

Dear Desert Academy Community,

The National Honor Society/National Junior Honor Society is a nation-wide organization established in 1921 to recognize those students who demonstrate excellence in the core areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. The National Honor Society involves students in grades ten through twelve and the National Junior Honor Society involves students in grades seven through nine.

Students who exemplify Scholarship are those who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale). Students who want to continue membership or who want to be eligible for membership must maintain this GPA throughout the school year, without earning a grade below a C-. If a member does not uphold a 3.5 GPA they are able to reapply the following school year, given that they satisfy the GPA requirement.

Students demonstrating Service are those who make voluntary contributions to the local or school community. For example, this year returning NHS/NJHS members will offer an in-school peer-tutoring service, where they will work one-on-one with their peers who are in need of a little help. This service is also a good demonstration of Leadership.

Students demonstrating Leadership are those who are focused, positive, and dependable. Students who show Leadership take the lead in life, but are considerate of others. Apart from the community service activities required by Desert Academy's CAS program, our students participation in a club-run peer-tutoring program as well as other activities within the school environment, possibly a international food day or active participation in the school-wide dance-a-thon fundraiser for Dominican Republic community. This experience will promote their individual ideas, problem solving, and leadership skills. The contribution and participation of every member will be necessary for a successful event.

Students who show Character and Citizenship are those who "uphold the principles of morality and ethics, are cooperative, demonstrate high standards of honesty and reliability, show courtesy, concern, and respect for others. The student who demonstrates Citizenship understands the importance of civic involvement, has high regard for freedom, justice, and democracy and demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations, and school clubs" (nhs.org).

Students who are interested in joining this highly regarded society must begin a self-nomination process beginning December 5, 2011. Application forms will be available online under "student life" where clubs and organizations are listed. All application forms are due NO later than **Tuesday, January 3rd** at 1:00 pm. It is recommended that a student hand in the application *before* winter break. All forms should be hand, physically to Ms. Comstock. Late forms will not be accepted.

We hope that you will support and encourage your student in the pursuit of becoming a NHS/NJHS member. This prestigious, nationally recognized membership is a necessary component for the highest quality student who has strong character and high standards. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the application process, please feel free to email Jocelyne at jcomstock@desertacademy.org

Sincerely,

Jocelyne Comstock, NHS/NJHS advisor