



**Chapter Bylaws
of the
PCTI STEM Academy Chapter
of the
Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools District
National Honor Society**

Adopted: November 24, 2020

Amended: November 30, 2022

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the PCTI STEM Academy Chapter of the Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools District National Honor Society.

ARTICLE II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students of Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools.

ARTICLE III – Powers

Section 1: This chapter operates under the direction of and in full compliance with the National Constitution of NHS. See www.nhs.us/constitutions. In addition, this chapter will maintain active affiliation with the national organization on an annual basis.

Section 2: The chapter adviser(s) is/are given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 3: Final authority on all activities and decisions of the chapter resides with the school principal.

Section 4: Nondiscrimination. Our chapter of the NHS maintains policies and practices that are designed to prevent discrimination against any qualified candidate or member on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, and disability. This policy of nondiscrimination applies to all practices, including the chapter administration and the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members.



ARTICLE IV – Membership

Section 1: Membership in our chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty council and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 2: Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni members at graduation. Alumni and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3: Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the junior or senior class, beginning with the Class of 2024. To be eligible for selection for membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at PCTI STEM Academy.
- b. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.8 on a 4.0 scale.
- c. Members of the senior class will only be eligible to apply to the chapter if they previously met the cumulative grade point qualification as a junior, submitted an application in their junior year, and maintained that minimum grade point average throughout their junior year.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, and character.

ARTICLE V – Selection of Members

Section 1: The selection of members to this chapter shall be by unanimous vote of the faculty council which consists of faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter adviser(s) shall be nonvoting, ex officio members of the faculty council.

Section 2: The selection of active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year for members of the junior class, and once during the first trimester for members of the senior class.

Section 3: Prior to the final selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e. candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the candidate information form for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the



official input form provided by the chapter adviser.

- d. The faculty council shall review the candidate information forms, faculty input, and other relevant information to determine those who fully meet the selection criteria for membership.

Section 4: Should a candidate not selected for membership wish to appeal the faculty council's decision, he/she must do so in writing. After consulting with the chapter adviser, the faculty council's decision may be appealed to the building principal. Should the official ruling on the appeal be unsatisfactory, the candidate may appeal to the next level of school hierarchy.

Section 5: Candidates become members when they take the NHS oath, either at a general membership meeting, or when inducted at a special ceremony. Should the need exist, the induction ceremony will proceed in virtual format through district-approved video conferencing applications.

Section 6: An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given an official letter indicating the status of his/her membership.

Section 7: An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The faculty council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, therefore, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership.

Article of Obligation of Members:

Section 1: Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall be entitled to wear the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society.

Section 2: Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter.

Section 3: Chapter members who are seniors in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords at graduation.

ARTICLE VII – Officers

Section 1: The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, and historian/recording secretary.

Section 2: Student officers shall be nominated at the last meeting of each school year. All returning



members in good standing with the chapter are eligible to run for a position as an officer. Any active member can nominate an eligible member as a candidate for office.

Section 3: Officers will be selected through the interview process conducted by the faculty council. A scoring tool will be utilized to perform candidate evaluations whereby the candidate receiving the highest score will be elected for office. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter should two candidates receive the same score.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings of the chapter, and serve as the official representative of the chapter at school and community functions.

Section 5: The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall also keep a record of members' contributions to leadership and service.

Section 6: The secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance records for meetings and be responsible for all official correspondence.

Section 7: The historian/recording secretary is to maintain a detailed record of chapter activities, both written and pictorial, which can be saved for posterity.

Section 8: Officers and the faculty adviser(s) shall collectively be known as the chapter's executive committee. The executive committee shall establish annual goals for the chapter and have general charge of the meetings and business of the chapter. Any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of the chapter members.

ARTICLE VIII – Meetings

Section 1: The regular membership meetings of this chapter shall be held once a month and scheduled accordingly with consideration of facilities and the school calendar. The executive board will meet/discuss information at least one week prior to the regular membership meeting to prepare an agenda. Special meetings can be called by the president with approval of the adviser(s). Should the need exist, meetings will be conducted virtually through district-approved video conferencing applications.

Section 2: This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to the *Roberts Rules of Order*.

Section 3: Members are expected to attend all chapter meetings.



ARTICLE IX - Activities

Section 1: The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2: All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3: These projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; be well planned, organized and executed.

Section 4: Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project which reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser(s). This is in addition to the chapter project(s) to which all members contribute.

Section 5: The chapter shall publicize and promote its project(s) in a positive manner.

ARTICLE X – Discipline and dismissal members

Section 1: Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, service, leadership, or character may be considered for discipline or dismissal from the PCTI STEM Academy of the Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools District of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership in his/her school and community.

Section 2: If a member's cumulative grade point average falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected for a GPA requirement of 3.8, he/she will be given a written warning and a reasonable time period for improvement. If the cumulative grade point average remains below the standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the faculty council that includes consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3: Violations of the law or school regulations can result in immediate consideration of the dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, plagiarism, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school-related activities on campus or in the community.

Section 4: Offenders of the school conduct code (such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, etc.) will receive written notification. A conference may be requested by either party (faculty council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.



Section 5: Chapter officers, as representatives of the chapter, can be removed from their positions as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the faculty council.

Section 6: In all cases of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification from the adviser(s)/faculty indicating the reason for consideration of dismissal.
- b. The member has the right to respond to the charge(s) against him/her at a hearing before the faculty council prior to any vote on dismissal (in accordance with due process identified in Article X of the National Constitution). Members have the opportunity to present his/her defense either in person or via a written statement presented in lieu of the face-to-face hearing. Following the hearing, the faculty council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the faculty council is needed to dismiss any member.
- c. The results of the faculty council vote will be presented to the principal for review, and then stated in a letter sent to the student and parents. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser(s).
- d. The faculty council's decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards according to provisions of the school district discipline policies.
- e. A member who is dismissed or resigns may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

Section 7: In lieu of dismissal, the faculty council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE XI – Ratification, Approval, and Review

Section 1: The bylaws of this chapter shall be approved by the membership requiring a 2/3 vote of all active members of the chapter, a majority affirmative vote of the faculty, and approval by the administration.

Section 2: These bylaws shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised within five years from the date of approval noted on this document.

Article XII: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of all active members of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles IV, V, and X, which are developed by the faculty council with the approval of the principal (selection and discipline).



**Approved on November 24, 2020*

***Amended on February 3, 2024*

Name	Position
Mr. Joaquim Johnson	Principal
Mr. Nathaniel Sanchez	NHS Adviser
Ms. Alyssa Shale	NHS Adviser
Arjun Shah	NHS President
Alex Relovsky	NHS Vice President
Abhi Jacobs	NHS Secretary
Nadine Mari	NHS Recording Secretary/Historian