**Congratulations!**

You are eligible for the Irondale Chapter of the National Honor Society! This is an organization created to recognize and encourage academic achievement, to promote leadership, to stimulate a desire to render service and to develop character in the students of Irondale High School. The following is a list of the criteria that must be met in order to gain Induction into the National Honor Society.

Please note the following:

* Applications are looked over and decided on by a group of teachers specified as the Faculty Council.
* Applications are *strongly* encouraged to be word processed.
* **Applications are due to Student Services by Friday, September 16th at 2:30 pm** (please keep the Criteria information for your own knowledge).
* Admission decisions will be mailed out the week after October 19th, 2016.
* If admitted, Induction for the Irondale Chapter of the National Honor Society will be on November 14th at 6:30 pm.
* Any questions, please stop by room 215 and talk to Ms. Speltz

In order to gain an understanding of what the Faculty Council will be looking for, please read the following Selection Criteria Carefully.

**National Honor Society Faculty Council Selection Criteria**

**Scholarship**

By receiving an eligibility letter, you have met the first standard in the selection process. The Irondale Chapter of the National Honor Society requires a minimum weighted cumulative GPA of 3.33 or higher.

The student who exercises scholarship:

* Maintains a weighted cumulative GPA of 3.33 or higher
* Adheres to all Academic Codes of Conduct as outlined in the Irondale High School Student Handbook
* Challenges themselves in a variety of classes, but in subject area and rigor.

**Leadership**

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. Some Faculty Councils may wish to interpret leadership in terms of number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations, although it is important to recognize that leadership also exists outside elected positions including effective participation in other co-curricular activities offered on campus. Other Faculty Councils may define leadership in less objective terms. Leadership roles in both the school and community may be considered, provided they can be verified.

The student who exercises leadership:

* Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
* Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
* Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals
* Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
* Is able to delegate responsibilities
* Exemplifies positive attitudes
* Inspires positive behavior in others
* Demonstrates academic initiative
* Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effec­tively and efficiently
* Demonstrates reliability and dependability
* Is a leader in the classroom, at work, and in other school or community activities
* Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted
* Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.

**Service**

Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service. In considering service, the contributions this candidate has made to school, classmates, and community, as well as the student's attitude toward service can be reviewed. Members will be required to perform at least 20 hours of volunteer service during the school year.

The student who serves:

* Volunteers and provides dependable and well organized assis­tance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
* Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
* Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
* Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition
* Does committee and staff work without complaint
* Participates in some activity outside of school (which may include family duties)
* Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
* Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

**Character**

Character is probably the most difficult criterion to define. The Faculty Council should consider the positive as well as the negative aspects of character. All judgments in this and other selection criteria should be free of speculation and rumor.

National Honor Society is a member of the Character Counts Is" Coalition. Through this activity, the society supports and recommends the use of a multi-faceted definition of character known as the "Six Pillars of Character." A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Schools are encouraged to take this model, modify it to meet their local needs, and utilize it frequently in the work of their chapter.

In addition, it can also be said that the student of character:

* Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations gra­ciously
* Consistently exemplifies cheer­fulness, friendliness, poise, and stability
* Upholds principles of ethics and morality
* Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
* Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
* Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
* Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and faithful both inside and outside the classroom
* Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
* Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

**Application**

*Directions:* Please complete all sections thoroughly and attach your short essay to this form (word processing is strongly encouraged). If you need additional space for more information you may attach up to three extra sheets of paper in addition to your essay. Completion of this application does not guarantee selection.

1. **Administrative Information**

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| --- | --- |
| **Student Name** |  |
| **Parent/Guardian(s) Name(s)** |  |
| **Street Address** |  |
| **City** |  |
| **Zip Code** |  |
| **Student email address** |  |

**II. Leadership Positions –** List all elected or appointed leadership positions held in school, community, or work activities.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization/Activities** | **Leadership Position** | **Dates** | **What did you do?** |
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**III. Service Activities –** List service activities in which you have participated, either in or out of school. These can be group or individual projects that are done for or on behalf of others (not including family) for which no compensation (monetary or other) has been given. Some service projects are single day events while others may last months or even years.

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| **Organization/Activities** | **Date(s)** | **What did you do?** |
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**IV. Co-Curricular & Community Activities –** List all activities in which you have participated during high school, as well as other community activities and/or work experiences outside of school in which you have participated and note any major accomplishment(s) or recognitions in each. For example: clubs, teams, musical groups, church groups, Boy or Girl Scouts, babysitting, etc. Identify any of these experiences and how they demonstrate your commitment to scholarship, service, leadership and character.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization/Activities** | **Date(s)** | **How did this demonstrate scholarship, service, leadership and/or your character?** |
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**V. Character** (short essay) **–** Please choose one of the topics below and write a brief essay (400-500 words) in response to the topic you selected. **Your essay should be attached to this application.**

A) Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.

B) Discuss a special attribute or accomplishment that sets you apart from any other candidate.

C) Discuss a difficult situation/experience and how you handled it.

**VI. Reference**

Please discuss with at least one staff member at Irondale High School. This reference should be comfortable supporting your application and acceptance in to the National Honor Society.

I recommend this candidate for membership into the National Honor Society based off of the below criteria (Please indicate all that apply; you only need to select one):

* Character : Student demonstrates high morale and ethics
* Leadership : Student demonstrates leadership skills
* Service : Student demonstrates an ability to help others
* Scholarship : Student demonstrates academic honesty

Irondale Staff Member Name: ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Irondale Staff Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**VII. Certifications/Signatures**

I certify I am in good academic standing and have no honor code violations.

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Student Signature Date

I understand that completing this form does not guarantee selection to NHS. If I were selected, I am committed to being an active member of NHS, I will maintain my GPA, I will complete 20 hours of community service, participate in at least one chapter project and attend monthly NHS meetings.

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Student Signature Date

I have read the information provided by my child on this application and can verify that it is true, accurate and complete in its presentation.

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date