

# What is NJHS??

NJHS is:

- A national recognition program established in 1929 by NASSP and currently found in public and private schools in every state as well as in schools in more than 70 countries overseas.
- A co-curricular activity that actively supports the educational goals of our school.
- An opportunity to involve chapter members in significant learning experiences, especially in the area of service.

“All students need motivation, rewards for effective performance, and goals to reach the next level of excellence. NJHS offers such opportunities.” -National Junior Honor Society Handbook, *National Association of Secondary School Principals*, Reston, VA. 2006 Edition

## Selection Criteria for NJHS:

Please read ALL directions/requirements in this document before completing the application/essay. (Please note minimum point requirements.)

To be eligible for consideration a student must...

- Be in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above, from the 2018-19 school year. (Use the GPA printed on your 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report card from the 2018-19 school year.) ***If you do not know your GPA, please see your counselor.***
- Fill out the application/essay. A rubric is provided.

Students **MUST** accumulate at least the minimum amount of points in every category listed below (see application/essay forms for more information) to be selected for membership in the NJHS.

### Essay and Application Evaluation

### MUST Have AT LEAST the Minimum Points (listed below) for NJHS Selection

Total Points for Essay	19
Extracurricular activities (1 point for each since 6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	4
Leadership positions (1 point for each since 6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	4
Other community activities (1 point for each since 6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	4
Teacher recommendations (1 point for each)	3
Community Service	3
10-15 hours:	3 points
15-25 hours:	5 points
26-50 hours:	7 points
51-75 hours:	9 points
76+ hours:	11 points

It is extremely important that all directions are followed and all pages are complete as you fill out the application/essay. Students who earn point totals in the range of 37-60 will be considered for selection by the Faculty Council.

Hard copies of the NJHS Application/Essay forms can be found in the counseling area. Electronic forms can be found on our district website: [www.district100.com](http://www.district100.com), Schools, BCMS, Clubs, NJHS.

Scholarship is not the only characteristic emphasized by the National Junior Honor Society. A student must also demonstrate excellence in the areas of service, leadership, character, and citizenship. The Faculty Council will evaluate all eligible students in these areas.

### SERVICE

The criterion for service is often defined in terms of performance and willing cooperation. The student contributes to the school, his or her classmates, and the community. He or she is willing to volunteer and is willing to provide assistance when needed.

### LEADERSHIP

To the extent possible, the student assumes the role of leadership. The student abides by school rules and realizes that they are made for the common good. The student will act appropriately in situations even when it is not easy to do so. The student is honest and trustworthy, has a positive attitude, and is not a complainer.

### CHARACTER

The student displays a high degree of honesty, responsibility, fairness, courtesy, and cooperation. The student takes responsibility for his or her actions, and respects others. The student is courteous and considerate to adults and peers, and is cooperative.

### CITIZENSHIP

The student actively exhibits exemplary attitudes regarding freedom, justice, patriotism, and respect for fellow human beings.

Once a student has completed the minimum requirements, the National Junior Honor Society Faculty Council will meet to assess the candidates and select students for induction. This list will be presented to the principal for final approval. There is an appeals process in place for any student who wishes to appeal the decision of the Faculty Council. A student wishing to appeal the NJHS Faculty Council decision should contact the NJHS advisor to request the proper form. The student should turn in the completed form to the NJHS Advisor by the appropriate date.

### Important Dates

10/11/19	Completed Application & Essay due to Mrs. Repka (can be turned in at the main office)
10/25/19	Students will be selected for NJHS (Letters will be mailed home to students)
11/15/19	8:00-8:30am first NJHS meeting for newly inducted members in BCMS Library
TBA	NJHS Induction Ceremony in BCMS Gymnasium

If your child is selected to become a member of the NJHS, he/she will be required to:

- Attend meetings in the library one Friday a month, from 8-8:30am, or 9:15-9:45 for Geometry students,
- Complete 10 service hours throughout the school year in 2019-20,
- Participate in at least 4 of the NJHS monthly service projects,
- Purchase an NJHS T-shirt for \$15 to wear at NJHS service projects/events,

**National Junior Honor Society Student Activity Information Sheet**  
**Please staple this form, the Service Activity form, and your essay together.**

**No paperclips or any type of folder will be accepted.**

**All forms/essays are due to Mrs. Repka by October 11, 2019.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Please complete all sections of this sheet. You may either print clearly or type your answers. Do not be modest, every bit of information will be used by the Faculty Council to assist with the selection process. If you have more items than the space provided, please list only your most important. List only participation/activities in which you have been involved since sixth grade. **Students MUST accumulate a minimum number of points (X=1 point) in every category listed below to be considered for membership.**

**Extracurricular Activities**-List all activities in which you have participated since 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Examples: athletics, yearbook, band, chorus, math counts, drama club, etc.

