



NEHS | NATIONAL ENGLISH
HONOR SOCIETY
for Secondary Schools

2020-2021 National English Honors Society (NEHS) Bylaws Saint Mary's Hall's Charles Dickens Chapter

Purpose

The mission and purpose of this organization will be literary and educational. NEHS will strive to do the following:

1. Confer distinction upon Saint Mary's Hall students for high achievement in English language and literature.
2. Provide cultural stimulation in Saint Mary's Hall.
3. Encourage interest in the English language arts.
4. Promote exemplary character and good fellowship among its members.
5. Serve society by fostering literacy.

NEHS will be under the sponsorship and supervision of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

Powers Vested in the Organization

The Upper School Head will

- Appoint one or more members of the faculty as chapter advisors.
- Reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.
- Receive appeals in cases of non-selection of member candidates or the dismissal of members.

The Chapter Advisor will

- Be a member of the English faculty, appointed by the Division Head, and may serve consecutive terms.
- Be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison among students, faculty, administration, and community.
- Maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, financial transactions, and the chapter bylaws.
- Regularly review each member for compliance with society standards and obligations.
- Help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.
- Act as a voting member of the Faculty Advisory Council.
- Be designated a NEHS honorary member.
- Serve as the major liaison between the local chapter and the National Office, submitting the membership information and fees and any other items requested by the National Advisory Council and receiving items pertaining to membership sent by the National Office.

The Faculty Advisory Council will

- Consist of no fewer than three English faculty members identified by, and including, the chapter advisor in consultation with the Upper School Head. The term of the Faculty Advisory Council will be one year; members may serve consecutive terms.
 - 2019-2020 Advisory Council
 - Brent Spicer
 - Breanne Hicks
 - Teri Marshall
 - Amy Williams-Eddy
 - Megan Soukup
 - Kelly Jorgensen
 - Barbara Bertoldo
- Meet each March to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, consider dismissals, and/or discuss other related matters.
- Develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for the selection and dismissal of members.

The Chapter Officers

Chapter officers are elected each May. As elected leaders of a chapter, officers are a key to its success. They should be chosen for dependability, enthusiasm, and vision. The officers should seek to lead the other members rather than do all the work themselves. One goal should be to involve every member, either as an officer or committee member. Members wishing to run for an officer position must not serve as a student leader or hold an officer position in another club, society, or organization on campus. Members wishing to run for an officer position must not be on NEHS probation at the time of elections.

The chapter officers, along with the chapter advisor, comprise the chapter's executive committee, the task of which is to direct the chapter's business, reviewing and updating the bylaws, setting the time and place of meetings and their agendas, and approving special events and projects, etc. All officers will have responsibilities during the induction ceremony.

President

The president presides at the meetings; initiates activities and sees that they are carried out; appoints committees and sees that they function; lends continuity to the chapter; and makes certain that the jobs are distributed among as many of the members as possible. The president, working with the chapter advisor, handles the chapter's money matters. He/she should administer chapter funds and keep the other officers apprised of the status of chapter finances. The president should be aware of the importance of teamwork, and that the distinction of being elected president is an honor not to be treated lightly. The president may not be a new member to NEHS.

Vice-President

The vice-president presides in the absence of the president. This officer confers with the president and chapter advisor often and should be kept informed and involved in the activities. As a committed chapter officer, the vice president can chair particular committees as needed and provide leadership for particular projects and activities. The vice-president keeps the

minutes of the meetings, both of the business transacted and of the programs and activities. He/she sends out announcements of future meetings and takes attendance at meetings.

Campus Service Coordinator

The campus service coordinators organizes and attends the literacy partnerships with the lower school, taking pictures during the partnerships and tracking participation, reporting the campus service hours to the chapter advisor. After each partnership, the campus service coordinator is expected to compose a write-up to be published in "News from the Hall." The campus service coordinator will also take the lead in the Voices of Gratitude initiative and is expected to encourage members to submit their voices.

Criteria for Chapter Membership

Membership in the Charles Dickens chapter is an honor bestowed on a student. Selection for membership is based both on academic accomplishment in English courses, as well as on overall academic achievements. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate high standards, including the maintenance of grades. Failure to do so will result in removal from membership. There are three types of membership: active, alumni, and honorary.

A. **Active members** are Saint Mary's Hall students and will remain active members while they maintain the required GPA and until graduation, at which time they become alumni members.

B. **Alumni members**, in accordance with school policy, may be invited to participate in chapter events but have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

- 2017-2018 Alumni Member: Makenzi Hogan
- 2018-2019 Alumni Member: Katherine Uhler

C. **Honorary membership** may be awarded, by consent of the Faculty Advisory Council, to school officials, heads, teachers, and adults whose achievements in English or NEHS-related activities merit special recognition. The Charles Dickens chapter may induct up to four honorary members per year and is responsible for induction fees for honorary members. Honorary members will have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

- 2012-2013 Honorary Member: Ellie Leeper
- 2012-2013 Honorary Member: Laird Loomis
- 2013-2014 Honorary Member: Michael Portman
- 2013-2014 Honorary Member: Courtney Westerman
- 2014-2015 Honorary Member: Jordan Jacks
- 2015-2016 Honorary Member: Christian Cicoria
- 2015-2016 Honorary Member: Jane Dreyfus
- 2016-2017 Honorary Member: Buck Harvey

Any NEHS member who transfers to another school and brings a letter of verification from the former principal or chapter advisor to the new school NEHS chapter advisor will be automatically accepted as a member in Saint Mary's Hall's chapter. Membership may not be determined, in any way, based on race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or physical (dis)ability. Acceptance into NEHS membership does not preclude automatic acceptance into Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

Requirements and Procedures for Initial Member Selection and Continued Membership

Candidates must have

- ✓ Completed the equivalent of two semesters of English at Saint Mary's Hall prior to consideration as members.
- ✓ Achieved a minimum overall rounded grade point average of a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) prior to consideration as members.
- ✓ Achieved a minimum English rounded grade point average of 3.7 (on a 4.0 scale) prior to consideration as members.
- ✓ An exemplary character record. Violations of the Saint Mary's Honor Code will result in dismissal from the chapter.

The Faculty Advisory Council may raise, but not lower, these criteria; however, criteria must be based solely on academic considerations. Each February, the Chapter Advisor will obtain a list of qualifying students based on the grade point averages noted above. These students will be invited to apply for membership in April. To join the chapter, students are required to sign and submit a commitment letter and pay their registration dues. An Induction Ceremony will take place each September. Once students have been accepted and are inducted into the chapter, grade point averages will be checked at the end of each semester. Any member whose grades drop below the chapter's minimum admission requirement for one semester will be placed probation. A probationary member is still considered an active member; however, to remain in the chapter, he/she must improve his/her grades by the following semester. Probationary members may not run for an officer position. Any member whose grades drop below the chapter's minimum admission requirement for two consecutive semesters will be dismissed from the chapter. The chapter advisor will notify the National Office promptly of any member dismissals. Such members may be readmitted when current minimum membership criteria are met.

Meetings

The Charles Dickens general meetings will take place on the first Thursday of each month during lunch. The chapter president or other designated student leader, in consultation with the chapter advisor, may call special meetings.

Service

The Charles Dickens chapter will participate in at least two service projects each school year. All members are encouraged to participate in these service opportunities.

Amendments to Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Faculty Advisory Council or by mail (electronic or otherwise) by a majority affirmative vote of the Faculty Advisory Council and with the approval of the Sigma Tau Delta Board of Directors.