



# *Character Scholarship Leadership Service*

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Bylaws: Jeanne Griffin Chambers Chapter of the National Honor Society Ringgold High School, Ringgold, GA

All components of local bylaws conform to the policies found in the national constitution and NHS handbook.

## ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Jeanne Griffin Chambers Chapter of NHS at Ringgold High School Chapter of Catoosa County Public Schools.

Section 2. The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an environment for the desire for scholarship, to promote a desire to render service to our local community, to promote leadership with integrity, and to encourage the development of character in students of Ringgold High School.

## Section 3. Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the junior class.
- b. Candidates eligible for selection must have been in attendance for the equivalent of one semester at Ringgold High School.
- c. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.65 (out of 4.0; unweighted grade point average in core classes including foreign language) and include at least 2 honors, gifted, AP, or Dual Enrollment classes. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy.
- d. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter must have no behavioral referrals. Referrals for tardies will be considered case by case.
- e. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter must not have excessive tardies or unexcused absences. Excessive will be decided upon by the committee members.

## ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no vote in chapter affairs. Section 2. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character.

### ARTICLE III: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. Prior to notification of any candidates, the chapter adviser shall review with the principal the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations.

Section 2. Prior to selection, the following shall occur: a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility. b. Students who are eligible ("candidates") shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the Candidate Form for further consideration for selection. c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser. d. The Faculty Council shall review the Candidate Form, disciplinary records, attendance records and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership. Students with a non-satisfactory disciplinary or attendance record shall not be admitted.

Section 3. The selection of new, active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his/her membership and signed by the Principal.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

### ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLINE and DISMISSAL

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the Jeanne Griffin Chambers Chapter NHS at Ringgold High School. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected – minimum of 3.65 GPA, then he /she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below standard at the end of the warning period the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council that may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3. Violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to, police record to include DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities.

Section 4. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be dismissed.

Section 5. In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the adviser/Faculty Council. The member and adviser will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning although a hearing must still be held.
- b. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him/her at a hearing before the Faculty Council prior to the vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or in writing. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal, and then if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
- d. The Faculty Council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.
- e. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 6. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

#### ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and publicist and will decide how many service projects will need to be completed to earn stoles for graduation.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. Officers must be enrolled on campus full time at Ringgold High School. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote. Final officer decisions will be approved by the committee.

Section 3. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings, attendance, and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

Section 7. The publicist shall keep an active and positive social media presence for Ringgold High School.

Section 8. Officers of the Jeanne Griffin Chambers Chapter of NHS may be relieved of their duties if they are regularly absent from the meetings or do not conduct their responsibilities.

#### ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the faculty adviser and the chapter officers.

Section 2. The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

#### ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly on the second Thursday of every month in Room 107 at 7:30 am. If the meeting times conflict with students in Dual Enrollment classes off campus, the student must submit their college schedule and be responsible for reading the minutes that are posted.

Section 2. This chapter shall conduct its meetings in an organized manner.

Section 3. All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly-scheduled chapter meetings. Members should only miss 2 meetings, and must have a valid, written excuse that follows the school attendance policy (excused absence from school the day of the meeting).

Section 4. Members will be considered absent if more than five minutes late to the meeting. For attendance, a QR code will be used to accurately collect the arrival time for meetings.

#### ARTICLE VIII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The chapter shall determine the service projects for each year.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3. These projects shall have the following characteristics: sanctioned and approved by NHS, fulfill a need, have the support of the administration and the faculty, be appropriate and educationally defensible, and be well-planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in active and non-active service projects as approved by the chapter.

Section 5. The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

#### ARTICLE IX: EMBLEM

Section 1. Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 3. Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the NHS stole at graduation as well as a medal (purchased separately).

#### ARTICLE X: DUES and FEES

Section 1. Annual dues and fees for this chapter shall be \$45 (includes stole, induction costs, and membership fees).

Section 2. Dues will be payable to the advisor before the induction ceremony.

#### ARTICLE XI: POWERS

Section 1. The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3: These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the National Constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the National Constitution in all activities it undertakes.

#### ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote and has been approved by the faculty council. The exceptions are Articles II, III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2. By-laws and amendments must be consistent with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.

Bylaws: Ringgold NHS Date: Revised May 2020 Signatures: Chapter Advisor (Pam Gentry), Faculty Advisors (Melanie Hall, Rachel Carr, Rosanne Hendricks, Mark Pierce).

Principal Statement of Non-discrimination: The Jeanne Griffin Chambers Ringgold High School Chapter of NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.