Dear National Honor Society Inductees and Members;

As you all know, the National Honor Society stands for Character, Leadership, Service and Scholarship. Each member must uphold these standards and characteristics throughout his/her high school career. There are certain expectations of members that are set forth by the National Council of the NHS organization. When a National Honor Society member makes a decision that does not support these standards and characteristics, he/she risks probation or dismissal from the organization.

While there are numerous actions and activities that can jeopardize your membership, we would particularly like to address the issue of consumption and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs or other illegal substances. The Hamilton Chapter of the National Honor Society has worked to solidify its stance on this issue and how it relates to NHS members. The Hamilton Chapter of NHS has adopted a strict policy regarding the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and/or the use of other drugs or illegal substances, and has concluded that such behaviors are considered a “flagrant violation of civic laws” as described in the National Honor Society constitution and are, therefore, grounds for dismissal. Specifically, being cited for underage drinking and/or the use of drugs or other illegal substances will result in your dismissal. Even being at a party where alcohol, drugs or other illegal substances are illegally present is grounds for dismissal because NHS students are expected to demonstrate positive leadership and character traits at all times.

Because situations are sometimes beyond one person’s control, we will explain what the Hamilton Chapter of the National Honor Society expects you to do if you are in a place where alcohol, drugs or other illegal substances are illegally present and you have neither consumed nor been cited for illegal behaviors. You have three choices:

1. Leave the premises immediately
2. Call your parents, explain the situation and have someone pick you up immediately
3. Call the police

Any actions other than these three is highly likely to result in your dismissal from NHS. It is also expected that if you were in one of these situations that you would cooperate fully with local and school authorities when asked to do so. Your cooperation in such an instance would demonstrate positive leadership qualities.

Please understand that consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and/or the use of drugs or other illegal substances are only examples of situations, which would jeopardize your membership in the National Honor Society. These are some of the major, difficult situations many high school students today face. Remember that it is an honor and a privilege to be a National Honor Society member. We are sure each of you takes this privilege seriously, and we are confident that when faced with difficult situations you will make the right decision.

Sincerely,

Jacque Gorski and Misti Swanson
NHS Advisors
Cc: Rebecca Newcomer, Principal
    Michael Gosz, Athletic and Activities Director
    John Washbush, NHS Faculty Council Chair