

Erie Mason National Honor Society

Chapter 11929 Bylaws

In accordance with Article XVII, Section 1 and 2 of the National Constitution, each chapter shall have its own bylaws. These laws do not need approval by the National Council, but must be consistent with their Constitution. These bylaws will clarify operating procedures of the Erie Mason Chapter and shall contain information concerning membership, the election and duties of officers, the schedule of meetings, member obligation, dues, and other information.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of the local chapter shall be "The Erie Mason Chapter of the National Honor Society" as granted on May 8, 1964, by the National Organization, and listed as Chapter Number 11929.

Section 2. The purpose of the Chapter is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service to the school and community, to promote leadership, and to develop character.

Section 3. The chapter shall be under the supervision of the National Honor Society school advisor and the Mason High School principal.

ARTICLE II. CHAPTER DUES

Section 1. Annual individual member dues shall be ten dollars, and be due at the beginning of each school year.

Section 2. Changes in dues shall be determined by the officers and subject to the approval of the chapter membership.

ARTICLE III. THE PRINCIPAL

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

Section 2. The principal shall annually appoint a chapter advisor and faculty council members.

Section 3. The principal shall be a part of the appeal process for non-selection or dismissal cases.

ARTICLE IV. THE CHAPTER ADVISOR

Section 1. The chapter advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and the community.

Section 2. The chapter advisor shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter advisor shall send an annual report to the national office.

Section 3. The chapter advisor shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

Section 4. The chapter advisor shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

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ARTICLE V. THE FACULTY COUNCIL

Section 1. The faculty council shall consist of five voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal. No principal or assistant principal may be included on the faculty council.

Section 2. The term of the faculty council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section 3. The chapter advisor shall be an ex-officio, non-voting, sixth member of the faculty council.

Section 4. The faculty council shall meet at least once a year to select members and to consider non-selection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by 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, probationary, and graduate. Active membership is for those students, enrolled at Mason High School, who have been duly selected for membership and are maintaining or exceeding all standards. Active members enjoy all privileges of membership. Probationary membership is for active members who have temporarily fallen below standards for continuing membership and who are working to correct the deficit to return to active status. Active members become graduate members upon graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. The faculty council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, National Honor Society advisors, or adults in recognition of outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the National Honor Society.

Section 4. Candidates become members upon induction at a special ceremony and reciting the National Honor Society pledge.

Section 5. A National Honor Society member who transfers from another school and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the chapter. Transfer members must meet the chapter's standards within one semester on order to retain membership.

Section 6. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership in the chapter.

ARTICLE VII. SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a member of the junior or senior class. Freshmen and sophomores are not eligible. Candidates must have been in attendance at the school for at least one trimester. In the case of transfer students, the faculty council may waive the semester regulation based on the recommendation of the previous school's principal.

Section 2. Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of at least 3.40. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

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Section 3. The selection of each member shall be by majority vote of the faculty council.

Section 4. A description of the selection procedure is available to all students and parents of the school. The selection procedure shall be determined by the faculty council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of the National Organization.

Section 5. All candidates for induction to the chapter must attend a formal induction ceremony. The ceremony will take place during Homecoming of each school year. Candidates, upon recitation of the National Honor Society pledge, become active members and will receive tokens of membership.

Section 6. The tokens of membership shall be a Certificate of Membership, a personal membership card, a National Honor Society pin, and upon graduation, an honor cord for commencement ceremonies.

ARTICLE VIII. PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The privileges of membership include: the right and duty to attend all formal meetings of the chapter, the right to vote on official chapter business, the right to attend any and all functions arranged by the chapter, and the right to wear the tokens of membership.

ARTICLE IX. CRITERIA FOR CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active members shall show continuing progress in fostering the standards of the National Honor Society by: maintaining a 3.40 cumulative grade point average, exhibiting leadership and character, attending formal National Honor Society meetings, maintaining good standing with regard to school policies, and attending the formal induction ceremony each year.

ARTICLE X. PROBATION/TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members who fail to meet the criteria for continuing membership by the end of each trimester shall be assigned probationary status for the next trimester. They will receive a written notice from the chapter advisor. Probationary members must meet or exceed the standards during the next trimester to regain active membership.

Section 2. In case of flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a member does not have to necessarily be warned.

Section 3. The faculty council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings and will vote, by a majority, for termination of membership.

Section 4. Terminated members may not be reconsidered for membership.

Section 5. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have the right to a hearing before the faculty council.

Section 6. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the faculty council under the same disciplinary appeals process for the Mason Consolidated School District.

ARTICLE XI. ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1. All officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) will be elected by the junior members in the spring of each year to serve the following school year. Seniors will not be allowed to vote for incoming officers.

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Section 2. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect an officer.

ARTICLE XII. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. The president shall chair all business meetings, prepare a calendar and meeting agendas, oversee all activities of the chapter, organize the induction ceremony, and stay informed of all aspects of the chapter operation. The president is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. The vice-president shall chair business meetings in the absence of the president and be chief assistant to the president in all chapter functions. The vice-president shall help the president organize the induction ceremony.

Section 3. The secretary shall keep minutes of all formal meetings and attend to all necessary correspondence of the chapter.

Section 4. The treasurer shall keep all records relating to the funding of the chapter and oversee all fund-raising activities.

ARTICLE XIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the chapter and the chapter advisor, as voting members. Additionally, the officers or advisor may invite active members, who are non-voting, to assist the committee as executive assistants.

Section 2. The executive committee shall oversee the operation of the chapter by supervising affairs between the business meetings, making recommendations to the chapter, and determining and performing other duties as specified in the bylaws. All actions and recommendations of the executive committee shall be subject to the review of the membership.

Section 3. The executive committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that the chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations.

ARTICLE XIV. MEETINGS

Section 1. The chapter shall hold monthly meetings, outside of normal school hours, during the school year, as scheduled by the executive committee or advisor.

Section 2. Special meetings, approved by the executive committee, may be called by the president.

Section 3. Meetings shall be conducted according to standard rules of order.

Section 4. Meeting times shall be announced one week in advance.

Section 5. Committee meetings shall be held as necessary.

ARTICLE XV. ACTIVITIES

Section 1. A service project shall be decided for each school year.

Section 2. All members shall participate in the project.

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Section 3. The project shall: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and faculty; be appropriate and educational; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. The project shall be publicized in a positive manner.

Section 5. Each member shall participate in an individual service project(s) totaling at least fifteen (15) hours each year. The service may be of their own choosing in their own particular talent or interest. This service is in addition to the chapter's project(s) to which all members contribute.

ARTICLE XVI. AMENDING OF THE BYLAWS

Section 1. Amendments to the bylaws shall be by a two-thirds vote at a regular business meeting.

Section 2. Voting on amendments shall be deferred to at least the next meeting after introduction.

Section 3. Amendments must be consistent with the National Constitution.

Section 4. Final approval by the principal is required.

Adopted January, 1996

Revised April, 2008