**IMAGINE SCHOOL at TOWN CENTER NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY CANDIDATE INVITATION**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Based on your child’s grade point average and good standing with the school, he/she h a s an opportunity to join one of the nation’s most prestigious organizations, the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Not everyone at ISTC is given this chance, so just getting this letter is an honor in itself. To be accepted as a member of the Imagine School at Town Center NJHS, one must meet further standards of good character, citizenship, leadership, and service. The ISTC NJHS Faculty Council will use the information provided in this application, personal knowledge of the student, and information from other teachers in this selection process.

#### Table of Contents

Page 1. Cover Letter & Dates Page 2. Cover Letter (continued)

Page 3. Information & Individual Service Project information

Page 4. Frequently Asked Questions

Page 5. Application and Permission Slip \*\*

Page 6. Personal Essay \*\*

 \*\* return only pages 5 & 6, keep the rest for your records

#### Important Dates

**Friday February 10, 2017 Invitation Delivered**

**Friday, February 17, 2017 Completed Application & Essay Due by 2:45 PM to Mrs. Franklin**

**\*\*\*Double Check Pages for completion\*\*\***

**Completed Application MUST include all requirements**

**Friday, February 24th, 2017 Applicants are notified of decision**

**Friday, March 3rd, 2017 Last day to accept, pay, & order t-shirt**

**Thursday, March 9th, 2017 Induction Ceremony, Cafeteria 6:30pm**

**Please be aware that some students may not be selected for membership.** This usually means the committee did not see enough evidence of one or more of the required traits in addition to the scholarship. The information below may give you an idea of what the committee is looking for:

**Service**— The average student performs the basic duties required by their class and the organizations to which they belong. The Council will be looking for evidence that the applicant has served his/her class, school, or community at a **higher** level than the average student. This may mean doing more than his/her share of the work, or it may involve doing additional volunteer work in the school or community without expecting personal recognition or gain.

**Leadership**— Some students exhibit leadership by holding elected class or organization offices. But, leadership can also be exhibited in a less formal manner. The Council will be looking for evidence that the applicant consistently strives to influence and lead others in a positive, wholesome manner through his/her actions, effort, and attitude.



**Character**—Character is the force that guides your attitude and actions. It involves demonstrating reliability, honesty, and self-control. The Council will be looking for evidence that the applicant is trustworthy and is, in reality, what he/she wishes to appear to be to others.

**Citizenship** – Students who care about and demonstrate good citizenship give of their time (service), lead by example (leadership), and make good and just decisions (character.) The Council will be looking for students who are good citizens of their homes, schools, and communities.

Students who are not accepted for membership should honestly evaluate themselves in terms of service, leadership, and character, and use this as a challenge to develop their abilities to a higher degree. Many times, a student who is not accepted one year is accepted the following year after he/she has become more involved in leadership and service activities.

To begin the process, the first step is to complete all of the sections of the enclosed form. Be sure to read the directions for each section and answer each honestly including all information that you think is important. **NEATNESS COUNTS!** A committee of faculty members will then carefully read the application form, and essay to select the new members.

Each candidate needs to personally hand deliver his/her completed form to Mrs. Franklin by 2:45 p.m. on Friday, February 10, 2017. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME!**

**NO EXCEPTIONS!** Candidates will be notified of the committee’s decision by Friday, Febuary 24th, via letter home/parent email. If your child meets the criteria, his/her NJHS induction ceremony will take place the evening of **Thursday, March 9th, 2017** (formal invitation to follow). Inductees will have an informal rehearsal during school, prior to the ceremony.

You need to know that members of NJHS must fulfill both in-and out-of-school service hours:

* 3 hours per month, 1 must be in tutoring or safety patrol
* attend monthly meetings
* maintain a 3.5 average
* show leadership throughout the year
* pay an annual $25 membership fee (please see Mrs. Franklin regarding available scholarships/fee sponsors).
* Members who fail to do so may be put on probation or even removed from the organization itself.

**I hope you take this opportunity seriously and consider filling out this form.** Without this application form and essay completed and bearing your signature, the Faculty Council will not be able to consider your child for membership in the ISTC chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. If you have any questions or need an electronic copy of this form, contact Mrs. Franklin.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sincerely, |  |  |
| *Beth Franklin* |  | *James Menard* |
| Mrs. Beth Franklin |  | Mr. James Menard |
| NJHS Advisor  |  | ISTC Principal |

 beth.franklin@imagineschools.org

# INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY CANDIDATES

Candidates will need to complete and fulfill all requirements. (Please type or print):

1. **Application:**

Write both student and parent names, phone numbers, emails, and signatures that acknowledge the requirements and expectations to join and continue with the ISTC – NJHS.

1. **Essay:**

Write an essay to the Faculty Council explaining why you are a great candidate for NJHS. You may also include any information that you feel that this form does not cover but is important to your submission. Your essay may contain information on an aspect of your background, such as family hardships or school transfers that may have limited your involvement in school or community activities, or may be used to clarify further how you fulfill the NJHS criteria of Service, Character, and Leadership. It may be typed and attached. The beginning of the essay must bear your name and the end must have your signature.

1. **Copy of most recent Report Card**

 ***Return the completed application form, essay, and report card to Mrs. Franklin***

National Junior Honor Society Individual Service Project (I.S.P.)

