



# BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY

## Introduction

When the National Junior Honor Society was founded in 1929, the hope was to create an organization that would recognize and encourage academic achievement while also developing other characteristics essential to citizens in a democracy. These ideals of scholarship, character, service, citizenship, and leadership remain as relevant today as they were in 1929.

Now, more than 90 years later, the National Junior Honor Society has become a prestigious organization, ranking high among administrators, faculty members, students, parents, and the residents of the school community. Its reputation for excellence results from years of commitment by everyone involved. Through NJHS chapter service activities, members maintain and extend the qualities that earned them selection. Membership is thus both an honor and a commitment.

## The Pledge

I pledge to maintain my high scholastic standing,  
To hold as fundamental and worthy an untarnished character,  
To endeavor intelligently and courageously to be a leader,  
And to give of myself freely in service to others.  
In doing so, I shall prove myself worthy of a place in the  
National Junior Honor Society.

# The Ideals and Commitments of Membership

## Scholarship

Scholarship means a commitment to learning. A student is willing to spend time reading and studying, knowing the lasting benefits of a cultivated mind. We should continue to learn even when formal education has ended, for learning is an ongoing part of life. Knowledge is one great element in life that leads to the highest success, and it can be acquired in only one way—through diligence and effort. Members are charged to expand their world through the opportunities inherent in scholarship continually.

**National Junior Honor Society members must achieve a 3.5 grade point average for admission and maintain a 3.0 grade point average once inducted. Members must also maintain consistent school attendance and not miss more than 10% of their school year.**

## Service

Service can be described in various ways. In the day's work routine, many opportunities arise to help others. The quality we seek in our membership is the willingness to work for the benefit of those in need without monetary compensation or without recognition. We are committed to the idea of volunteering our time and abilities to the creation of a better tomorrow.

**Over the course of the school year, National Junior Honor Society members must contribute at least 10 service hours to projects that benefit the school and community. Service hours must be verified and submitted throughout the school year.**

## Leadership

Leadership should exert a wholesome influence on the school and community. In taking the initiative in class and school activities, the real leader strives to train and aid others to attain the same objective. The price of leadership is a sacrifice—the willingness to yield one's personal interests for the interests of others. A leader has self-confidence and will go forward when others hesitate. Leadership is always needed; thus, to lead is a substantive charge of each of our members.

**National Junior Honor Society members must demonstrate involvement and participation in leadership positions and activities both in the school community and outside endeavors.**

## Character

Character is the force within each individual that distinguishes the person from others. It gives each one individuality. Without character, building respect is difficult. The force of the character guides one through life and grows steadily once developed. Character is achieved and not received. It is the product of constant action, striving daily to make the right choice. We must be, in reality, what we wish to appear to others. By demonstrating such qualities as reliability, honesty, and sincerity, we may hope to prove by example that we value character.

***National Junior Honor Society members must strive to achieve the highest qualities of character both in the school and community.***

**National Junior Honor Society members or those being considered for admission must not have any detentions, suspensions, or write-ups other than dress code and maintain a clean behavior record once inducted. Considerations for induction will be made for some level one write-ups. Students with level two or three write-ups will not be considered for induction.**

## Citizenship

Citizenship is vital to the strength of our country. It requires effort and commitment. In the words of the late President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

**National Junior Honor Society members must portray exemplary qualities of citizenship and must strive to take an active and supportive role as citizens of our country.**

### **Sixth Grade Qualifications**

To be considered for induction into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) at Ben Franklin Academy, sixth-grade students must meet the following requirements as well as be recommended by all sixth grade teachers.

#### **Academic Achievement**

- Maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA in **all three trimesters** of sixth grade for admission.
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher once inducted.

#### **Attendance**

- Maintain consistent school attendance.
- Students may not miss more than 10% of the school year.

#### **Character & Conduct**

- Students must maintain a clean behavior record.
- No detentions, suspensions, or disciplinary write-ups (other than dress code).
- Consideration may be given for minor (level one) write-ups.
- Students with level two or three write-ups are not eligible for induction.

### **Seventh and Eighth Grade Qualifications -**

- Maintain a 3.5 GPA all three trimesters of both 6th and 7th grade
- Miss fewer than 10% of school days in both 6th and 7th grade
- Have no behavior write-ups in 6th or 7th grade
- Not have declined NJHS membership at the end of 6th grade
- Be recommended by both 6th and 7th grade teachers

### **New Student Qualifications -**

- If a student was an active NJHS member in good standing at their previous school, their membership automatically transfers, but they must meet the new chapter's standards within a certain timeframe, typically one semester.
- For new students who are not transferring an existing NJHS membership, the process is the same as for any other student at the school, but they must meet a minimum enrollment requirement

## **National Junior Honor Society Activities**

The following are just some examples of the many activities and projects that the Ben Franklin Academy NJHS has organized or supported in the past:

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| ● Teacher Assistant Elective         | ● Maintaining BFA's lost and found        |
| ● School Leadership Responsibilities | ● Tour guide for prospective BFA families |
| ● Veteran's Day Assembly             | ● BFA clean up day in the spring          |
| ● Green Team                         | ● Honor Roll Breakfast                    |
| ● Fall Festival and Sweetheart Ball  |   |
| ● Conference Babysitting             |   |