

Chapter Bylaws for the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School's Chapter of the National Honors Society

Article I: Name

1) Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School's Chapter of the National Honors Society

Article II: Purpose

1) The purpose of this chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Monty Tech.

Article III: Powers

1) The local control of the organization shall be vested in a Faculty Council composed of five members of the school's faculty. These faculty members are appointed by the principal. They may and are encouraged to serve consecutive terms. Faculty members may not serve on the Faculty Council while they have family members in the high school. Each member of the Faculty Council has full vote power. The principal has veto power and final approval.

2) The NHS advisors are appointed by the principal and shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and shall act as liaison between faculty, administration, students and community. The advisors serve as non-voting members of the Faculty Council.

3) Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of NHS 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

1) Membership in this organization is an honor and a privilege. Students shall be selected by the Faculty Council, and selection is based on the demonstration of outstanding scholarship, leadership, character and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities and maintain all obligations of membership.

2) Candidates become members by signing a letter of acceptance, after which they will be inducted at a special ceremony.

3) A National Honor Society member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from their former principal or chapter advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in this chapter. The transfer member must meet this chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

4) Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Article V: Selection

1) To be eligible for membership the candidates must be members of the junior or senior class. Candidates must have been in attendance at the school for the equivalent of one semester. The principal may waive the semester regulation based on recommendations from the principals of the students' previous school.

2) Students must have a cumulative average of an 87 in both academic and shop starting sophomore year on, weighted by credit and level of class.

3) Students academic and shop records will be reviewed by the advisor to determine scholastic eligibility.

4) Students who are scholastically eligible shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the National Honor Society Packet in a timely manner for further consideration for membership.

5) The Faculty Council will review the packets, faculty evaluations and discipline reports of the candidates and vote on each candidate in three categories, Service, Leadership and Character. A candidate must get a majority yes vote in all three categories to become a member.

6) Students will be notified of the results of the Faculty Council and if not selected will be notified in which category(s) for which they were not selected. A student may appeal the Faculty Council's decision to the Principal in a timely manner. The Principal's decision is final.

7) Selection of members will occur once per year in the fall.

Article VI Discipline and Dismissal

1) Any member who violates one or more of the guiding principles of Leadership, Scholarship, Service or Character may be considered for dismissal by the Faculty Council. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain their scholastic standing and take an active role in leadership and service in their school and community.

2) If a member's cumulative scholastic grades falls below the standard in effect when he or she was selected, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period (generally of one marking 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 dismissal from the chapter.

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.

4) Violation of the law or school regulations as outlined in the discipline policy of MRVTS 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, tobacco products or alcohol at school or at school-related activities.

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

6) In all cases of pending dismissal:

a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser or Faculty Council indicating the reason for possible dismissal. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held (see below).

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 on dismissal. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether or not to dismiss member. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.

c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent by the Faculty Council to the student, his or her parents, and the principal. Dismissed members must surrender any Item with the National Honor Society emblem to the adviser.

d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the 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.

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

Article VII: Officers

- 1) The officers of the chapter shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.
- 2) Student officers shall be elected for the Juniors shortly after the induction (usually within a month of the induction), they will assist the Senior officers to run the meetings.
- 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 the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Article VIII: Meetings

- 1) Meetings of this chapter shall be every B Week Monday at 2:50. The induction rehearsal and the induction ceremony will be considered mandatory meetings. If a meeting needs to be held due to special circumstances it will be posted 2 weeks in advance to the students school Email.
- 2) All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings. If a member cannot attend the member must contact the NHS advisor prior to the meeting in writing or in an email the fact that they will not be attending and the reason. If the reason is not equal to what is required for an excused absence from school the absence will not be deemed excused. More than two unexcused absences from regularly scheduled meetings may result in disciplinary action.

Article IX: Community Service

- 1) All members will be expected to complete a minimum of 15 hours of community service per school year to include **6 hours of chapter sponsored community service**.

Article X: Amendments

- 1) These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds 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 V and VI (selection and Discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the Principal.