

# National Junior Honor Society Orlando Junior Academy

## What is a NJHS?

“The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1929.

Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in official Honor Society activities. NHS and NJHS chapters are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. territories, and Canada. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.” (NJHS Website)

## Requirements to be considered for NJHS membership:

### Scholarship

Students who meet the following scholarship requirements beginning their sixth grade year are candidates for membership. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

### Minimum Requirements:

6th grade—A minimum of a 3.0 cumulative grade point average at the end of second semester.  
7th/8th grades—A minimum of a 3.0 cumulative grade point average for the four quarters of the school year.

### Service

This quality is defined through the 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 experiences 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 generally maintains a good and clean 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 Pathfinders or youth groups, community organizations, and school clubs.

## **Portfolio Requirements**

For NJHS, students in the second semester of the sixth grade, or in grades seven and eight in a school are eligible for consideration for membership in NJHS. Students must have completed the equivalent of one semester of enrollment at OJA. To be considered for new membership, candidates must submit a portfolio containing the following:

**Letter of Interest:** This letter must be typed in business letter format. This is a one-page letter in which you show how you currently represent the characteristics of NJHS and how you can use these qualities to contribute to the overall success of the organization.

**Letters of Recommendation.** You must ask two adults who know you well to write a letter of recommendation using business letter format. Each letter must include the person's phone number and must be signed. This letter cannot be written by an Orlando Junior Academy teacher or a relative. When requesting your letter, we recommend you ask the person to evaluate you on the five traits of NJHS: character, scholarship, leadership, service, and citizenship.

**Teacher Evaluations.** You must have three of your teachers complete one of the teacher evaluations. Please allow your teachers time to complete this evaluation by giving it to them as soon as possible. You will find these in PDF at the end of this information document.

**Service Forms.** You must include documentation of 20 or more hours of community service outside of school sponsored events. You will find these in PDF at the end of this information document.

Your portfolio must be submitted to school administration on or before **April 30** of the current school year. Upon review of your portfolio, a committee will make the final decision for membership.

Should you be accepted, you will be inducted into the Orlando Junior Academy Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at the Spring Induction Service.

Please take time to make yourself familiar with the official website of the National Honor and National Junior Societies at [www.njhs.us](http://www.njhs.us), as it will also help answer questions and give guidance.

**Required forms (PDF):**

Community Service Form

Teacher Evaluation Form