

National Junior Honor Society

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is National Junior Honor Society?

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is an organization in middle schools throughout the United States. NJHS is a prestigious organization with a reputation for excellence by recognizing students with high academic achievement and encouraging their leadership and service activities.

2. Who oversees NJHS at PHMS?

Liza Vogus is the advisor and Debbie Porter is the co-advisor for the PHMS chapter of NJHS. Ms. Vogus is the 7th Grade School Counselor, and she is in the 7th Grade Office (upstairs in Building 5). Mrs. Porter is our Medical program teacher and is in Building 7. You can email Ms. Vogus at VogusL@pcsb.org any time you have NJHS questions.

3. Why should I be in NJHS?

Being a NJHS member is the highest academic recognition in middle school and evidence of a student's academic achievements, leadership qualities, service initiative, and exceptional character. Membership in NJHS is beneficial for applications to high school magnets, programs and even college! Volunteering through NJHS helps our students to network with organizations so they can remain volunteers and later earn hours towards the Bright Future Scholarships! Students will learn how to document volunteer hours, how to use email (an important communication skill), and work with other NJHS students on community projects.

4. What is the NJHS application process?

First, we start with an information meeting where invited students hear an explanation of NJHS and learn the application process. The students will receive the application packet at this meeting. The packet will need signatures from 6th or 7th grade teachers who recommend the candidate and a short, typed essay explaining why the student believes they are a good candidate for NJHS. **If a student is new to PHMS this school year, that student may use current 8th grade teachers for the signature page.*

Applications will be accepted until the due date stated on the application. Applicants will be accepted based on their essay, teacher recommendations, behavioral record, and current cumulative GPA. Students must not have earned any discipline referrals and may not be accepted if they have earned N or U marks in conduct. The PHMS chapter has determined that at least a 3.5 GPA (unrounded) will be required.

5. What do I have to do to remain in NJHS?

NJHS students currently in 8th grade must:

- Maintain the required cumulative GPA throughout middle school, including all of 8th grade.
- Complete a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer work during the 8th grade year. Hours earned before 8th grade year (including 7th grade summer) will not count.

- The National committee requires dues paid for NJHS membership, the amount which will be decided at the start of the 8th grade year.
- Maintain good behavioral standing throughout middle school
- No discipline referrals

6. Can I be dismissed from NJHS?

Dismissal from NJHS is never automatic. Even if a student falls below the criteria for selection, dismissal does not automatically follow. The right to a hearing, outlined in NJHS Constitution, must be applied. Once dismissed, a former member will not be reconsidered for readmission. It is important to remember, however, that National Junior Honor Society members do not automatically become National Honor Society (NHS) members in high school. In such a case, the student would remain eligible for future admission into NHS.

7. What counts for volunteer hours?

NJHS students can work with many local organizations as well as help with many PHMS campus activities, such as setting up for dances and school fundraisers! Students who help with organizations outside of school (such as religious organizations, community sports teams, girl or boy scouts, etc.) can count their volunteering towards NJHS service hours. Please note - transportation to and from volunteering events is not provided by PHMS.

8. What does NOT count for volunteer hours?

Membership in other school organizations cannot be counted again for NJHS volunteering hours. Events such as setting up musical concerts, helping at AVID panther fest or helping other clubs are done for those organizations and will not count again in NJHS. Helping teachers in classrooms is also not able to be counted as volunteer hours.

9. Does being in NJHS mean I will automatically be in National Honor Society in high school?

No, there will be a separate application for NHS in high school and being an NJHS member is not a prerequisite. If students are unable to be in NJHS in middle school, they are still eligible for NHS in high school.

10. How will NJHS students be recognized?

There will be an evening Induction ceremony recognizing our inductees in front of their families in the fall. Students will receive their membership card and NJHS pins and be called up to the stage by our 8th grade Assistant Principal.

At our 8th grade Level Up ceremony, students who have met the NJHS requirements all school year will receive their NJHS certificates.