

MIHS National Honor Society Application 2016

Application Deadline: March 27, 2016.

Thank you for applying to Mercer Island National Honor Society! We are dedicated to encouraging academically successful and creative students to participate in service in their school, local, and global communities. Honor Society meets the first Thursday each month during both lunches in the Library Presentation Room.

Please note that National Honor Society is only open to incoming **juniors and seniors** (Classes of 2017 and 2018) with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. If you are a current 9th grader, we encourage you to apply next year. However, please note that beginning with the class of 2019, the minimum GPA will rise to 3.7. Applicants who were not admitted as sophomores may re-apply as juniors. Previously dismissed members may not re-apply.

How to Apply:

1. Use this packet to carefully plan your application and assemble all required materials.
2. Scan supporting documents and save them as PDF files.
3. Complete the online application at <https://seidman.wufoo.com/forms/national-honor-society-application-2016/>. The form will close to submissions at 11:59PM on Sunday, March 27.

Note to the Applicant

Leadership, character, scholarship, and service are equally weighted components for selection in National Honor Society. A high GPA doesn't guarantee selection – it simply makes the student eligible for membership consideration. The faculty council will use the criterion listed (see attached) to evaluate the applicant's observable leadership, character, and service. Applications are reviewed by an independent committee composed of Mercer Island staff and faculty, overseen by the NHS Adviser.

In this packet, you will find:

- Membership Expectations and Conditions for Dismissal
- Mercer Island's National Honor Society Application Directions
- Selection Criteria (Rubric)

Application and Selection Deadlines

The completed application is **due by March 27 at 11:59PM**. All portions of your application must be submitted online by this time. Late applications and paper applications cannot be accepted.

Letters notifying applicants of selection decisions will be mailed during the last week of April. An induction ceremony for all new members will be held on Monday, May 16 at 6:30PM.

DIRECTIONS:

- The application is online at <https://seidman.wufoo.com/forms/national-honor-society-application-2016/>
- The form below reflects what is requested in the online application. Please read all sections carefully.
- Once you have submitted the form online, you may not revise your answers. Draft and revise in a separate document and only fill in the online application when you are confident in your responses.
- Supporting documents should be scanned and uploaded in PDF format.
- The completed application must be submitted by **March 27 at 11:59PM**. No late applications can be considered.

MIHS National Honor Society Application 2016

Student Information:

Name:

Class Year:

Mailing Address:

Contact Information:

Class schedule for 2015-16 FIRST Semester:

Service:

- **Service Log:** Complete and upload a log of community service hours covering the 12-month period from March 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016. You will need to create a PDF of this file and upload it to your application. A few sample entries are below. Additionally, please enter the total hours from this log into the application directly.

Dates	Organization	Service Project Description	Hours Served	Supervisor Name & Email
July 2015	Northwest Harvest	Summer Lunch Program Volunteer	25	Tina Jones, tinaj@nwharvest.org (record attached)
January 2016	MIHS Sailing Club	Treehouse Clothing Drive	12	<i>Lulia Seidman</i> , Adviser

- Wherever it is possible, please obtain a supervisor signature on your log.
- If it is not possible to obtain a signature on the log itself, you may upload other supporting documents such as a signed certificate, official record, or email from a supervisor. All such documents should be scanned and combined into a single PDF file.
- **Written Response:** From among the service projects you listed, choose one and explain why you elected to participate in this specific project. Limit your response to 100 words or less.
- **What counts as service?**
 - Participation in the activities of a non-profit or community organization when the main beneficiary of those activities is someone other than the student is service.
 - Assisting a private member of the community with a task they would otherwise be unable to complete can qualify as service if no compensation is received. Babysitting is not service if you are paid, but if you are volunteering your time because the parents are unable to pay, that is service. Housesitting for an uncle and mowing his lawn in exchange for being able to use his boat is not service because you receive direct personal benefit from that arrangement, but mowing the lawn of a neighbor who is ill could be if you are not compensated.
 - Activities that are required of all members of a team or club may not be counted as service, but those that go beyond the requirements should be included. For example, if a few members of a sports team organized a free clinic for elementary school students, those team members who took the initiative to organize the event should list that as a service. If a coach later decided that *all* team members would be required to participate in that clinic, those who simply showed up on the day of the event should not list it as service. Orchestra members who attend rehearsals outside of school would not be Orchestra members if they did not attend those rehearsals, and thus cannot count them as service. However, Orchestra members who play at preschools or nursing homes should count those activities as service.