**Along with participation in chapter service projects, NJHS members also have the responsibility of choosing an I.S.P. Remember, service is one of the five qualities for NJHS.**

Criteria:

* You should volunteer at least 3 hours per month starting September through our last meeting in May. At least 1 hour should be tutoring at ISTC in the morning or afternoon programs. We would like all members to participate in the Open House meet & greet and the NJHS carwash celebrating our teachers during educator appreciation week in May.
* As a volunteer, financial compensation is **not** allowed.
* Community service forms will be available during NJHS meetings or online.\* These forms are due at the next scheduled meetings.
* The signature of the student and the community service supervisor of the activity must be signed for verification.

\*Please note: Missing a meeting does not excuse you from completing a community service form. It is your responsibility to see an NJHS advisor to receive and turn-in your form if you missed a meeting.

**Community Service Ideas**

* Tutoring
* Library
* Retirement Homes
* Hospitals
* Place of Worship
* Wash cars/cut grass (without compensation)
* Cleaning neighborhood (litter)
* Animal shelter
* Pet sitting
* Babysitting (without compensation, cannot be own siblings)/ helping at a daycare
* Food/soup kitchen
* Helping teachers after school
* Cleaning parks
* Helping at charity events
* Camps
* Ronald McDonald House
* Other service organizations

**ISTC – NJHS Frequently Asked Questions:**

*What is the difference between NHS and NJHS?*

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the name for the high school level organization. Members are sophomores, juniors, or seniors in high school. The National Junior Honor Society (NHJS) is the middle school organization. Being a member of the NJHS does not guarantee you membership into NHS.

*What if a student did not receive an invitation letter?*

If the student has a GPA of 3.5 or better, has not struggled with behavior issues, and is in good standing with ISTC, the student is eligible to be considered as a member of the NJHS.

*How is selection determined?*

The Faculty Council reads and scores each application and essay.

*What is the Faculty Council?*

The NJHS Constitution calls for a 5 member Faculty Council to oversee selection and dismissal for the local chapter. The NJHS Faculty Sponsor are non-voting member of this committee. The council is appointed by the school Principal. At ISTC, the Faculty committee currently serves as the NJHS Faculty Council. The Faculty Committee is a standing group with members from each department. The Committee represents faculty views and concerns within the school.

*Is there a minimum and maximum number of students or certain percentage of the student body that can be accepted by NJHS each year?*

No. There is usually a clear separation between the first tier of candidates, who are accepted, and the second, who are not.

*How are students notified of selection are they given reasons why they didn't get in?*

Students are notified of acceptance and non-acceptance via letters that will be handed out at school.

-According to the National NJHS Constitution, "Chapters are not legally or constitutionally obligated to share with parents and students information concerning specific students not selected for membership." However, we are happy to make a reasonable effort to answer questions or concerns. Parents or students who would like more information about their selection status should contact the Faculty Sponsor - Mrs. Franklin at beth.franklin@imagineschools.org

*What is the appeal process?*

The first person to provide feedback is the Faculty Sponsor. The next level of discussion should take place with the Principal. If he/she believes there has been a technical or procedural mistake, they can ask the Faculty Council to reconvene and review the situation. The NJHS constitution does not require an appeal process, and reconsideration by the Council or Principal is rare.

*Why don't we get reminders about the deadlines for picking up the Student Information Packet and returning it once it is filled in?*

Each eligible candidate receives a letter and application packet addressed to the student. NJHS eligibility criteria and deadlines are listed in the packet. Taking responsibility is one of the hallmarks of the NJHS, and it is the responsibility of the student with the support of parents to respond on the appropriate dates. **North Palm Coast, FL 32137
Phone (386) 447-1575**



 **Application**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ please print Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade (circle one): 6 7 8

Excerpt from the NJHS Constitution: Article VIII: Membership Section

**Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is based on outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship. Once selected, the member accepts the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.**

1. Each chapter shall determine one or more [school] service projects for each year.
2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.
3. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.
4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her particular talents or interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all chapter members contribute a total of 3 hours - 1 hour per month will be tutoring/safety patrol.
5. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

|  |
| --- |
|  **PARENT/GUARDIAN AND STUDENT STATEMENT**Please consider my application for membership to the ISTC chapter of the NJHS. I understand that I must meet the following standards for membership: * Members must maintain a 3.5 GPA
* Members will model good citizenship on campus at all times. A referral will result in review by the teacher executive committee.
* Members will attend all NJHS meetings, usually during lunch.
* Members will fulfill their service requirements of 3 hours per month (1 hour tutoring/safety patrol) This includes both individual and chapter service projects.
* Each member is asked to pay a membership fee of $25.00 for pins, t-shirts, and supplies. Please let us know if this is an issue. Annual dues will be collected.
* **NJHS t-shirts are never to be given/sold to non-members.** Only members in good standing may wear them.

The faculty committee meets to review a member's participation and character each 9 weeks. GPA will be reviewed using semester grades. At that time, members who are in violation of the requirements will be placed on probation or dismissed from the NJHS.I further certify and attest by my signature below that all the information included in this packet is 100% accurate. |
|  |  |
| Printed Name of ISTC Student | Signature of Student |
|  |  |
| Printed Name of Parent/Guardian | Signature of Parent/Guardian |
|  |  |
| Clearly Printed Student Email (if available) | Clearly Printed Parent/Guardian Email |

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ February 2017

Students inducted into the NJHS should excel in five areas. You have already demonstrated one area – scholarship. The other areas are leadership, character, service and citizenship.

**How do you demonstrate excellence in these areas, and why does this make you a worthwhile candidate**

**for membership into the Imagine School at Town Center chapter of NJHS?**

**You may neatly hand write or type your response on another paper.**

**Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**