

National Junior Honor Society



**Liberty Junior High School
Alex M. Martino Junior High School**

What is an Honor Society?

Membership in the Liberty or Alex M. Martino chapters of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is the highest honor given to a middle school student and carries with it a distinction recognized nation-wide. The organization seeks to create an enthusiasm for superior scholarship, develop citizenship, promote leadership and instill exemplary qualities of character.

NJHS is more than just an honor roll. The Honor Society chapter establishes rules for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character. These criteria for selection form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built.

Scholarship: Students who have a cumulative grade point average of **4.00** or higher, following the second trimester of the current school year, have met the minimum requirement for scholarship.

Leadership: Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from mature participation and responsibility gained through involvement with such activities as athletics, scouting, community organizations, and school clubs.

Service: This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.

Citizenship: The student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of civic involvement and has a high regard for freedom, justice, and democracy.

Character: The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others, and generally maintains a positive lifestyle.

When do I become eligible?

Seventh grade students who are selected for membership in NJHS are inducted during the third trimester; they will serve as active NJHS members for their eighth grade year. Eighth grade students who are selected for membership in NJHS may be inducted as honorary NJHS members during the third trimester. Membership in NJHS is a junior high honor; it does not transfer to the National Honor Society (NHS) at the secondary level.

What requirements do I have to meet in order to be considered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society?

- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 4.00 or higher.
- Be a leader - participate in community/school activities, athletics, or school clubs. The minimum requirement to be considered for membership in NJHS is active participation in three activities. (Active participation is defined as attendance/involvement in at least 80% of the meetings, practices, or games related to the activity, 1 Liberty/Martino affiliated club/activity. Parents may not sign off on clubs/activities. Please consult the NJHS advisor with any questions.
- Provide service to your school/community. The minimum requirement to be considered for membership in NJHS is having provided at least five hours of service to either the school or community. Complete the NJHS service hours log with a minimum of at least two service hours made to Liberty/Martino, **any NLS 122 school, or any area high school**; remember to obtain the signature of the supervisor/sponsor for the activity. Parents may not sign off on obtained service hours.
- Demonstrate positive citizenship. School administrators and the NJHS Council will consider your discipline record as evidence of your citizenship. For citizenship, students receiving an office referral or 4 or more classroom steps, will not be eligible for NJHS.
- Demonstrate strong character in classroom/school environment. For character, students receiving 4 or more late and/or missing assignments will not be eligible for NJHS.

What process do I follow to be considered for membership in NJHS?

After receiving your second trimester report card showing you have earned a cumulative GPA of 4.00 or higher, please complete an evidence packet for the faculty council to consider in order to determine acceptance to NJHS. The evidence packets are available in the school office or from the NJHS faculty advisor. PLEASE be aware that evidence packets are due within one week of second trimester report cards being issued; late packets will NOT be considered.

How is membership for NJHS determined?

Students who earn eleven or more points on the NJHS Evaluation Rubric and have been recommended by the staff council will be considered for induction as members of NJHS. The NJHS advisor is not a member of the faculty council; the advisor acts as liaison between the student and the faculty council.

How and when am I notified that I have been selected to be inducted as a member of NJHS?

A congratulatory letter along with an invitation for your family to attend the Induction Ceremony will be sent home within two weeks of the final due date for the evidence packet. Specific reasons need

not be given; however, the NJHS sponsor shall provide recommendations for future NJHS consideration.

What happens after I am selected to be in NJHS?

You are expected to attend an Induction Ceremony where you will commit to the ideals of the National Junior Honor Society and accept the responsibility associated with membership; you will receive a certificate commemorating this special honor.

How and when am I notified that I have not been selected to be inducted as a member of NJHS?

You will receive a letter stating you were not selected for membership in NJHS within two weeks of the final due date for the evidence packet.

Is there an appeal process if I am not selected to be inducted as a member of NJHS?

Students who wish to appeal the decision of the faculty council may submit an appeal in writing to the principal within one week of being notified on non-selection. (Students are required to submit the appeal, not the parents) Per the NJHS Constitution, Section 4.4.2, the principal *may* ask the faculty council to reconvene to review the situation; decisions jointly made by the faculty council and principal are then final.

What if I do not maintain the ideals of NJHS after induction?

It is expected that active members of NJHS continually strive for excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character. If the ideals within any of these categories fall below what is expected, the member will be placed on a probationary status. Parents/Guardians will receive written notification when a student is placed on a probationary status.

- (G.P.A) If your G.P.A falls below 4.0, you must bring your grades up by the timeline determined in your probation letter otherwise you would be dismissed.
- (Citizenship/Character) If you receive an office referral OR more than 2 steps OR more than two late/missing assignments, you will be on probation status. Any further discretions, you would be dismissed.

Why is membership in the NJHS considered such a great honor?

Schools throughout the country participate in the National Junior Honor Society. If inducted, you are a member of a select group of young people who are considered the best and brightest in your school. You have the admiration of friends and family and should take great pride in this outstanding accomplishment.

