

# ADVICE

## Cultivating Student Leaders

Students who participate in the National Honor Societies and NASC are well-suited to become exemplars of excellence

## Coping with Loss

How one school's student council put plans in motion to help a grieving community

## RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Leaders in the community want to be involved in your work with students





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# ADVICE

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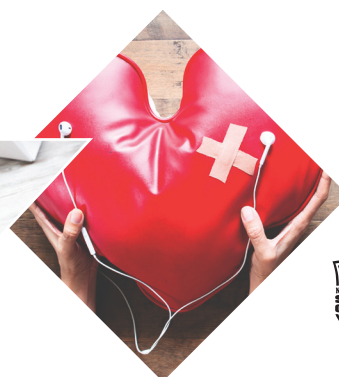
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## From the Directors

With the close of the academic year upon us, we would like to thank you for your mentorship of student leaders in your school. It is because of your voice and guidance that student leaders have accomplished great things. Through the activities and events executed, you have helped create sustaining connections and memories for your entire learning community. You have made students think, possibly changing their perspectives and improving school climate and culture. For these outcomes, and those not stated, we express our deepest gratitude.

We would like to especially thank those of you who entered activities and events into the National Student Project Database. You can easily access the database on the webpages of NASC, NHS, and NJHS and search submissions about an area of interest, for example, projects linked to the NASSP Student Leadership Initiative on Global Citizenship. From the 6,200 submissions thus far, you will find new ideas for your chapters and councils, or ways to put a new twist on existing efforts. Do not worry if you have yet to visit the database—the site is accessible throughout the summer planning months.

The 2017–18 academic year promises to be a great one, especially with all that it holds for NASC, NHS, and NJHS. As you head out for summer vacation, make sure to recharge your batteries and practice self-care—for some, that includes reading that pile of books, trying those new recipes, peddling a bike, paddling a boat, or checking off bucket-list items. Enjoy every second, and we'll see you in the fall!

Thank you again for all that you do.

Jonathan D. Mathis, PhD  
Director of National Honor Societies

Ann Postlewaite  
Director of Student Programs

# ADVISE



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## EXTRA CREDIT How are you making global change?

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Discussing my experiences in the Peace Corps to teach others about a different part of the world.



Creating conditions for the development and success of future leaders while serving in my local community.

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# CHAT ROOM



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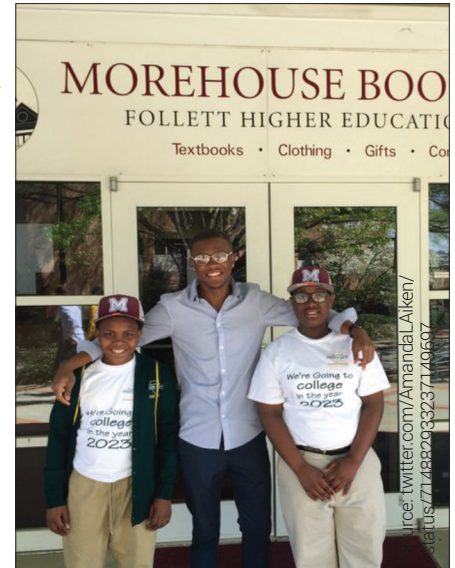
The NASC National Conference features keynotes from leadership experts, as well as adviser and student presenters. More than 1,000 student leaders and advisers from across the country will all be convening at the largest independent high school in the United States—Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH, for #NASCConf17. Be sure to follow the hashtag, especially if you're not able to be there in person. June 26–28 will bring loads of excitement and inspiration on a scale that is out of this world!

## SUMMER SCOOP



source: [twitter.com/NASC/status/841322263691209217/photo/1](https://twitter.com/NASC/status/841322263691209217/photo/1)

School might already be closed or will close soon for the summer, but the world will keep on turning! Make sure your students keep the momentum going and don't stop #MakingGlobalChange this summer!



source: [twitter.com/AmandaLAIken/status/774882933237749607](https://twitter.com/AmandaLAIken/status/774882933237749607)

If you haven't been watching what's happening with #Prep4College on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram—you're already missing out! Find valuable tips your students need to prepare for their postsecondary education by following the National Honor Societies on social media and by using and following #Prep4College.

Find a way to #PostPositiveVibes at your school sometime during the last week of the school year. The end of the school year can bring mixed emotions for some. Members of Ballard National Honor Society in Louisville, KY, went around to each locker in their school and posted a positive message, sending out positive vibes to those who might need it.



source: [https://twitter.com/ballard\\_nhs/status/832358965967204353](https://twitter.com/ballard_nhs/status/832358965967204353)

## Keep Chatting

If you like this page, be sure to follow, like, and share with us on social media, too! For real-time updates, check out these channels:



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# MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS



## RENEW. RESPOND. RELAX.

It is renewal time. Make sure your affiliation with the national office stays current by renewing your membership before June 30. Important dates, deadlines, and activities are announced as soon as the new school year begins. Visit [www.nhs.us/renew](http://www.nhs.us/renew), [www.njhs.us/renew](http://www.njhs.us/renew), or [www.nasc.us/renew](http://www.nasc.us/renew) and renew online. If you share adviser duties among several individuals, make sure your primary adviser takes care of this.

Also, please respond to the annual adviser survey by sharing data about your chapter's or council's activities this past year. This valuable information helps the national office cultivate relationships that will enrich the student experience. A link to the survey can be found on the websites. Please complete it by June 30. If you have questions or problems, email [nhs@nhs.us](mailto:nhs@nhs.us), [njhs@njhs.us](mailto:njhs@njhs.us), or [nasc@nasc.us](mailto:nasc@nasc.us).

