**2015-2016**

**Birney K-8 School National Junior Honor Society Bylaws**

***Article I: Name and Purpose***

Section 1 –The name of this chapter shall be the Birney K-8 School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society

Section 2 – The purpose of this chapter shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and citizenship, and to encourage the development of character in students of Birney K-8 School.

***Article II: Membership***

Section 1 – Membership in this chapter shall be known as active and honorary. Honorary members become graduate members at the completion of 8th grade. Graduate and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2 – Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of GPA scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

Section 3 – Eligibility

1. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be in grades second semester sixth, seventh, and eighth.
2. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Birney K-8 School.
3. Candidates eligible for selection to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0/4.0. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed, and shall be the required minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy and membership. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
4. Upon meeting the grade level, attendance, and GPA standard requirements, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

***Article III: Selection of Members***

Section 1 – The selection of members to this chapter shall be a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisers shall be the sixth and seventh, nonvoting, ex officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2 – Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

1. Students’ academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
2. Students who are eligible scholastically (“candidates”) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the entire student NJHS application.
3. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates determined to be scholastically eligible using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter adviser.
4. The Faculty Council shall review the Student Activity Information Form, Essay, and Recommendations in order to determine membership.

Section 3 – The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the school year.

Section 4 – Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5 – Once selected and inducted, all members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 6 – An active member of the National Junior Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the principal or chapter advisers.

Section 7 – An active member of the National Junior 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, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his or her membership.

***Article IV: Discipline and Dismissal***

Section 1 – Any member who falls below the standards of GPA scholarship, leadership, character, citizenship, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Birney K-8 School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member of the National Junior Honor Society is expected to maintain his or her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his or her school and community.

Section 2 – If a member’s cumulative GPA for all semesters at Birney K-8 School falls below 3.0/4.0, he or she will be given a written warning and one semester for making improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below 3.0/4.0 at the end of the warning semester, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration of dismissal from the chapter.

Section 3 – If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he or she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the obligation remains unmet at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include dismissal from the chapter.

Section 4A-A violation of the law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to: stealing; destruction of property; cheating; truancy; or possession, selling or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school or school – related activities.

Section 4B-Students in NJHS at Birney K-8 School cannot receive discipline referrals during a school year or they will be considered for dismissal from NJHS. Students must report any violations of law or school regulations to the BK8 NJHS faculty advisers.

Section 5 – Offenders of the school conduct code(such as use of profanity, failure to comply, unexcused absence, excessive tardiness, etc.) must report these infractions to the BK8 NJHS faculty advisers as soon as they occur and he or she will receive written warning notification from the advisers. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council, student, or parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be considered for dismissal.

Section 6 – In all cases of pending dismissal:

1. The member will receive written notification indicating the reason for possible dismissal from the advisers or Faculty Council. The member and advisers will discuss the written notification in a conference. Situations that involve flagrant violations of school rules or the law can warrant disciplinary action without a written warning.
2. The member will be given the opportunity to respond to the charge against him or her at a hearing before the Principal or Assistant Principal prior to dismissal. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is needed to dismiss any member.
3. The results of the Faculty Council vote will be reviewed by the principal and then, if confirmed, expressed in a letter sent to the student, parents, and principal. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the adviser.
4. The Faculty Council’s decision may be appealed to the building principal and afterwards through the school district discipline policy.
5. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he or she is no longer a member and may not be reconsidered for membership in the National Junior Honor Society.

Section 7 – In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

***Article V: Officers***

Section 1 – The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and historian. The president is an 8th grader. All other officers may be in the seventh or eighth grades.

Section 2 – Student officers shall be elected at the last meeting of each school year. All returning active members are eligible to run for a position as an officer. All active members of the chapter are eligible to vote.

Section 3 – A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter.

Section 4 – It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter. Once a month they must attend the NJHS Meeting.

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. Once a month they must attend the NJHS Meeting.

Section 6 – The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence. Once a month they must attend the NJHS Meeting.

Section 7 – The treasurer shall keep the record of chapter expenses, dues, and all other financial transactions of the chapter. Once a month they must attend the NJHS Meeting.

Section 8 – The historian keeps notebook of important NJHS events. Once a month they must attend the NJHS Meeting.

Section 9 – If a vacancy occurs on the executive council, a vote will occur through the executive council to fill the vacancy.

***Article VI: Executive Committee***

Section 1 – The executive committee shall consist of the faculty advisers and the chapter officers.

Section 2 – The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter.

***Article VII: Meetings***

Section 1 – Meetings of this chapter shall be monthly on a Wednesday in the Media Center at BK8 beginning at 4:15 p.m. and we will dismiss by 5:00 p.m.

Section 2 – This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

Section 3 – All chapter members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled chapter meetings. You may have two excused absences from meetings per year with 24 hour notice or with a parent note in the case of an emergency.

***Article VIII: 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; and be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4 – Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project of a minimum of five hours during each school semester that reflects his or her particular talents and interests and as approved by the chapter adviser. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members must contribute.

Section 5 – The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

***Article IX: Emblem***

Section 1 – Each member of this chapter who is in good standing with regard to the membership standards and member obligations shall have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Junior Honor Society.

***Article X: Dues***

Section 1 – Annual dues for the chapter shall be $25.00.

Section 2 – Dues will be payable to the Birney K-8 School.

**Article XI: Powers**

Section 1 – The chapter advisers are given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal.

Section 2 – The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3 – These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the national constitution and cannot contradict any components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the national constitution in all activities it undertakes.

**Article XII – Amendments**

Section 1 – These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote 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 III and IV (selection and discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2 – Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the constitution of the National Honor Society.

Date: 2015 – 2016 School Year

Signatures:

Advisers – Mrs. Mary Anne Van Ermen and Mrs. Melanie Land

Assistant Principal – Ms. Andrea Hamlar

Principal – Mr. Edward Hill