Mrs. Jen Clark, Liberty NJHS Advisor

Mrs. Dottie Presutti, Martino NJHS Advisor

National Junior Honor Society

Evidence Packet

Name: _____



All packets are due within one week of receiving second trimester report cards (Friday, March 6, 2020).

Please proofread before you submit your evidence packet; late and/or incomplete packets will not be accepted.

The applicant must fill out all information in order to be considered for membership.

Any questions must come from the applicant and not parents.

Name: _____

Scholarship

What is your current cumulative GPA from your Trimester 2 report card? _____

Are you in any Accelerated courses? Yes No (Circle Answer)

If yes, then complete the "Adjusted Accelerated GPA Calculation" section below. If no, please skip to the "Leadership" section.

Adjusted Accelerated GPA Calculation:

Please circle the accelerated classes you have:

Accel Language Arts Accel Reading Seminar Accel Math Algebra

In order to recognize the efforts and rigor in accelerated courses, an NJHS factor will be added to the total GPA, for each accelerated course. Below are the values to be added to the cumulative GPA listed on the trimester 2 report card:

- Students with one Accelerated Course = Add .050 to the cumulative GPA
- Students with two Accelerated Courses = Add .075 to the cumulative GPA
- Students with three Accelerated Courses = Add .100 to the cumulative GPA

Please list your Adjusted Accelerated GPA: _____

Name: _____

Leadership

Please list all activities in which you are an active participant; include all athletics, scouting, community organizations, and school clubs, which are current.

- Activities from **August through March of this current school year** are considered current.
- Active participation is defined as attendance/involvement in at least **80%** of the meetings, practices, or games related to the activity.
- Paid private lessons for music, voice, specific athletic skills, etc. are not considered activities that demonstrate leadership.
- **Liberty/Martino Band and Orchestra are not considered a leadership activity.**
- Religious Education/Youth Ministry, etc. is not considered an activity of leadership.
- **Camps and performances (music/dance recitals) also are not considered an activity of leadership.**
- Parent signature is not accepted as sponsor signature without special consideration.

Group Name/Activity/Club	Sponsor Signature	Has the student attended 80% of all meetings? (Yes/No)

Reminder- At least one leadership activity MUST be to Liberty/Martino.

Name: _____

Service

Please complete the attached NJHS Service Hours log; how many total hours of community service have you provided? **Again, at least two of those hours MUST be to Liberty/Martino, NLSO, or any of the Lincoln-Way schools.**

Less than 5 5 - 9 10 - 14 15 or more

Citizenship

Please circle, to the best of your knowledge, how many overall classroom steps you received.

None 1 - 2 3 or more

How many office referrals have you received?

None 1 or more

Character

Number of missing/late assignments Trimesters 1 & 2 = _____

None 1 2-3 4 or more

Community Service Suggestions

Service is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit. This list is a compilation of activities students have used in the past and does not necessarily exclude other activities. Please see your NJHS advisor if you have any question.

School Related Service:

- Tutoring at Study Club (**Tuesday and Wednesday** before school)
- Assisting in the LRC during Advisory
- Assisting at the LRC book fair
- Working as a receptionist during parent/teacher conferences
- **Helping to pass out PE uniforms at the beginning of the school year**
- Working at the PTO Fun Fair, **BINGO Night, Car Night, etc.**

Community Service:

- Service through the Boy/Girl Scouts
- Vacation Bible School volunteer
- Rake-n-Run
- Organizing a food drive
- Serving meals at a soup kitchen/homeless shelter (Daybreak/Morning Star Mission)
- Organizing a *Toys for Tots* campaign
- Fundraising for a group or organization
- Any walks or runs to raise money for an organization
- Math-a-thon (St. Jude's Children's Hospital)
- Volunteering at a Hospice
- Park District volunteer
- Lions Club Christmas Breakfast volunteer
- Setting up an Easter Egg Hunt in the community
- Assisting children with special needs at Sparky Soccer Clinic
- Volunteering at a community fun fair
- Volunteering at an animal shelter (PAWS, NAWS, Humane Society, etc.)

Not Accepted:

- Yard maintenance at home or family member (must be done for verifiable organization)
- Babysitting for family member (must be for verifiable organization)
- Any voluntary work for family members

NJHS Evaluation Rubric

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Pillars	*Does not meet minimum requirement	1 point	2 points	3 points
Scholarship GPA (Student)		4.000-4.0499	4.0500-4.1499	4.1500 or above
Leadership	Under 3 activities or zero activities to Liberty/Martino	3 activities	4 activities	5 or more activities
Service Documented Hours (Student)	Less than 5 hours or not having 2 hours to Liberty/Martino, NLSD, or LW schools	At least 5 hours	At least 10 hours	15 or more hours
Citizenship/ Character (Administrators)	Office Referral or 4 or more class steps	No office referral, 3 or more class steps	No office referral, 1 - 2 classroom steps	No infractions
Academic Responsibility (Administrators)	4 or more late/missing assignments	2-3 late/missing assignments	1 late/missing assignment	No late/missing assignments.

* Receiving a zero in any of the five pillars indicates minimum criteria for NJHS has not been met. A minimum of 11 points must be met.

Total Points: _____