Once you've done all that, take time to relax and catch your breath. Back-to-school nights will be here before you know it!

## Recognizing Excellence



We congratulate recipients of the many NHS, NJHS, and NASC award programs this academic year! The NHS Scholarship program disbursed \$1 million among 400 exceptional senior members. The NJHS Outstanding Achievement Award honored 500 of its most extraordinary members with a \$500 college savings award. Meanwhile, NASC named its National Council of Excellence Award winners, and NHS and NJHS announced their winners of

the Outstanding Service Project awards. All recipients have been notified. To learn more about them, visit the websites.

## CHANGES COMING FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROJECTS AWARD PROGRAM

Is your NHS or NJHS chapter planning to enter the Outstanding Service Project (OSP) award program next year? If so, you will want to take note of changes for the upcoming academic year. Beginning with the 2017–18 year, the deadline for OSP applications will be November 1 each year. Projects must have been started and completed between August 1 and June 30 of the previous academic year. The application will be available on the NHS and NJHS websites and can be submitted any time between July 1 and November 1 annually. That means for this coming year, any project you submit must have been completed by June 30, 2017. As of July 1 of this year, you can begin the application process. Schools selected to receive this recognition will be notified in February.



### THEIR STORIES

## WILL MOVE YOU!

Ten top youth volunteers have been named as national honorees in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Co-sponsored by Prudential and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, this is the largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service. The honorees were announced during a four-day recognition event in Washington, D.C., in May. To read their inspiring stories, visit <https://spirit.prudential.com>.





# Passing the Torch

If you will be transitioning your adviser duties to a colleague, consider the ways you can hand over the responsibilities to ensure a smooth start for the new adviser.

- Notify the national office using the Adviser Change Form on the website. By keeping your information in our database up to date, the new adviser will be assured of receiving the monthly e-newsletter and other important pieces of communication.
- Update the officer and member contact lists for the new adviser.
- Plan a retreat or set a date for members to meet the incoming adviser.
- Review this year's activities and propose a "to-do" list for the coming year.
- Suggest that the incoming adviser visit the website, starting with sections devoted to their needs: [www.nhs.us/new-advisers](http://www.nhs.us/new-advisers), [www.njhs.us/new-advisers](http://www.njhs.us/new-advisers), or [www.nasc.us/new-advisers](http://www.nasc.us/new-advisers).

Thanks for your service in helping your students grow as leaders.



## Dates to Remember

### June

Kyker State Service Project Award winner(s) notified

**June 26–28:** NASC National Conference, Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH, and Warren E. Shull NASC Adviser of the Year Award winner announced

**June 30:** National affiliation renewals and adviser survey responses due

### August

**August 15:** 2018 National Council of Excellence Award program application opens



## MAKE GLOBAL CHANGE ALL SUMMER LONG

Just because it's summer doesn't mean you and your students have to take a break from making global change. In fact, free of the activity of the school year, summer may be a great time to engage your chapter or council in a project that aligns with the goals of NASSP's student leadership initiative on global citizenship. Our contest continues throughout the summer, so post your pictures to Instagram and use #MakingGlobalChange to show us how your students are making a difference. Your council or chapter could win \$100 to present to your favorite charity. Visit [www.makingglobalchange.org](http://www.makingglobalchange.org) for details.

“Remember, each one of us has the power to change the world. Just start thinking peace, and the message will spread quicker than you think.”

YOKO ONO





# NASC UPDATE



## Big Enhancements Are on the Way

Get ready for exciting new NASC tools, resources, and a truly collaborative opportunity!

At NASC, we are dedicated to providing you and your students with the support you need to make your councils a success. We know that part of our service involves helping you effectively manage your council.

In order to serve you better, we conducted an online survey of NASC advisers to determine what kinds of tools and resources you need most. You spoke, and we listened!

**During the 2017–18 school year, NASC will roll out a host of enhanced resources, including:**

### Adviser Resources

**Adviser Online Community:** In this interactive online community, you can connect with fellow NASC advisers to exchange ideas for projects, share lessons learned, and get new ideas for teaching student leadership—all from the comfort of your computer.

**Enhanced Adviser Resource Center:** We will be providing new, robust tools and resources on the NASC website useful for both veteran and new advisers alike. The Center will be presented in a streamlined, easy-to-use fashion.

**New Adviser Starter Kit:** This comprehensive kit will give new advisers key resources and information to be successful in their new adviser role and in managing their council. The kit will include downloadable user guides to help new advisers hit the ground running.

**Leadership Speaker Series:** These webcasts will feature leadership experts providing informative discussions around leadership with accompanying lesson plans you can use with your students.



**Raising Student Voice & Participation (RSVP) Program:** This program is being updated to further empower students to take on leadership roles in improving their schools and communities—teaching them to use their unique voices to create positive change and enhance school climate.

### Student Resources

**NASC Career Exploration Speaker Series:** Young professionals will share their career journeys by discussing majors, clubs, internships, and volunteer activities in this webcast series with accompanying lesson plans.

**Refreshed National Student Project Database:** New entry fields will be added to this unique tool, allowing advisers and students to more easily identify the perfect projects for their councils.

**Middle-Level Resources:** These resources will support the unique needs of middle-level advisers and emerging student leaders.

NASC remains dedicated to helping you efficiently and effectively manage your council, take your efforts to new heights, and shape your students into the leaders of tomorrow.

