

The Selection Process

Those students who meet the scholarship criterion are invited to complete a Student Activity Information Form that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's history of leadership experiences, participation in school activities, and participation in community service. The Council awards points for eligible activities and positive faculty character evaluations. A majority vote of the Council is necessary for selection. Candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection according to a predetermined schedule.

Following notification of selection, a formal induction ceremony will be 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 four criteria that led to their selection.

Selection Criteria

Students must meet all criteria in high school during the year(s) that precede the year of application.

Scholarship

For the scholarship criterion, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Leadership

A student who exercises leadership as defined by the VCHS Faculty Council is one who

- demonstrates initiative in promoting and participating in school activities
- exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit,
- contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- exemplifies positive attitudes
- demonstrates academic initiative
- demonstrates reliability and dependability
- is dependable in any responsibility accepted
- is a leader in the classroom, at work, and/or in other school or community activities

Minimum leadership requirement for NHS eligibility

- student must be a member and participant of two approved organizations, including at least one VCHS athletic, academic, social, or cultural organization.
Approved non-VCHS organizations: Girl/Boy Scouts, 4H, Vacaville Youth Round Table, Interact, Camp Royal/Venture
- student must hold an official leadership position (i.e. elected officer, team captain) in at least one school-based athletic, academic, social, or cultural organization

Service

As defined by the VCHS Faculty Council, a student who serves is one who:

- volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance and is gladly available and willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- cheerfully and enthusiastically renders requested service to the school
- is willing to represent the class or school in scholastic competition
- does committee and staff work without complaint

- participates in some activity outside of school (e.g., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, religious groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged)
- mentors persons in the school community or broader community
- shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

Minimum service requirement for NHS eligibility

- Completion of the minimum required number of documented service hours by July 31st of the selection year.
- Minimum number of service hours required from approved organizations (see <http://www.go-vcs.com/PDF/Academics/hs/clubs/Service%20Opportunities.pdf> for list of approved service organizations)
 - 10th grade applicant – 30 cumulative hours from 9th grade year
 - 11th grade applicant – 60 cumulative hours from 9th and 10th grade years
 - 12th grade applicant – 90 cumulative hours from 9th, 10th, and 11th grade years

Character

A student of character as defined by the VCHS Faculty Council is one who

- takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- is punctual, observes and is adherent to instructions and rules both inside and outside the classroom
- manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, adheres to the honor code, and shows an unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others

To evaluate a candidate's character, the Faculty Council uses two forms of input. First, school disciplinary records are reviewed. Second, members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional reflections on a candidate's service activities, character, and leadership. These forms and the Student Activity Information Forms are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. The minimum requirement for character is to earn faculty ratings of 3 or 4 on the faculty evaluation form.