

The Four Pillars of National Honor Society

Scholarship

Students must maintain a cumulative 3.50 or better weighted GPA for the remainder of their high school career. If a student's GPA drops below this minimum, the Faculty Council will automatically place him/her on probation for one semester. If, at the end of the probationary semester, the GPA is 3.50 or better, the student will again be a member in good standing. However, the student must maintain a 3.50 minimum GPA for the rest of his/her high school career, or membership will be revoked. If a student does not raise his/her GPA to the required minimum of 3.50 at the end of the semester probation, the Faculty Council will revoke membership. An extension of the probation period may be granted under extenuating circumstances.

In addition, members of National Honor Society are expected to maintain strictly all standards of scholarship at VCHS. These standards include honesty in claiming authorship and in documenting sources of information.

Service

The National Chapter of the Society requires that all local chapters involve themselves in community service. Members of the VCHS chapter must complete a minimum of fifteen hours of approved community service each semester (see list of approved volunteer/service organizations on the VCHS NHS webpage). These hours may include the required community service hours for the school. At least three hours of service each semester must be done with the VCHS chapter of NHS. Failure to complete the required hours of community service may result in a member being placed on probation. The terms for loss of membership or probation are the same as stated above.

Leadership

Leadership requires more than participating actively in organizations, clubs or disciplines contributing to the school or community, although this is an essential aspect of leadership. Responsibility, reliability and active participation are essential components of leadership. Students are neither responsible nor reliable if they fail to fulfill any obligation to which they have committed themselves, including taking unexcused absences from school. The Faculty Council may review the membership of any student who is repeatedly and inappropriately absent from classes.

Character

The word honor implies that the members of National Honor Society should earn the respect of others. You earn respect by displaying such character traits as honesty, respectfulness, maturity, humility and helpfulness. Character also requires adherence to the rules established to govern a community, including the policies of individual teachers and of VCS. The faculty committee may review the membership of any student who is referred to the administration, or who commits any infraction of the Code of Conduct for VCS, or who breaks the law.

Additional NHS obligations include:

- paying \$10 dues each semester (deducted from student accounts and used for induction ceremony, chapter service project(s), and other chapter needs throughout the year)
- regular attendance at chapter meetings held during the school year
- required participation in the chapter service project(s)
- completing 15 hours per semester of individual service hours