

## Criteria for Valedictorians and Salutatorians

Holding the title of valedictorian or salutatorian is an honor that carries responsibilities. Students in these positions must not only be the highest in academic achievement, but also exercise positive leadership, service to the school and community, and outstanding character traits. **Students will be eligible for acceptance the second semester of their sophomore year.**

Valedictorians and salutatorians must be a member of the National Honor Society.

### Selection Criteria for National Honor Society

Vale High School students nominated for membership in NHS shall meet high standards of academic achievement, leadership, service, and character.

1. Academic Achievement: The student who excels academically:
  - a. Maintains a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA
  - b. Completes student activity information form
  - c. Pursues courses commensurate with his/her ability
  
2. Leadership: The student who exercises leadership:
  - a. Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions.
  - b. Demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities.
  - c. Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals.
  - d. Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
  - f. Is able to delegate responsibilities.
  - g. Exemplifies positive attitudes.
  - h. Inspires positive behavior in others.
  - i. Demonstrates academic initiative.
  - j. Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducts business efficiently, and effectively, and is reliable and dependable without prodding.
  - k. Demonstrates leadership in the classroom, at work, and in school activities.
  - l. Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted.
  
3. Service: The student who serves:
  - a. Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.
  - b. Participates in some outside activity: Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; church groups; volunteer. services for the aged, poor, or disadvantaged; family duties.

- c. Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance.
  - d. Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities.
  - e. Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school.
  - f. Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition.
  - g. Does committee and staff work uncomplainingly.
  - h. Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers and students.
4. Character: The student of character:
- a. Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.
  - b. Constantly exemplifies desirable qualities of personality (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability).
  - c. Upholds principles of morality and ethics.
  - d. Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
  - e. Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability.
  - f. Shows courtesy, concell, and respect for others.
  - g. Observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside the classroom.
  - h. Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies.
  - i. Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others.
  - j. Actively helps to rid the school of bad influences or environment.

Initiation, blackballing, hazing, or the like are expressly prohibited as part of the selection process or of any National Honor Society activity whatsoever. Any chapter found in violation of this regulation risks losing its charter.

Nomination to the Vale High School Chapter of National Honor Society is made by the faculty council.

### **Duties of Members**

All members of this chapter shall:

1. Maintain the high standards which won their nomination
2. Be an active participating member as set forth in the National Honor Society bylaws.
3. Pay yearly dues.

### **Penalties**

A member failing to maintain the high standards of scholarship, leadership, service and character which led to his/her nomination to the society shall be liable for probation or dismissal.

A student who is dismissed or resigns shall not become eligible for membership in the Honor Society again.

### **Procedures**

1. Flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws shall be grounds for probation or dismissal without warning. (Examples would be, but not limited to: stealing of test, drug and/or alcohol consumption or possession, stealing, plagiarism, using other students' tests, etc).
2. Students found guilty of more minor offenses shall be:
  - a. Warned verbally;
  - b. Warned in writing;
  - c. Asked to appear before the faculty council to explain the situation (Honor Society council shall be made up of four teachers and one administrator).
3. If the faculty council decides probation or dismissal is warranted, the student and the student's parents shall be notified in writing.
4. The dismissed members shall surrender all emblems and membership card to the faculty council.
5. A dismissed member shall have the right to appeal the faculty council's decision to the Board whose decision shall be final.