Be on the lookout for updates about these exciting new resources and programs—and plan to take full advantage of them! Together, we will help your students learn the value of servant leadership, use their voice to effect positive change, and emerge from your council as leaders ready to take on the world. •





# HONOR SOCIETY UPDATE



## Help Us Help You



Every year as the academic year closes, the national office surveys advisers to gather important information about each chapter's activities. The survey asks for statistics about your chapter members' engagement in projects, such as hours of community/school service; amount of money, food, or blood donated during collection drives; and so on.

This survey is important. First, take note of a few key changes. Veteran advisers will be pleased to learn that the survey is shorter than in previous years. The end-of-school-year annual survey will now focus solely on quantitative data collection. We will have another periodic survey around winter break, which will seek more qualitative feedback on NHS/NJHS programs and services.

The data collected in the quantitative annual survey is valuable, as we continue to cultivate relationships to enhance the Honor Society experience for student members, their schools, and you.

During this academic year alone, NHS/NJHS college admission planning webinars for student members and parents have tapped the expertise of individuals representing such institutions as Yale University, the University of Michigan, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid, the University of Notre Dame, the National Endowment for Financial Education, and Johns Hopkins University.

"The entire postsecondary preparation process is a complex experience for students and their families. Thus, the National Honor Societies are very committed to building access to and ensuring student success in college," explains Jonathan Mathis, director of the National Honor Societies.

As such, the demonstrated commitment to service by student members and their schools, evidenced by the compelling statistics revealed through this annual survey, provide a persuasive argument when seeking connections with experts and organizations likely to support this Honor Society vision.

data—whether you've tracked manually or digitally. (If you haven't been tracking, the survey suggests ways to estimate your totals. Also, read the sidebar for future planning.)

- Set aside 15–20 minutes in a quiet place, free of distraction.
- Visit [www.nhs.us/advisers](http://www.nhs.us/advisers) or [www.njhs.us/advisers](http://www.njhs.us/advisers) for a link to the survey. Complete it by June 30.
- Include your name and email address to be eligible for a gift card being awarded to eight respondents.

"In essence, advisers are informing our efforts to support their work and build a stronger, more beneficial Honor Society experience for students," Mathis says. Your completion of the survey will be greatly appreciated. •

## KEEPING TRACK...

If you haven't been tallying your chapter's service activities or would like to find a better way to do so, consider these options:

- Do a Google search using keywords "community service tracker" for record-keeping programs. Some are free!
- Visit the Adviser Online Community (<http://community.nassp.org>) and get suggestions from fellow advisers. The community will be open all summer. Log in and start a conversation!
- If you're the pencil-and-paper type who prefers a more traditional tracking method, download the service tracking spreadsheet in the Adviser Resource Center. (See [www.nhs.us/arc](http://www.nhs.us/arc) or [www.njhs.us/arc](http://www.njhs.us/arc).) Click the "Project Planning and Fundraising" tile.

### Tips for Survey Completion

- The survey will ask for member volunteer service hours, amount of donations collected through chapter activities, etc. So, gather your





# RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Leaders in the community  
want to be involved in your  
work with students

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BY JIM PATERSON

There can be big payoffs when advisers connect with organizations in the community—from churches or social service organizations to colleges, foundations, and large and small businesses. The organizations can provide expertise or financial support for a project, help schools network to find other resources, and can mentor students or provide work experience so teens can learn “soft skills”—being a team player; leadership; communication; and being decisive, persistent, and resourceful.

As a student leadership adviser, you can tap into valuable community resources more easily than you think.

You just have to ask.









"I'm told all the time by people in local businesses that they'd love to get involved in schools and student leadership organizations, but just need the right opportunity," says Michelle McGrath. She knows both sides, as she serves as the executive director of the Wisconsin Association of School Councils and was recently elected president of the 500-member Rotary Club of Madison, WI. Rotary International is a national service organization with about 35,000 community clubs that work closely with educators and students.

"If students can show that their organizations are developing strong leaders with a good work ethic, chances are that business and community officials will support them in any way they can," agrees Vicki Gray Carstens, executive director of the Iowa Association of Student Councils and a former student leadership adviser.

McGrath's research shows that those skills will not only benefit students in the workforce, but are part of the Common Core State Standards that are intended to guide the nation's schools.

"Teaching students effective communication or problem solving without the opportunity to practice those skills is negligent on our part," she writes in an article reviewing the need for thorough leadership training. In it, she notes that "teaching key behavioral skills and allowing the students to practice them is essential for success," and that having a "vibrant support system and mentors are also key."

Carstens says by working with community leaders in real-life situations, students can learn about careers and make connections for

potential internships or jobs—or obtain letters of recommendation and résumé items.

In the meantime, local organizations typically want to be involved in local schools as part of their community outreach and, more practically, to network and improve community relations or advertise their product or service, often reaching a different audience. They may also benefit by finding future workers.

"Local leaders always are looking for employees," Carstens says. "They want strong leaders with a good work ethic. Working with schools is a good way to find them."

Meanwhile, those connections can benefit the school, since having those community representatives involved might result in support in other ways.

"After-school programs can serve as bridges that connect schools and communities, positively benefiting youth and families, schools, community-based organizations, and the community as a whole," says Priscilla Little, the author of a recent report titled "School-Community Learning Partnerships: Essential to Expanded Learning Success." She helps manage nearly \$8 million in grants from The Wallace Foundation for such efforts.

## GETTING STARTED

Jean Wyatt, a retired teacher/administrator who is a student leadership sponsor and consultant to statewide student leadership organizations, says there are a wide range of potential partners, and advisers should think about the options creatively.

"I'm told all the time by people in local businesses that they'd love to get involved in schools and student leadership organizations, but just need the right opportunity."

