



**Alfred E. Wallace Chapter
Van Buren High School
Constitution
2022-2023**

Approved: June 2022

Advisers: Stephanie Dunn and Cynthia Bailey
Principal: Eddie Tipton

Article I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1

The name of this chapter shall be the Alfred E. Wallace Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, which appears on the charter granted by the National Council of the National Honor Society, duly signed by the national secretary on March 8, 1933.

Section 2

The purpose of this organization shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Van Buren High School.

Article II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Membership in the organization is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have a responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2

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

Section 3

To be eligible for membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for at least one semester at VBHS prior to the semester of invitation.

Section 4

Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the junior or senior class. They shall have a minimum cumulative state grade point average of 3.75. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed for all grade levels and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for election to membership.

Section 5

Upon admission to join the Alfred E. Wallace chapter of NHS, the new member will pay the following one-time membership dues prior to being inducted: Juniors \$40 and Seniors \$40. This covers expenses for the member throughout the member's participation in the organization. The membership dues are non-transferable and are non-refundable.

Article III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1

During the fall semester of each year, junior and senior VBHS students, who have a minimum cumulative 3.75 GPA, shall receive an email from the NHS Advisers with instructions to join *Google Classroom*, which will give application details.

Section 2

All eligible students may choose to digitally complete the full application process by the due date set by the NHS Advisers, or students may choose not to submit their completed application by the due date, thus forfeiting their possible selection to the NHS. No late submissions will be accepted.

Section 3

All fully completed applications for membership will be assigned a number by the NHS Advisers, and the student's name will be removed for anonymity. Removed names will be placed in a locked file for the duration of the selection process.

Section 4

The aforementioned applications for membership shall be reviewed by the Faculty Council. (See Article VII – Section 3).

Section 5

The Faculty Council will complete the selection process. They shall use a scoring rubric to score applications. An application will need 85 out of 100 points on the scoring rubric to be considered for selection. The NHS Advisers may offer advice during the selection process but may not vote.

Section 6

The Faculty Council will decide if a student will receive a “selection” or a “non-selection” for NHS. If a student receives a “non-selection”, the Faculty Council will place in writing their reasoning. Each Faculty Council member does not have to write down their individual thoughts, but as a group, they must record their collective thoughts.

Section 7

The Faculty Council will then submit their decisions to the NHS Advisers. The NHS Advisers will then check eligibility via attendance and referral forms of students “selected”. Advisers will then inform the principal of these decisions. The principal will either approve or disapprove the selection process.

Section 8

Both the “selected” and “non-selected” students shall be informed via school email by the NHS Advisers of the decisions of the Faculty Council. “Selected” students shall also be notified via email about induction details and dues information. “Non-selected” students who have completed the application process (including teacher recommendation) shall have the right to appeal to the NHS Advisers via email within three (3) school days after the dated email notification.

Section 9

When a “non-selected” student appeals, the NHS Advisers shall review the “non-selected” student’s packet and the Faculty Council’s decisions for non-selection. Within three (3) school days, the NHS Advisers will notify the principal of their decision for either admitting the student in question to the NHS or agreeing with the original decision of the Faculty Council.

Once the principal has approved the NHS Advisers’ decision, the student shall be notified via email. If the student is now “selected” for NHS, they will be informed via email regarding induction details and dues. If the student is still “non-selected”, then they will be informed via email using the original language provided by the Faculty Council as to why they were not considered for “selection”. The “non-selected” student may now choose to appeal directly to the principal. “Non-selected” students who have completed the application process (including teacher recommendation) shall have the right to appeal to the principal via email within three (3) school days after the dated notification.

Section 10

Upon email notification, an active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of membership signed by the principal.

Section 11

An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to VBHS will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter after Advisers receive an emailed letter of good standing from the member’s previous school adviser. This new member must inform our Advisers and maintain the membership requirements for this chapter in order to retain membership.

Article IV: SELECTION AND DISMISSAL

Section 1

Any member who falls below the standards of selection shall be properly warned by the NHS Advisers in writing via email.

Section 2

Members may be dismissed for: cumulative grade point average going lower than 3.50, failing to perform community service, serious and/or repeated violations of school policies and procedures, violation of civil and criminal law, or any other reason deemed conduct unbecoming a National Honor Society member. The NHS Advisers may refer dismissal of a member for character reasons to the Faculty Council at any time. Serious violations may cause immediate dismissal with the approval of both the Faculty Council and the principal. Once a member is dismissed, eligibility for future membership in the National Honor Society is null and void.

Section 3

An NHS member must maintain the standards for membership in order to retain his membership. A member shall be allowed only one probation period (one semester) in which to correct any deficiency. Standards for membership are as follows: Members will be required to perform a minimum of 12 hours of community service yearly to maintain good standing. Half (6) will be served the first semester and the other half (6) the second semester. Each member must complete an in-depth Individual Service Project per school year of membership. If members fail to perform community service, individual service projects, or chapter service projects, or other membership standards they will be placed on probation and will have one semester to complete their entire membership requirements plus deficits.

Section 4

When a member is dismissed, written notification will be delivered via email. Notice of dismissal must be indicated on the annual report submitted to the National Secretary at the end of the school year.

