



St. Mary's Chapter of the National Honor Society

Selection Procedure Description

The National Honor Society chapter of St. Mary's High School, Storm Lake, IA, is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of the National Honor Society.

Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in four areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Students are selected for membership by majority vote of a five-member Faculty Council, appointed annually by the principal, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school each year. The chapter adviser, Mrs. Leah Schimmer, is also appointed by the principal and facilitates all selection procedures and chapter activities during the year.

Students in their junior or senior year are eligible for membership. For the scholarship criterion, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or better on a 4.0 scale. The students who meet this criterion are invited to complete an electronic **Candidate Application Form** that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's leadership and service. A history of leadership experiences and participation in five (5) *school-related* service hours, in addition to the required amount of hours as outlined in the St. Mary's student handbook, during each year of membership is also required.

To evaluate a candidate's character, the Faculty Council obtains additional professional input. First, official school disciplinary records are reviewed. Second, candidates will provide the Faculty Council with **letters of recommendation** from at least two (2) members of the St. Mary's faculty/staff, including coaches and/or school-associated activity advisors/sponsors. Candidate letters of recommendation should provide the recommending individual's professional reflection on a candidate's service activities, character, scholarship, and leadership. A sample recommendation letter and description of criteria is available for reference. Additionally, candidates will be asked to complete a **reflective essay** explaining how they demonstrate the pillars of the NHS. These forms and the **Candidate Application Form** are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine whether each candidate meets the criteria for membership. A majority vote of the Council is necessary for selection. Following a review of the results of the Faculty Council voting by the principal, candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection according to a predetermined schedule.

Once the notification process is completed, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all the newly selected members. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance (or better) in all criteria that led to their selection. This obligation includes participation in the chapter and individual service projects(s). Students or parents who have questions regarding the selection process or membership obligations can contact the chapter adviser, Leah Schimmer, at lschimmer@stormlakestmarys.org or 712-732-4166.