

Monday, September 13, 2010

Dear NJHS members and parents,

Welcome back to KJH! It is my pleasure to take over as advisor for our KJH National Junior Honor Society this year. Here's what's in store for you in 2010-2011:

- Monthly meetings with additional meetings called as needed (see attached calendar)
- Your suggestions for service projects, etc. that are collected at each meeting will be reviewed by officers prior to meetings and placed on typed agenda
- A community service bulletin board you can view at any time for ideas about fun opportunities to volunteer (located in the Counseling Office). Please share ideas to add when you have them!
- Leadership opportunities involving a variety of school community service initiatives
- An end-of-the-year picnic for our graduating freshmen members

Your student representatives adopted the following policies to ensure that every Honor Society member represents the NJHS ideals.

- Earning more than two work detentions or earning *any* ISS will automatically result in removal from Honor Society.
- An excused absence requires a valid reason, reported on the absence request form, given to Ms. Russell, before the meeting or upon return to school (within one week). A verbal message to me during the day is not enough, it needs to be properly filled out on the form (because my memory is fading ☺)
- More than one unexcused absence from our meetings, a cumulative grade point average dropping below 3.5, teacher concerns with citizenship (classroom behavior, honesty, reliability, work ethic, attitude, etc.), or community service hours not completed by the due date will result in probationary membership status. Members on probation will have a quarter to improve. If the issue has not improved within that time, membership will be revoked.

If you do not wish to continue as a member of National Junior Honor Society please let me know as soon as possible.

As we set personal goals for ourselves this year, let us refresh our commitment to the ideals of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character. The induction ceremony reminds us how we can do this:

“Scholarship: means a commitment to learning. A student is willing to spend hours in reading and study, knowing the lasting benefits of a cultivated mind. Knowledge is one great element in life that leads to the highest success, and can be acquired in only one way -- through diligence and effort.

Service: In the routine of the day's work, many opportunities arise to help others. Willingness to work for the benefit of those in need, without monetary compensation or without recognition, is the quality we seek in our membership. We are committed to the idea of volunteering our time and abilities to the creation of a better tomorrow.

Leadership: should exert a wholesome influence on the school. In taking initiative in class and school activities, the real leader strives to train and aid others to attain the same objective. The price of leadership is sacrifice -- the willingness to yield one's personal interest for the interest of others.

Citizenship: the responsibilities each of us has to our home community, our state, and our nation are many. As good citizens, we are bound to live up to laws and guidelines that unite us as a civilized society. Good citizens work together to improve not only our lives, but also the lives of all our fellow citizens. Good citizenship requires that we remain strong and vigilant in protecting the freedoms and rights that have been granted to us and in preventing injustice from entering our lives.

Character: is that without which no one can respect oneself, nor hope to retain the respect of others. Character is achieved and not received. It is the product of constant action, daily striving to make the right choice. The problem of character is the problem of self-control. By demonstrating such qualities as respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship, we may hope to prove by example that we value Character."

Tentative 2010-2011 NJHS Meetings

All meetings will be held on Mondays at 3:00 in the commons, unless otherwise notified. Please plan for the meeting to last about 30 minutes. It is your responsibility to personally sign in! Write these dates in your planner now. ☺ They will also be posted outside in the Counseling Office.

- Monday, September 13th : Welcome from Ms. Russell, description of officer positions
- **Friday Sept. 24: officer applications due by 3:15 p.m. (FIRM) to Ms. Russell**
- Monday, October 11th : Election of officers, suggestion box passed (bring your ideas for service projects, please). Discussion of first service project and trick or treating for food
- November 15
- January 10
- February 7
- March 1: New member evening induction ceremony 7:00 p.m. (we'll need volunteers...MANDATORY for officers)
- March 14
- April 11
- May 23
- June TBD- 9th grade picnic

Please feel free to come in before or after school and chat. You are always welcome to e-mail me too, at jrussell@lwsd.org (include Honor Society in the subject line). I'm looking forward to a fun, productive year with NJHS!

Sincerely,

Ms. Russell
LA/SS Teacher at KiJH
NJHS Advisor