— Michelle McGrath, executive director of the Wisconsin Association of School Councils



Student organizations should first work with their school and district administrators to connect with community organizations because those officials often are part of an existing network of community leaders, she says. They should also solicit help from all levels of the school staff and their families and friends, and broaden their network as much as possible.

"District superintendents are often members of various community organizations," McGrath says. "They can direct student groups and follow up after you've reached out. And it's good that they hear about such efforts."

Wyatt notes that advisers should be certain to spell out their needs in detail and give willing community members specific tasks. Advisers should also take time to listen to their advice or involve them in a project from the ground up. "People support that which they have a hand in creating," she says.

It's important for students to take control, McGrath says, noting that such an approach often makes such partners more likely to participate and stay involved, plus it teaches students valuable skills and gives them useful experience.

"An adviser can certainly be their cheerleader and supporter, but the students should do the work," McGrath says. "Give them the tools, perhaps through teaching a lesson about the ways to approach someone, set up a meeting, and develop a plan. But it is important from both perspectives for students to do the work."

## BUSINESS CLASS

Community organizations often have involvement in education as part of their mission, McGrath notes, and businesses want future employees with attributes that student leadership organizations typically teach. "They don't want to train them," McGrath says. "And it's not just math and science that they want them to know. How good are you at communicating? How good are you at working with a team? Those are the sorts of things they are saying they need, and those are the skills we want our students to gain."



# NEIGHBOR NETWORKING

There are a number of key ways that student leaders can develop relationships with organizations in their community.

**A broad net.** Consider all types of connections. "Look at what you already have in your building and your school," says Jean Buckley, president and CEO of the Future Business Leaders of America. For example, leverage connections available through parent and student employers.

**Invite them in.** Amelia Courts, president and CEO of The Education Alliance, an organization that develops school/community partnerships in Charleston, WV, says students and their advisers should invite potential partners to the school or site of an activity to learn about school programs and see your areas of need, because sometimes their outside impressions may not be accurate or positive. Plus, such invitations and firsthand experience with student leaders can lock in involvement.

**Collaborate.** Look for ways students can serve on school district panels or as representatives with other community organization panels. Share responsibility for a symposium or an event that benefits the community group, says Michelle McGrath, executive director of the Wisconsin Association of School Councils and president of the Madison, WI, Rotary Club. Bring them on board for your event, but make it pay off for them, too.

**Students first.** "When students are prepared and they are passionate about what they are saying, they are captivating," Buckley says. Having them be key players in the effort gives them valuable experience in a number of ways.

**Be specific ...** Make sure you spell out specifically what type of help you need. One expert suggests keeping a standard one-page description of the group, its mission, and some of the things you have accomplished for students to use as they approach local groups (adding a paragraph about your current needs).

**... but open to input.** Solicit partner ideas. They may want specific instruction, but if you want others in the community to be involved, you have to be willing to accept their ideas and, perhaps, their way of doing things. "We advise educators that they must welcome change and be willing to break barriers," Courts says. "If true strategic partnerships with business are to develop, then there will be barriers. And there will be change. Schools must welcome and invite this change in order to form real connections."

**Follow up.** "It's sometimes the hardest part," says Vicki Gray Carstens, executive director of the Iowa Association of Student Councils. Monitor the work done, ask the outside group for feedback and about ways they'd like to be involved in the future. Review, change, and get commitments.

“If students can show that their organizations are developing strong leaders with a good work ethic, chances are that business and community officials will support them in any way they can.”

— Vicki Gray Carstens, executive director of the Iowa Association of Student Councils

She says new thinking in the business community focuses even more concretely on these skills, especially among businesses that have an entrepreneurial approach.

“They aren’t even soft skills anymore,” says Jean Buckley, president and CEO of Future Business Leaders of America. The organization works with some 230,000 students in state and local chapters nationwide and encourages them to connect with local businesses to gain real-life experiences which include “these critical but less obvious skills that businesses are seeking.”

*Forbes* magazine has discussed top traits needed in rising leaders and *Entrepreneur* magazine has reported details about the top leadership skills we need to teach children—and their ideas closely match those skills that school leadership groups want to teach, such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

“By speaking with and engaging the business community, students get a very real understanding of the types of skills that are needed for success in their future careers,” Wyatt says. “And of course, bringing business leaders into efforts to develop student leadership is a natural way for the business community to give back and mentor future leaders in their community.”

### LOOKING ELSEWHERE

Student leadership groups often develop relationships with government bodies and

politicians through student internships or mentorship opportunities or by bringing in public officials to speak to students about their work and the functions of their organizations. The officials perform a public service, create good will, and potentially reach other segments of the public—including future voters.

Vista Murrieta High School student leaders give a presentation to the local city council and school board in Murrieta, CA, each month, and invite local leaders to their meetings—to both gain experience presenting and get tips from adults. Meanwhile, Terry Sanford High School in Fayetteville, NC, holds candidate forums for local politicians as they run for office.

Social service agencies, too, are willing to spread their message and often can join with students to develop programs that benefit their cause—a food bank, clothing drive, a blood collection program, or informational program about the services they offer. Organizations that work on health issues and fitness, for instance, are often happy to help with a health fair, and those that work with emotional health might assist with suicide or stress prevention initiatives. Students often can help satisfy their student service requirements with such efforts, Carstens notes.

For example:

- This year in Fort Wayne, IN, high school leaders working in a local food bank found the facility had a bookshelf but no books and began soliciting books for the patrons of the service. Word of their effort spread, and within about a year, more than 10,000



books had been given away and the students had received support from a number of local organizations and a \$500 Disney Summer of Creativity Grant.

