



PITTSGROVE TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHAPTER OF
THE NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Appeals of Non-Selection

In accordance with National Junior Honor Society guidelines the appeals process for nonselected is as follows:

1. An appeal must be registered with the chapter advisor with five school days of notification of nonselection. This appeal must come in the form of an email, requesting that the appeal process begin for said student.
2. The advisor will then give the student a self-reflection form. Students will have two school days to complete the self-reflection form to see whether they can identify the reason(s) they were not chosen by the Faculty Council.
3. If the student still wishes to go ahead with their appeal, they can request that the faculty council reconsiders their case. This does not include a personal appearance by the student or parents.
4. Should students or parents still not be satisfied with the decision of the Faculty Council, the next level of discussion will take place with the Principal. The Principal will listen to the concerns of the student/and or parents and make a final decision.
5. If a nonselected student or his/her parents wish to challenge or appeal the Principal's decision, they should follow the local school system complaint procedures.

4.4.2 Appeals in Cases of Nonselection

"... all chapter advisers are required to report the results of the faculty council voting to the principal before notification, and within that report the criteria-based reason(s) for nonselection should be included, the basis for nonselection should be available to share if requested. Language found in the Legal Memorandum encourages **the technique of self-reflection** to see whether the student can identify these reasons, but if this is unproductive, the professional rationale can be made available."

"Principals and advisers of all local chapters are encouraged to review local guidelines to verify their compliance with such standards. Appeals must be registered with the chapter adviser within 5 school days of notification of nonselection. Generally, such appeals procedures simply indicate that upon request the faculty council will reconsider an individual student's case, and do not include personal appearances by the student or parents with the council members."



“Should students or parents still not be satisfied, the next level of discussion should take place with the Principal. The Principal should, of course, listen to the concerns of students not selected, or from the parents of such students. *See Article V, Section 4 of the NJHS National Constitution.* Following such discussions, if the Principal believes that some kind of technical or procedural mistake has been made, the Principal may ask the faculty council to reconvene to review the situation. Technical or procedural errors might include the inadvertent omission of a student’s name from the list of those qualified for induction, the erroneous averaging of grades, or the chapter’s failure to follow prescribed procedures. Usually, however, nonselected students wish to question the judgment of the faculty council. It is important to try to help such students understand that all decisions of the kind involved in the selection process have some subjective aspects, but that the decisions were derived in a fair manner and based on sound professional judgment.

The Principal is charged initially with appointing five people to serve on the faculty council with assistance from the chapter adviser, in whom he or she can place a high degree of trust. These members of the council must understand the importance of exercising their responsibilities in the most professional and objective manner possible. The Principal must assume that the members of the council are exercising their judgment in a legitimate and professional manner and with the good faith expected of them and trust that their decisions were made with the best interests of the students in mind. **Parents and students must understand that no student has a right to be selected for membership in a chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.**

Reconsideration of a faculty council’s decision must be a rare occurrence. It is important to uphold the integrity of NJHS standards and to recognize the potential danger of yielding to pressure tactics. If a nonselected student or his/her parents wish to challenge or appeal the Principal’s decision, they should follow the local school system complaint procedures.

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Appeals Self-Reflection Form

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Reason for nonselection: _____

After reading the appropriate definition(s) below, why do you think the Faculty Council felt you were lacking in that area(s)?

After reading the criteria, do you feel that you met the full description of the criteria?

Yes, I would like the Faculty Council to reconsider my status.

No, I accept the decision.

Yes, explain how. _____

Signature: _____

*Students may be considered at the next review period if they remain academically eligible and have shown growth in the area for which they were denied, as well as meeting all other standards.



Service: Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student that are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation. Candidates must complete a **minimum of 10 hours** of service to the school and/or community prior to the evaluation date. Service projects should be linked to an *official* organization. Examples include but are not limited to: SPCA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, NJ Veterans' Home, and religious organizations. Not acceptable: babysitting, raking leaves, doing chores, etc. Relatives or Parents/Guardians may not sign off as supervisors unless they are the official organization leader.

Leadership: Leadership roles in both school and the community may be considered, provided they can be verified. To meet the leadership criterion for NJHS, a student must name a **minimum of two** leadership roles on their candidate information form. Examples of exercising leadership are but not limited to: Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit, successfully holds school office, is a leader in the classroom, in school activities, or in community activities.

Character: A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. The student of character consistently exemplifies positive and **desirable qualities of behavior and complies with school policies and codes of conduct**. They demonstrate the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity and reliability. Students of character also show courtesy, concern and respect for others.

Citizenship: A student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of **following rules and obeying the laws at school, home and in the community**.