel meetings with the approval of the principal.

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

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more school service projects for each year.

Section 2. All members shall participate in at least one of 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 scholarship, service, leadership, character, or citizenship may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the Chariho Regional 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. First-year candidates must maintain the cumulative grade point average of 92.5, without rounding up. If a candidate's grade point average falls below a 92.5 for any marking period during the first year, the candidate is no longer eligible for membership.

Seventh-grade students may become eligible again in eighth-grade.

If a second-year member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected, 92.5, he/she will be given a written warning and a warning period of one marking period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be dismissed from the chapter.

Section 3. Violations of school policy that result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension will result in immediate dismissal of a member. In addition, serious instances of misconduct in the community that bring discredit to the member or the school are considered major offenses and may result in dismissal of the member. The CMS Standards for Student Behavior Policy may be found at https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/sites/default/files/behavior_policy_7_1_2016.pdf.

Section 4. Violations of school policy that result in a non-suspendable violation will lead to the issuance of a written warning, including steps required to correct the deficiency. Written warnings shall be sent to the student, parent/guardian, and to the principal. A conference may be requested by any party (Faculty Council, parent/guardian, or student). If the member is involved in another non-suspendable violation of the school conduct code in the same year, the member will be dismissed from the Chapter.

Section 5. In all cases of pending dismissal, except those related to Section 3 (i.e., in or out-of-school suspension) or Section 4 (i.e., second non-suspendable violation) where the dismissal shall be immediate:

a. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge(s) against them at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to any vote on dismissal. The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or via a written statement. 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 except in matters related to Section 3 or Section 4, as above. In lieu of dismissal, except in matters related to Section 3 or Section 4, as above, the Faculty Council may impose alternate disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

b. The member and their parent/guardian will receive written notification from the Chapter Advisor indicating the reason for dismissal.

c. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed in accord with the District's Appeal Policy, found at <http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/policy>.

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

ARTICLE XI: RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, and REVIEW.

Section 1. Chapter bylaws shall be voted on and approved by the Chapter Advisor, Faculty Council, and the Principal.

Section 2. If changes to the bylaws become necessary, those changes shall be proposed in writing and distributed to the Chapter Advisor, Faculty Council, and Principal. Amendments will pass with a majority vote.