- Student leaders at Milwaukee High School of the Arts in Wisconsin sponsored a cancer health fair for students and the community with student displays and information from local health organizations.
- Several NHS chapters sponsored blood drives this spring, including the chapter at Zionsville (IN) Community High School, which is one of the local Red Cross' most consistent partners. (The Red Cross helps students organize drives and claims nearly 25 percent of its donations come from drives led by student leaders.)
- Last April, the Colleyville Heritage High School student council in Texas worked with its school's counseling department and local social service agencies to hold a "Skate Away from Self-Harm" event at a local roller-skating facility to raise awareness about teen suicide.

Local service groups like Rotary (which has a popular Youth Leadership Awards program that features symposiums with student and community leaders), Kiwanis International (Key Leaders), Lions Clubs International, and chambers of commerce are happy to help with student organizations, and many include working with educators as part of their mission.

Rotary clubs have helped student leaders in Ewing, NJ, with a soup kitchen, autism walk, and Special Olympics program. In Miami, the local chapter worked with students to help a homeless shelter and veterans group, and in Knoxville, they worked with students to provide support for refugees.

## COLLEGES AND FOUNDATIONS

Local colleges and universities are also an optimal place for student leadership groups to develop relationships, experts say. They often already have a connection to the schools through the alumni who attend the college and through other education system structures. College students, staff, and resources (even space) can benefit a leadership group, while the

colleges are able to tap into a good market for potential students.

Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., recently invited 60 student leaders for a daylong retreat to hear college speakers and learn about service opportunities. Ithaca, NY-based Cornell University has a summer college program that teaches leadership skills and partners with local schools to build "personal development exercises and reflective analysis to arrive at a clearer understanding of your unique leadership strengths and objectives."

Foundations at the local, regional, and national levels are often looking for ways to support education, and experts suggest that networking by students, advisers, and through the administration is the best way to find out about them. Nearly every large national foundation has education support programs, often dedicated to student leadership.

Some support can be directed by student leaders. For instance, the Michigan Community Foundation Youth Project provides funding for student organizations to then make grants to student-run service projects, and runs a two-day conference for youth leaders to review the grants. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has a Youth Challenge for Community Foundations program that allows nearly 200 youth advisory committees to allocate funds to deserving student projects. The Winston-Salem Foundation in North Carolina has a Youth Grantmakers in Action program that supports student-led anti-bullying, homeless support, and financial education programs, in addition to a wide variety of other school-based service projects, with funding determined by youth leaders.

"There are a lot of resources available if advisers can find ways to tap into them," Buckley says. "Even more importantly, they can structure their group so responsibility for those connections is on the students. That makes them even more valuable." •



**Jim Paterson** is a writer and former school counselor based in Lewes, DE. He is a frequent contributor to *Advise*.







# CULTIVATING STUDENT LEADERS

Students who participate in the journey through NEHS, NJHS, NHS, and NASC are well-suited to become leaders and exemplars of academic excellence

BY M. DIANE McCORMICK

Throughout the United States and beyond, schools that sponsor chapters of all three National Honor Societies—the venerable National Honor Society (NHS) for high school students, plus the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)—are finding that the effort encourages students to make learning a habit that starts in the youngest grades and continues for a lifetime.

Starting at the elementary level and continuing through secondary, these schools have not only elevated the pursuit of excellence as a priority throughout their institutions, but have also cultivated methods for ushering students from one level of Honor Society to the next. They also weave in the work of their student councils and rely on resources from the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) to strengthen their approach.

The desired result is young adults who graduate fully prepared to take on their roles as productive citizens.



“The junior society members get to hear the high school members speak about why NHS is important to them, to hopefully foster that continued commitment.”

— JESSICA JIMENEZ, NHS ADVISER

### REFINING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Adelphi Academy of Brooklyn in New York began its National Honor Society chapter in 2000 and found it a perfect fit for its school and, especially, its college preparatory program. School officials developed such trust and respect for the brand that they were excited to establish NJHS and NEHS chapters in later years, says Principal Iphigenia Romanos.

“So many of the principles of the National Honor Society organization, including NJHS, NEHS, and the National Association of Student Councils, connect so directly and naturally with Adelphi’s founding philosophy and core principles that it makes for a very natural partnership,” says Romanos.

Many school officials agree: NHS involvement cultivates student leaders. Chapter activities focus on school and community service in projects selected and implemented by students themselves.

At Ivy Academia Entrepreneurial Charter School, a preK–12 school on two Los Angeles-area campuses, the halls are filled with students from affluent families mixing with those who qualify for free and reduced-price meals. Honor Society members there have cleaned beaches, raised money for animal shelters, held blood drives, and conducted after-school tutoring. Their service positions them to act as ambassadors for their school and their community.

At Adelphi, NHS member students work as school ambassadors and participate in community and school service, mentoring, and leadership activities.

“Students are very participatory and hands-on with ideas, projects, and new concepts, and our faculty is very accepting of their input,” says Romanos.

Many schools meld NHS-related activities with other school functions. Adelphi is now incorporating NHS activities into other programs, including mentoring and leadership programs, and especially its Lockwood Society, a First Honors Program named for the Academy’s founder.

Prattville Christian Academy, a life readiness school with a strong academic focus in Alabama, also sees Honor Society membership as an opportunity for students to drive its community-service agenda. The students in NJHS, for example, share ideas for service projects that might include volunteering at a food bank or cleaning up the school’s outdoor classroom. In past years, students have held food drives and clothing drives, says chapter sponsor Kaylon Cantrell.

At Lotus School for Excellence, a college prep school based in Aurora, CO, Honor Society membership is a conduit for instilling in students the importance of community and school service.