Article V: OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of this chapter shall be a president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, and historian. Officer elections will occur in the fall semester. If a vacancy occurs after that time, officers will absorb the duties of the missing position(s).

Section 2

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

Section 3

The chapter **president** must maintain a delicate balance between leading and encouraging other officers, members, and interested students to take on leadership responsibilities.

The president's responsibilities extend beyond the students within the chapter.

It shall be the duty of the president to preside over meetings, set agendas for the meetings, coordinate work, function as an intermediary, represent chapters at other meetings as required, take ultimate student responsibility for all chapter functioning, and lead the club in the revision of the National Constitution. If a member holds the office of president in the Student Senate, said member may not run for president of NHS. The same member may run for any other officer position within the NHS chapter.

The role of the chapter president must:

- Know how to handle many types of situations
- Be mature
- Be organized with good time management skills
- Have sound judgment
- Have energy
- Be able to work with many different kinds of people and personalities
- Have a good relationship with the advisors, chapter, faculty, and student body

Section 4

The **secretary/treasurer's** primary responsibility is to keep the official records of chapter business and serve as the official correspondent for the chapter. The historical memory of the Honor Society on your campus depends on the quality of the secretary's performance. The job requires accuracy, neatness, and completeness.

The secretary is expected to:

- Be the keeper of the records, designer of the agenda
- Be organized
- Know nearly everything about every meeting
- Be alert to the calendar and the progress of committees
- Be knowledgeable about meeting procedures
- Spend time planning and organizing the chapter's work.

The secretary shall take the minutes of all meetings, maintain accurate electronic records, update club rosters, and oversee publicity of chapter events and correspondence.

Section 5

The chapter **historian's** primary responsibility is to collect and preserve information that provides a clear and concise record of all chapter activities for the year.

The historian shall maintain the club's social media pages and bulletin board, mentor program sign-ups, update the calendar and manage the submission of photos by members as part of their service requirement. At the induction ceremony, the historian will prepare a slideshow highlighting community service events over the past year.

Section 6

The role of the **parliamentarian** is to ensure that meetings are orderly and civil and to help the chapter operate according to its constitution and bylaws.

The main function of the parliamentarian is to advise the president or chairperson on procedures during meetings. The parliamentarian does not rule members out of order. Neither should he or she call for votes—that is the job of the president. If a parliamentarian notices a violation in procedures, he or she should quietly tell the president, and then the president may rule from the chair.

The parliamentarian shall record and coordinate membership, check mandatory attendance, and keep accurate electronic records of community service hours. This job requires monthly checking service hours and sending out notices of hours not served.

The parliamentarian is expected to:

- Act as the keeper of the constitution and bylaws and be familiar with their contents
- Be knowledgeable about meeting procedures
- Offer procedural opinions when asked to do so by the president or chairperson
- Know nearly everything about every meeting
- Chair the constitution/bylaws revision committee-if the need arises.

Article VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the chapter and the chapter advisor.

Section 2

The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and business of the chapter, but any action on the part of the executive committee may be subject to the review of the chapter.

Section 3

The executive committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations.

Section 4

The executive committee is in charge of planning and executing the chapter service project each year

Article VII: SUPERVISION BY THE PRINCIPAL

Section 1

The activities of this chapter shall be subject to the approval of the principal.

Section 2

The principal shall appoint a member or members of the faculty as Chapter Adviser(s), who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3

The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of five members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms. No principal or vice-principal may be included on the Faculty Council.

Section 4

The principal shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates and disciplining or dismissal of members.

Article VIII: SUPERVISION BY THE ADVISERS

Section 1

The chapter advisers shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaisons between faculty, administration, students, and community.

Section 2

The chapter advisers shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter advisers shall send an annual report to the national office.

Section 3

The chapter advisers shall regularly review each member for compliance with NHS standards and obligations.

Section 4

The chapter advisers shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

Section 5

The chapter advisers shall be ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council.

Article IX: SUPERVISION BY THE FACULTY COUNCIL

Section 1

The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and consider non-selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

Section 2

The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with this Constitution and National Honor Society policies.

Article X: MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES

Section 1

The regular meetings of this chapter shall be held at least once a month or as designated by the principal.

Section 2

Special meetings, approved by the executive committee, may be called by the president.

Section 3

This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in all points not expressly provided for in the constitution of this chapter.

Section 4

This chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each school year.

Section 5

All members shall regularly participate in these service projects.

Section 6

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

Section 7

Each member will have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter service projects to which all members contribute.

Section 8

Each chapter will publicize its projects in a positive manner.

Addendum:

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Alfred E. Wallace Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools updated the point system to ensure all members fulfill their promises of character, service, leadership, and scholarship. The updated point system will work as follows:

Mandatory Voting of Officers	5 points
Mandatory Chapter Meetings	5 points each
Mandatory Chapter Community Service Project	25 points
Mandatory Individual Community Service Project	25 points
Mandatory Induction Ceremony	10 points
NHS Member's Community Service Hour 1 pt/hr (six points per semester of membership)	12 points
Membership Communication via Remind/Classroom/Email	8 points

Members in good standing (attendance, behavior, and GPA must also accumulate a minimum of 100 points per active year in order to wear the National Honor Society stole at graduation and to be eligible for the NHS scholarship nomination and/or reference letters from the advisers.

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