

# MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I

### Name and Purpose

**Section 1.** The name of this chapter shall be the MASS ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, a name, which appears on the chapter granted by the National Council of the National Honor Society, duly signed by members of the National Council.

**Section 2.** This chapter shall be honorary in nature.

**Section 3.** The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of good character in students at the Massachusetts Academy of Mathematics and Science.

## ARTICLE II

### Powers

**Section 1:** This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NHS. See [www.nhs.us/constitutions](http://www.nhs.us/constitutions). In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

**Section 2:** This chapter will remain an active member of the state association, by paying annual dues and participating in state functions when possible.

**Section 3.** The chapter adviser is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the Director.

**Section 4:** Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the Director.

**Section 5:** Nondiscrimination. Our 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, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Director and Faculty Council**

**Section 1.** The Director shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

**Section 2.** The Director shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as chapter advisor, who may serve consecutive terms. Co-advisors may be appointed where necessary.

**Section 3.** The Director shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of three members of the school's faculty who may serve consecutive terms.

**Section 4.** The Director shall receive appeals in cases of non-selection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members. The decision of the Director is final on appeals.

**Section 5.** A Faculty Council shall be formed to manage and address matters concerning the National Honor Society.

**Section 6.** This council shall consist of three voting members of the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science faculty. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting fourth member of the Faculty Council. The Director may not be included on the Faculty Council.

**Section 7.** The Faculty Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and to consider non-selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

**Section 8.** The Faculty Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with this Constitution and NHS policies.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Membership**

**Section 1.** Membership in the local chapter is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

**Section 2.** Membership shall be known as active and alumni. Active members shall become alumni members at graduation. Alumni members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

**Section 3.** Junior and senior students at Mass Academy are eligible to apply for membership in National Honor Society after B term grades are submitted.

**Section 4.** A student who is currently a member of the NHS chapter at their sending school, and who brings a letter from the principal or chapter adviser confirming existing membership within

30 days of enrollment to Mass Academy's Faculty Council's adviser, shall be accepted automatically as a member in Mass Academy's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

**Section 5.** The minimum standard for scholarship shall be a GPA of B, or 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale), and no course grade lower than C. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

**Section 6.** Membership in this chapter shall be based upon Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character.

**Section 7.** New candidates for National Honor Society membership shall have spent at least two terms at Mass Academy. Students must submit an application, including a letter to the National Honor Society advisor detailing how they have met the criteria for National Honor Society.

**Section 8.** Based on a review by the Faculty Council, students will be notified of their acceptance into National Honor Society. Candidates who are not accepted will be given the reason why they did not meet the standard(s). Reasons could include:

- GPA below minimum standard of 3.0 or at least one course grade below C
- Not meeting community service standards (i.e. minimal hours complete at review/application period, non-completion of Mass Academy requirement)
- Violation(s) of the Mass Academy Code of Conduct

**Section 8.** Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Discipline and Dismissal**

**Section 1.** A National Honor Society Member whose GPA falls below the required standard at the end of the junior year or any term in senior year shall enter a probation period that shall take effect on the last day of that term and shall remain in force until the last day of the next term. The member shall have this one term to meet the standard; if the member fails to do so, they may be dismissed from the National Honor Society by vote of the Faculty Council.

**Section 2.** Continued service is a requirement of membership. All members must complete **50** hours of service per academic year, as outlined in the student handbook.

**Section 3.** Members who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except that in the case of flagrant violation of school code of conduct, academic honesty policy, or the law, a member does not have to be warned.

**Section 4.** If any issue involving flagrant violation of the school's code of conduct or civil laws should arise, there shall be no warning period. The student's case shall be brought before the Faculty Council and appropriate action shall be taken: the student may be dismissed from the

Honor Society, or the student may be formally placed on probation.

**Section 5.** When a member of the Society has a report filed challenging his/her membership in the National Honor Society, the advisor will convene a meeting with the student, within one week of receiving the report. Based on the meeting, the advisor will inform the student that they may have to appear before the Faculty Council to answer the concern(s) stated in the report within one week of the meeting. The student shall receive a copy of the report. The member will be requested to bring a parent/guardian to this meeting of the Faculty Council. Written notice of the meeting will be sent to the parent/guardian and the student.

After the meeting, the Faculty Council will vote on whether dismissal is warranted. For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Faculty Council is required.

A student who has been dismissed from National Honor Society may appeal the decision of the Faculty Council to the Director. The decision of the Director is final

**Section 6.** A member who has been dismissed is never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Dues**

There are no dues required for membership to this chapter of the National Honor Society.

**MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE  
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT**

I understand that membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. I have been selected for membership because I have demonstrated the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. As a member, I am expected to continue demonstrating and strengthening these qualities throughout my junior and senior years.

As a member of the Mass Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society, I will:

1. Respect school officials
2. Honor my academic, leadership, and service commitments
3. Abide by all school policies
4. Strive to be a positive role model in my school and in my community

I realize that I shall be subject to corrective action (ranging from a warning to a dismissal from the National Honor Society, depending upon the severity of the offense) for violating the student code of conduct, including the academic honesty policy, or not exhibiting the qualities of the society, including scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Before a dismissal occurs, there shall be a hearing before the National Honor Society Faculty Council, which will make the final decision concerning dismissal. A student may attend this meeting to present their perspective and may be accompanied by their parent(s)/legal guardian(s).

I have read the bylaws and the membership contract for the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science, and I understand its provisions.

**Member Full Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NHS Advisor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_