“Advisers work with the students on leadership by modeling skills for them and providing opportunities for them to develop their own skills,” says Heather Chol, English language development coordinator and secondary National Honor Society adviser and chapter coordinator. “We hold them accountable to high expectations for behavior.”

### TRANSITIONING AMONG LEVELS

Students transitioning from one level of schooling to the next always require careful attention, and that includes their membership in the Honor Societies, educators say.

At Ivy Academia, junior and senior NHS members have traveled to the school’s separate campus for grades preK–6 and read books for Dr. Seuss’ birthday celebrations. In 2017, the high school and middle school students added a



book drive, bringing in old favorites to help build the elementary school library.

Such efforts, plus mentoring opportunities and overlapping programs, introduce young children to the value of the Honor Societies. “The kids can really see the end game,” says NHS adviser Jessica Jimenez, English and world history teacher. “The kids can see the evolution of an Honor Society student.”

By the time Ivy Academia students join NJHS, they are inducted in a joint ceremony with high school students. “The junior society members get to hear the high school members speak about why NHS is important to them, to hopefully foster that continued commitment,” says Jimenez. “They get to mentor them.”

Ivy high school NHS members also mentor their NJHS peers through such efforts as a

Catalina Island science camp. Those high school students hone their mentoring skills at weekly NHS meetings, where they discuss ethical choices, student pride, entrepreneurial skills, and creation of programs that have a broad benefit, Jimenez says.

Adelphi Academy of Brooklyn helps students transition from one level to the next through meetings and orientations regarding eligibility with chapter advisers and current chapter members. Regular monitoring and constant communication help the school minimize the risk of students losing eligibility due to poor grades.

Collaboration among chapters at different levels is “one of the highlights” of Adelphi’s NHS approach, says Romanos. The preK–12 school offers opportunities for students of all ages to interact, she says.

“Adelphi believes in ‘over-communication,’ with frequent calls, emails, and parent meetings,” says Romanos. “Additionally, every parent and student knows that Adelphi believes in a strong open-door policy. We are always available to our families, and



our methods are designed to be preventative and not reactive regarding grades, marking periods, and student eligibility issues.”

Schoolwide service projects offer ideal opportunities for Honor Society members at different levels to collaborate and learn from each other. At Prattville Christian Academy, students have collaborated on chapter induction ceremonies and supported the Panther Prowl 5K and One-Mile Fun Run—a fundraiser for the school—by collecting runner registrations and sponsorships in advance, directing runners on race day, and providing post-race drinks and snacks.

At Lotus School, advisers “work with each group as a new school year begins to help members who are continuing from the previous year start out smoothly,” says Chol.

Lotus School chapters also work together on some projects, especially schoolwide initiatives such as the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner and the Taste of Lotus cuisine and fashion event. When high school students read Shel Silverstein’s “The Giving Tree” to elementary students, they showed leadership and compassion.

“The thankful reflections were thought provoking and allowed the students to connect as a community,” Chol says. “I also found volunteer hours and planning of large events such as homecoming helpful for students to develop initiative, communication and collaboration skills, and organizational skills.”

### ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL GROWTH

With “entrepreneurial” in its name, Ivy Academia has found that Honor Society involvement is an ideal fit. From the time students are in transitional kindergarten, all their lessons incorporate entrepreneurial standards, equipping them to spot problems and devise solutions.

“Participants in the National Honor Society get to put the skills they learned into action,” says 7th–12th grade Principal Maria Gennaro. As juniors and seniors in a focused business class, they seek solutions to the seemingly intractable issues of the

day, including immigration challenges and sex trafficking, she says.

Ivy Academia’s Honor Society tutoring initiatives help younger students perform well academically, while older students doing the tutoring can get extra credit. Plus, GPA requirements for Honor Society and student council membership demonstrate to students that “we put a high expectation on them to maintain those standards,” says NASC Adviser Christine Musgrove, a math teacher. “That is helping with overall academics.”

The aspects of service, leadership, and mentoring are essential not only in Adelphi’s NHS chapters, but throughout its school, says Romanos. “While service and leadership are such important aspects of what it means to be an Adelphi student, they are especially important to the honored members of the chapters and are promoted regularly through meetings, assemblies, student forums, and events.”

Students’ social growth can be equally important as academic growth, and involvement in the National Honor Societies “helps merge the two tremendously,” says Romanos. “What might at first start out as a service assignment or requirement later helps a student discover something about themselves and, most importantly, discover the joy of giving, helping, and contributing.”

Cantrell, the NJHS adviser for Prattville Christian Academy, believes that students maintain good grades so they can retain their membership. She credits NJHS membership for much of the tremendous academic and social growth she saw in one particular student, who is now “a leader among her friends.”

“Students are also inducted in front of their peers and friends, so I think most of them want to uphold their end of the bargain,” she says. “They want to be known as a student in that Honor Society.”

The same expectations apply at Lotus School. “Membership gives students another reason to stay accountable for their grades,” says Chol. “They are able to include membership on their college applications, and they receive a special stole to wear at graduation. As student leaders

**“We work with each group as a new school year begins to help members who are continuing from the previous year start out smoothly.”**

— HEATHER CHOL, NHS ADVISER

in the school, their responsibility and level of character rise and are noticeable.”

### TEAM OF ADVISERS

Collaboration among advisers at the different levels is another key to guiding students from the elementary through high school levels of the Honor Societies.

At Adelphi, chapter advisers at each level “know and work with all of the students at each individual level personally,” says Romanos. “They take the time to get to know the students not just academically and socially, but personally.” The advisers’ focus contributes to the strength of the “intentional school community” working toward common goals, she says. Adelphi chapter advisers meet regularly, and they also advise and report as part of other important school committees.

