

October 2, 2008

Dear Seventh and Eighth Grade Students:

This letter is to inform you of the National Junior Honor Society chapter that we have installed at Holy Cross Academy and the criteria used for selection. As you will be eligible this year, we hope you find this information useful. Candidate selection is based on five criteria: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. These criteria are defined as follows:

**Scholarship** – Students who have a cumulative grade point average of 90 percent or higher. For 8<sup>th</sup> graders that is cumulative based on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and first semester of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For 7<sup>th</sup> graders that is cumulative based on 6<sup>th</sup> grade and first semester of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

**Service** – This quality is defined through voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.

**Leadership** – Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experience can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

**Character** – The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others, and maintains a good and values-based lifestyle.

**Citizenship** – The student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of civic involvement, has a 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.

Students do not apply for membership; instead, they provide information to support their candidacy. While academics are important and the first consideration for membership, it is not the only one. Self-directed service is a hallmark of this program. Therefore, students are asked to provide a log of completed service hours (7 hours) with their support documentation. **(Please note, service hours may not include those activities completed for Confirmation or done as part of a class activity such as Hope projects or Homeless Lunches.)**

In January, those students who meet the scholarship requirement described above will receive a letter giving them the opportunity to provide support for their nomination. The service log will be one of these requirements. Please print the attachment for the NJHS Service Log, so that you may begin working towards this requirement if you would like to be considered for membership. Completing this log does not automatically make you eligible for candidacy. Additionally, a copy of the rubric used for candidacy selection may be found on the Holy Cross Website for your information. If you have any questions regarding this letter or program, please contact our Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Mary Cullinan.

In Christ Jesus,

Sister Susan Louise Eder, OSFS  
Principal