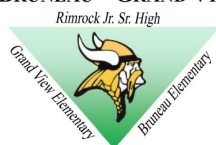


JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 365

BRUNEAU – GRAND VIEW



National Honors Society Appeals Process

Each year, Rimrock's National Honor Society (NHS) chapter undertakes a process to select new members, and inevitably, some student candidates are not selected. According to NHS, there is no formal appeals process required for non-selection, unless a local chapter decides to create one. Additionally, the NHS national office does not hear appeals of selection decisions. This process has been developed by choice, to provide an avenue for the appeals process at Rimrock Jr./Sr. High.

As indicated in the NHS Handbook (p. 52, 2018), parents and students must understand that no student has a right to be selected for membership in a chapter of the National Honor Society. As indicated in the NHS FAQ, "...keep in mind that NHS membership is a privilege, not a right and that your school's faculty council has every authority to withhold membership." Reconsideration of a faculty council's decision must be a rare occurrence. As noted in the handbook, it is important to uphold the integrity of NHS standards and to recognize the potential danger of yielding to pressure tactics. Since NHS encourages strong leadership and character, students themselves are expected to engage in the appeals process.

As noted in the NHS Handbook (p. 51, 2018), upon request the faculty council will reconsider an individual student's case, but does not grant personal appearances by the student nor parents with council members.

Step 1

Consult with the Rimrock chapter adviser.

Your first inquiry should always be with the faculty member assigned to serve as the adviser at Rimrock. This individual facilitates the selection process (but does not vote) and will be able to clarify the nature of the selection process or the decisions that were made.

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Step 2

Appeal to the principal.

Should the response from the adviser be insufficient or unsatisfactory, the next step is to take your concern to the Rimrock Principal or another administrator assigned to respond to Honor Society inquiries. This includes *scheduling a time to sit down with the Principal* to voice your concerns and have your opinions and viewpoints be made known. The NHS handbook (p. 52, 2018) indicates that if the principal believes that some kind of technical or procedural mistake has been made, the principal *may* ask the faculty council to reconvene to review the situation. The principal, at their discretion, *may* choose to request a review by a new or different faculty council. However, as indicated in the handbook (p. 52, 2018), such requests do not have to be accommodated and are at the discretion of the Principal. In considering such a request, the Principal must assume that the members of the council were exercising their judgment and a legitimate and professional manner (NHS Handbook, p. 52, 2018).

Step 3

Follow BGV's Board Policy 805, in appealing to the Superintendent.

Work with the District Secretary to schedule a face-to-face meeting with the Superintendent in order to voice your concerns and have your opinions and viewpoints be made known. The Superintendent will not reverse the decision(s) made by the council/Principal, but may ask the council/Principal to consider whether or not the District met the NHS requirements during the decision-making process.

Step 4

The student/parent has the right to follow BGV Board Policy 805 regarding patron complaints. The BGV School Board does not have the right/authority to reverse decisions made by the council/Principal as they related to NHS, but may hear the patron's concerns regarding the District practice/policy.

Based on BGV Board Policy 805, if any matter is not resolved with the superintendent, it may be brought before the board in the following manner:

- a. If individual board members are directly contacted regarding a concern or complaint, he or she will refer it to the individual teacher, building principal, program director and superintendent (in that order) for investigation and resolution.
- b. The concern or complaint must be presented to the superintendent as a request to be placed on the agenda at least one week (7 days) before a regularly scheduled board meeting, identifying the nature of the concern or complaint, the steps taken to resolve the matter and the name and signature of the patron(s) filing the concern or complaint. The

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superintendent may request the patron put their concerns in writing for review by the board.

- c. Patrons may be asked to provide additional information or comment on their concerns or complaints in writing or at the board meeting.
- d. The board reserves the right to set time limitations for presentations and speakers.

As noted in the NHS FAQ, some chapters provide explanations and counseling to those not selected for NHS, but chapters are not required to do so. It is BGV's position that students may be notified as to why they were not selected (GPA, leadership, character, service, etc.) but the specific discussions and votes among council members will not be disclosed.

The NHS Handbook (p. 52, 2018) indicates that neither the national office nor the National Constitution or handbook prescribes any specific length of time for retaining or destroying chapter records. The time period for chapter document retention must be determined at the local level. As a result, requests for appeals must be made within 3 school weeks of the council decision - after this time, records may not be available for review.