At many schools, advisers work according to plans crafted at the beginning of the year. Lotus School for Excellence advisers establish a vision for the year, followed by several meetings as they plan for larger events.

“We communicate regularly through emails and brief conversations,” says Chol. “We enjoy being able to meet and share ideas with each other.”

### NASC TIES

Adelphi considers NASC, plus the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals, “tremendous resources for students and faculty,” says Romanos. “These are trusted names to Adelphi and very much a part of our ‘intentional community.’” Student councils and Honor Society chapters “work together constantly on charity and fundraising events, holiday celebrations, community causes, and school projects, all of which are student driven and supported.”

At Ivy Academia, serving as student council president or vice president comes with service requirements, positioning them to serve as role models for their peers. Deirdra Brasch, business teacher and past NASC adviser, incorporated NASC curriculum into some of her business classes to further infuse leadership lessons

“What might at first start out as a service assignment or requirement later helps a student discover something about themselves and, most importantly, discover the joy of giving, helping, and contributing.”

— IPHIGENIA ROMANOS, PRINCIPAL

in the classroom and beyond. “At what grade level do we really need to drive this so we get the outcome we want at senior year to create that whole person who’s community invested, who’s school invested, who’s representing their class, who’s really the well-rounded student we’re trying to create?” she says.

NASC provides Prattville Christian Academy “with great resources and encouragement as we take on the task of creating student leaders,” says Cantrell.

Lotus draws on the experiences, best practices, and expertise culled by NASC: “We see what other groups across the nation are doing and incorporate some of their successful ideas in our school and share our success,” says Lotus School high school biology teacher and student council leader Sarah Baysden. Student council and Honor Society members “work alongside each other often at school events and always support the work of each group.”

### “RESPECTED STUDENTS”

On Ivy Academia’s “Well-Dressed Wednesdays,” when students dress in entrepreneurial attire, most NHS members “are proud to wear their pin,” says Gennaro.

“A lot of times, these students in other schools might be seen as dorks or geeks, but here they’re seen as the respected students,” she says. “They’re the leaders of our school and they’re definitely well-liked. They’re admired by other students, and the National Honor Society is something that other students strive to join.” •



M. Diane McCormick is a writer based in Pennsylvania.



# COPING WITH LOSS

How one school's student council put plans in motion to help a grieving community

By Penelope Allen

I'll never forget that moment in August 2016 when I received a text from a parent—the text an educator never wants to receive. Then my phone rang. I could tell from the caller ID that the call was from my teaching partner. The mournful tears of my co-worker verified the tragedy. Lafayette Middle School (LMS) had lost a member of our Commodore family in a horrific car accident.

Death at any age brings a variety of emotions: shock, numbness, disbelief, anger, and sadness. The unexpected death of a teenager compounds these emotions, as youth mourn the loss of a friend.

As word traveled throughout our community of Oxford, MS, about this student's death, I began to receive phone calls and texts from our student council family and others. Our LMS student council president was the first member to contact me. With a quivering voice he said,

"Mrs. Allen, we have to plan now. This is so much more than buttons." By Sunday night, LMS student council members were well into the planning phase of what would take place in the following days.

## FOCUS ON COMMUNICATION

LMS student council members quickly designed a platform to include all members in the aspect of planning events around the loss of this student. While the original communication took place using group text messaging because of the immediacy of the tragedy, members found it difficult to organize plans through text messages. As the brainstorming subsided, it was time to bring to the forefront the planning of each event. Our student council secretary initiated the idea of corresponding through the use of Google Docs. This platform allowed members to give









As their adviser, I wanted to divert students' plans numerous times throughout the planning stages. I am so glad that I did not corrupt their ideas. Student leaders are leaders in any situation; their voices are filled with purpose and meaning.

instant feedback and organize information for each event.

Next, our student members began to establish communication with our building principal and the district superintendent. Our student council president took the initiative to communicate the council's ideas to superintendent Dr. Adam Pugh. Two other members stepped up to communicate with our building principal. These key student communicators reported that a crisis team was in place to help students cope with student loss during the week. This communication allowed members to focus on the events to help students cope beyond the initial arrival at school Monday morning.

As their adviser, I listened to their needs and allowed the students to plan accordingly. When the kids asked questions that I could not answer, student leaders and I would contact our school administrators. Student council members found it imperative to offer comfort to classmates, teachers, parents, and members of our community, because they understood that students, as well as adults, grieve differently.

### **DETERMINING WAYS TO HONOR A CLASSMATE**

LMS student council members pursued multiple avenues to help our grieving school community. One hurdle members faced was the issue of separation of church and state, but students took full control of planning a location for prayer and hosting a citywide candlelight vigil.

Student leaders initially organized a place for students to gather for daily prayer. The prayers were student-led and often occurred before school and during breaks. This allowed students to comfort friends who may not be in class with each other. School leaders, teachers, and parents could be found offering support to students as they met and prayed with classmates.

The site of the daily prayer meetings morphed into a makeshift memorial site, where student leaders provided a place for their classmates to leave mementos. These included letters to the family, photos, flowers, and other tokens students accumulated. Items collected at the memorial were then given to the family.

Our student council members also wanted to offer a tribute which the entire student body could embrace. To show support for family of the lost, one LMS student council member decided to create a memorial ribbon using red (our school color) and an anchor (the school emblem). These ribbons were given to the student body and school community. Students wore the ribbons to memorialize the loss of their friend. These ribbons were found on students' hats, backpacks, and gym bags months after the student's death. Memorial ribbons were made available at the site where students met for prayer.

