



**Bylaws of the National Honor Society
Xaverian Chapter, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
Olney, Maryland**

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1- The name of this chapter shall be the Xaverian Chapter of the National Honor Society of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School.

Section 2: 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 Our Lady of Good Counsel High School.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2: 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, and character.

Section 3- Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for election 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 in attendance for a period of one year at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the Xaverian Chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7. The scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standards requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

Article III: Selection of Members

Section 1- The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisor(s) shall be nonvoting, ex officio member(s) of the Faculty Council.

Section 2- Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Students who are eligible scholastically (candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the application in order to determine membership.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using an evaluation form provided by the chapter advisor.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Profile Form and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 3 – The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the first semester of the school year. (Alternative or additional selection periods may be added)

Section 4 – Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony

Section 5 – Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 6 – An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the principal or chapter advisor.

Section 7 – An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for member 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 or her membership.

Article IV: Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1 – Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Xaverian Chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the NHS is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

Section 2 – If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected (Cumulative 3.7), he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3 – If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4 – Violation of the law or school regulation can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy; or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs, alcohol, at school or school-related activities.

Section 5 – Offenders of the school conduct codes (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council, Member, or Parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6 -- In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for dismissal from the advisor or the Faculty Council. The member and advisor may discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the laws can warrant disciplinary action without written warning although a hearing must still be held.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote of dismissal. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Faculty Council will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the advisor.
- d. The process regarding the Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 7 – In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Article V: Officers

Section 1 – The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, and secretary.

Section 2 – Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

Section 3 – A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Section 4 -- It shall be the duty of the president to preside at meetings for this chapter.

Section 5 – The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6 – The secretary shall keep minutes of meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1 – Meetings of this chapter will be announced through email and community announcements.

Section 2 – All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings.

Article VII: Activities

Section 1 – The chapter may determine one or more service projects for the year.

Section 2 – All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3 – These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have support of the administration and the faculty, be appropriate and educationally defensible and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4 – Each member shall have the responsibility of completing seven hours of service to the community or school. At least three of the seven required hours must be fulfilled through the NHS peer study partner programs. These 7 hours must be separate from the required school service hours.

Section 5 – The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

Article IX: Emblem

Section 1 – Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2 – Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 3 – Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords or other insignia adopted at the local level at graduation.

Article X: Dues

Section 1: Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$10.00.

Section 2: Dues will be payable to the chapter within 30 days of induction.

Article XI: Powers

Section 1 – The chapter advisor is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2 – The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3 – These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

Article XII: Amendments

Section 1 – These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed, by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2 – Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society.