MIHS National Honor Society Application 2016

Leadership:

- **Leadership Records:** Please provide a record of leadership roles and activities you have participated in during high school. This is not limited to school-sponsored activities, but should not include any positions or activities prior to 9th grade.
 - You may list up to five specific positions or activities.
 - For each position or activity, you should identify your dates of participation, the organization and your position, and a brief description of activities and projects you led.
- **Supporting Documents:** Please provide documentation of these leadership activities. That documentation may take the form of a signed letter, certificate, official record, or email from a coach, adviser or supervisor. All supporting documents should be combined and uploaded as a single PDF file.
- **Written Statement:** In 100 words or less, describe a single event in the last twelve months – a conversation, a decision, a specific plan or action – that exemplifies your leadership style and abilities. Be specific and concrete.
- **What Counts as Leadership?**
 - Please note that applicants do not necessarily need to have held formal leadership positions to be selected for membership. A score of 1, supported by strong character and service, is still adequate for selection, and may be awarded for significant informal leadership in the classroom or other activities. However, documentation of this leadership is still required.
 - Examples of informal leadership could include a student who voluntarily takes on the task of creating and maintaining a club website when one did not exist previously, a student who approaches a teacher about creating a study group to support ESL students in the class, or a student who volunteers to take on a mentoring role for new employees at work.
 - The distinguishing trait the Council looks for in students who have limited formal leadership is initiative. A leader seeks out and creates opportunities where they are not apparent.

Character:

- **What is character?** Character traits the NHS specifically looks for in members include honesty, reliability, respect for others, persistence and a sense of purpose.
- **How do you evaluate that?** The Faculty Council, which is composed of staff representing multiple academic departments, will consider personal experiences with students as well as comments solicited from faculty, support staff, counselors, administrators and coaches. We will strive to gain a broad view of applicants' contributions to the positive, inclusive academic environment of this school and will give students the benefit of the doubt in evaluating this portion of the application.
- **I'm worried about something that happened in 9th grade:** If you think that there are likely to be any shortcomings or concerns that arise in the Council's discussion of your character, the written statement is your opportunity to address those concerns head-on. Please do not shy away from an honest explanation of potentially concerning issues. Growth is an excellent demonstration of character.
- **But you don't know me!** If you feel that the best demonstrations of your character may not be visible to the Faculty Council but are better demonstrated outside of school, please use the written statement as an opportunity to explain why that might be so.

MIHS National Honor Society Application 2016

- **References:** Please list 3 teachers or coaches you have had in high school who you believe would be good references for understanding your character and contributions to the school community. These references may be contacted in the event that the Faculty Council feels more information is needed to fully evaluate your application.
 1. Teacher/Coach Name: Subject/Sport: School Year:
 2. Teacher/Coach Name: Subject/Sport: School Year:
 3. Teacher/Coach Name: Subject/Sport: School Year:
- **Written Statement:** Describe an experience from which you grew in character. What challenged you and led you to develop greater strength in one of the traits listed above? Limit your response to 100 words.

MIHS National Honor Society Application 2016

Criteria for Membership Selection

Students will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Student has at least a 3.5 GPA
- Application scores **6 points or higher with no zeros** on the following criteria:

<u>SERVICE</u>	<p>0 points: no evidence of service</p> <p>1 point: limited service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has between 15 - 25 hours of community service within the past 12 months • volunteers for school activities <p>2 points: moderate service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has between 26 - 35 hours of community service within the past 12 months <i>and</i> • is actively involved in school activities <p>3 points: outstanding service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has over 35 hours of community service within the past 12 months <i>and</i> • is deeply involved in school activities
<u>LEADERSHIP</u>	<p>0 points: no evidence of positive leadership</p> <p>1 point: limited leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates leadership within but not outside the classroom • exemplifies positive qualities such as reliability and dependability <p>2 points: moderate leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates leadership in the classroom in significant ways <i>and</i> • leads peers in school sports or activities <i>or</i> demonstrates leadership in activities outside of the school (work, civic organizations, religious organization, etc.) <p>3 points: outstanding leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commands respect of faculty and peers and inspires positive behavior in others • has assumed complex leadership roles, including delegating responsibility to others • demonstrates ability to transform organizations or reach significant new objectives
<u>CHARACTER</u>	<p>0 points: exhibits undesirable behavior (criminal conviction, school suspension, bullying, disrespect for teachers, plagiarism, etc.)</p> <p>1 point: indistinguishable qualities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observes laws, rules, and regulations • is honest and reliable <p>2 points: noteworthy qualities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • displays courtesy, concern and respect for others • persistent and industrious in all endeavors <p>3 points: superior and praiseworthy qualities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • actively works to overcome negative influences in and outside of school • consistently exhibits mature, ethical behavior and a strong sense of moral conviction

MIHS National Honor Society Application 2016

Should you be selected for membership in the National Honor Society, you will be held to the following standards. Again, please note that the GPA requirement will be changing for the Class of 2019 and later.

Expectations for Honor Society Members

- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher while participating in Honor Society
- Attend all meetings or follow make-up procedures for missed meetings
- Participate wholeheartedly in club service activities
- Be in good standing with the Athletic and Activity Conduct Code
- Pursue individual community service throughout the year

Conditions for Dismissal

An NHS member might be dismissed for failure to continue to meet any of the standards for membership. For example, a student whose GPA dropped below 3.5 and who did not remediate that situation by the following quarter would likely be dismissed. Similarly, a student who repeatedly failed to meet service expectations might also be dismissed. In either of these cases, the student would receive written notice of Probation and would be given time to address the situation. Serious violations, such as major academic dishonesty or commission of a crime, can lead to dismissal without notice. The Faculty Council decides on all matters of dismissal; an appeals process is in place. Procedures are outlined in the NHS Constitution, Article VII, available on the NHS website.