Activity	Accomplishment	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<i>Ex) Drama Club</i>	<i>I was Cinderella.</i>	<i>X</i>		

**Total Points for Extracurricular Activities=**  
**(X=1 point, minimum 4 points required)**

**Leadership Positions**-List all elected or appointed leadership positions held in school, community, or work activities. Only positions in which you were directly responsible for directing or motivating others should be included. Examples: student council class representative, officer for 4-H club, youth club leader at church, etc.

Activity	Accomplishment	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<i>Ex) HOPE</i>	<i>Led games for students at Seth Whitman</i>		<i>X</i>	

**Total Points for Leadership Positions=**  
**(X=1 point, minimum 4 points required)**

**Other Community Activities**-List any community activities in which you have participated. List any major accomplishments you may have received. Examples: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, religious groups, 4-H, any sports teams outside of school, etc.

Activity	Accomplishment	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<i>Ex) Boy Scouts</i>	<i>First Class &amp; Silver Medal</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	

**Total Points for Other Community Activities=**  
**(X=1 point, minimum 4 points required)**

**Teacher Recommendations:** On the lines below, obtain the signatures of three teachers from Belvidere Central Middle School who would speak on your behalf in regard to your character.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Points for Teacher Recommendations=**  
**(1 signature=1 point, 3 points required)**



# NJHS Essay:

Due October 11, 2019 to Mrs. Repka

## **Cover Page Requirements:**

(All centered)

Name

Team

Date

## **Essay Format:**

Typed in 14-16 font

1 inch margin all the way around

Single-spaced, double between paragraphs

Blocked, no indents

\*7 paragraphs, 4-6 sentences per paragraph—Support your ideas

\*Introduce each pillar (Citizenship, Leadership, Service, Scholarship, and Character) with a quote—Credit the person who you are quoting

## **Paragraphs:**

**1:** Open your entire essay with a quote—something that represents you or encompasses who you are. Ex: “There is no place like home.” -Wizard of Oz. The opening paragraph should also introduce who you are with 1-2 sentences describing why you want to be a part of NJHS.

**2:** Citizenship

**3:** Leadership

**4:** Service

**5:** Scholarship (Academic achievement) – Where will it lead you?

**6:** Character as an individual (most important)

**7:** Conclusion (short and simple—2-3 sentences, do NOT repeat your opening paragraph).

\*Each pillar is a body paragraph and you should explain how you exemplify each pillar and how you fit into each category.

	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Insufficient (1)
<b>Quotes: Does each paragraph (besides the conclusion) begin with a quote?</b>	Yes, all paragraphs (besides the conclusion) begin with a quote.	Some of the paragraphs begin with a quote.	None of the paragraphs begin with a quote.
	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Insufficient (1)
<b>Organization/ Paragraphs: Does the essay contain 7 paragraphs?</b>	Yes, the essay contains 7 paragraphs.	No, the essay contains more than 1, but less than 7 paragraphs.	The essay does not contain paragraphs of any type.
	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Insufficient (1)
<b>Evidence: How well does the evidence support each pillar category? (Citizenship, Leadership, Service, Scholarship, Character)</b>	The evidence in the essay supports each pillar with relevant examples/opinions.	The evidence supports some of the pillars with examples/opinions.	The essay does not show evidence that supports the pillars.
	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Insufficient (1)
<b>Written Expression</b>	The writing presents no obstacles to understanding; high degree of skill and complexity	Contains only minor errors that do not seriously distract from the essay; writing is skillful	Contains major errors or numerous minor ones that detract from the essay/illegible

**Students MUST accumulate the minimum points in every category listed below to be considered for membership in the NJHS. Entire packet including activity form, service activity form, and essay MUST be stapled together. No folders will be accepted.**

<u>Essay and Application Evaluation/Rubric</u>	<u>Applicant's Points</u>	<u>Minimum Points Required</u>
Total Points for Essay	_____	19
Extracurricular activities (1 point for each since 6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	_____	4
Leadership positions (1 point for each since 6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	_____	4
Other community activities (1 point for each since 6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	_____	4
Teacher recommendations (1 point for each)	_____	3
Community Service	_____	3
10-15 hours: 3 points		
16-25 hours: 5 points		
26-50 hours: 7 points		
51-75 hours: 9 points		
76+ hours: 11 points		

**Total Points for Application and Essay**