Student council members also wanted to reach out to the larger community. This led to the students taking full control of hosting an off-site candlelight vigil, which they hoped all people in town would feel welcome to attend. The first major detail was to locate a space. Our principal was able to secure an area near the funeral home. After the location was secured, members needed to plan the details of the memorial.

Council members set the time of the vigil to occur after the visitation, so family members would be able to participate. Our LMS student council president made arrangements to use candles from a local church. Our student

council secretary contacted local youth leaders and asked for their assistance. Other student council members created social media posts to share information about the candlelight vigil with those in the community. Many people felt the vigil helped students find closure to such a devastating loss.

Outside of the events the student council organized, the cheerleaders had special hair bows made to wear with the student's initials on them. Another child had bracelets made with the student's name and the date he went to heaven on them and gave them to the student body.

Another way to honor a student can come by way of monetary donations. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers have become the new norm. Students can ask family members to provide at least one charity of interest to which donations can be made. If family members do not select a charity, consider

selecting causes that reflect the interests of the one who is being memorialized or those that help fight against the cause of death.

For instance, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital helps kids with childhood cancer; SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) serves as a peer-to-peer youth education organization (the group that once targeted student drunk driving has expanded to cover substance abuse, distracted driving, and more); the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention raises awareness and funds scientific research to aid those affected by suicide; The Humane Society aids animals; the American Heart Association offers help for those with cardiovascular issues; the Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

In the days that followed, the deceased student's mother shared how touched she was by the school's response to her son's death. "I



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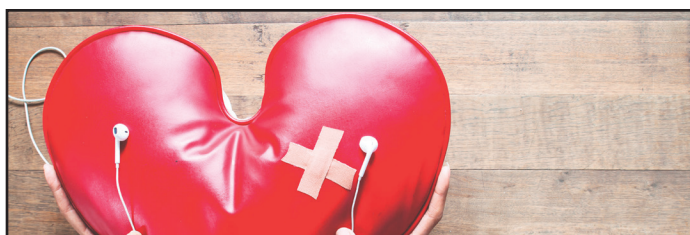
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## WAYS STUDENT COUNCILS CAN HELP WITH STUDENT LOSS

1. Establish an efficient way to communicate among student council members. While a tragedy brings a flurry of text messages initially, this is an inefficient way to plan memorial events. Consider using a broad platform, like Google Docs, so all student council members (and staff) can add their input.
2. Ask for faculty, staff, or student council volunteers to contact key administrative school staff, like the principal and superintendent, to seek their approval for any events the council wishes to hold.
3. Have student council members brainstorm activities or events that can help connect the grieving school community. Students may want to organize a vigil, design buttons or ribbons to show support for the student, or create a makeshift memorial for cards and letters to the student's family on school grounds (or elsewhere).
4. Contact members of the greater community to help with events as needed. For instance, a church might provide candles for a candlelight vigil or civic groups might help with crowd control, if necessary.
5. If it fits with the family's wishes, organize monetary donations to a charity or two that would allow the student's legacy to live on.

was able to take comfort in the support and events that the school had organized," she said. "[It's] impossible to put into words how it makes a mama feel to know the school district let all the children in the eighth grade out of school that day to attend his funeral ... The notes and cards and memorials from the children and teachers that followed in the days after were incredibly touching, to see how deeply his life on this earth had impacted the people he came in contact with."

### STUDENT LEADERS SET A PRECEDENT

Less than three months after the devastating loss of an LMS student, tragedy struck again in our community. This time, students would mourn the loss of a Lafayette High School Commodore. Little did LMS student council members know that the plans they had set in place 11 weeks prior would become the stepping stones for the high school. High school students immediately sought guidance from LMS student council members and advisers. Middle-level student council members were eager to offer a helping hand, and the information shared with high school leaders allowed the senior high students to plan similar events.

### TAKE TIME FOR REFLECTION

A major part of any LMS student council project/event is reflection after the event is complete. This key step allows council members to learn through their experiences. In this case, members' main concerns after carrying out memorial events for the deceased LMS student dealt with their actions being appropriate and enough. One member voiced how she could not believe how well council members held their emotions while providing outlets for their classmates to grieve.

As their adviser, I wanted to divert students' plans numerous times throughout the planning stages. I am so glad that I did not corrupt their ideas. Student leaders are leaders in any

situation; their voices are filled with purpose and meaning.

Student leadership is so much more than homecomings and dances. Student leadership is about celebrating the milestones and embracing the events of life. Student leadership is the heart of a school community.

"Know that no gesture is too small to impact the life of a grieving family. Don't be afraid to stop ... and say something," shared the deceased student's mother, who notes that it is important to understand that the grief/loss continues on day after day; the emotions don't cease to exist after the first few weeks have passed. It may be easy for everyone else's lives to go on, but as a parent who has lost their child, grief makes time fly by and yet stand still forever, she says. "Many months have now passed, and as I ... continually run into teachers, students, and staff, I am touched by their stories of him, their kind words,

**"Know that no gesture is too small to impact the life of a grieving family. Don't be afraid to stop ... and say something." — Mother who lost a student**

and that they are still praying for and thinking about me and my family. Each and every card, gesture, and memento told me he was greatly loved and is greatly missed." •



**Penelope Allen** is a math teacher and student council adviser at Lafayette Middle School in Oxford, MS. She served on the 2015 NASC Advisory Committee and was the Region VIII finalist for the 2013 NASC Warren E. Shull Middle Level Adviser of the Year.

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# A CONVERSATION WITH...

Get inspiration from one special individual who's making a difference

## Kaiyi Jiang

College-bound senior at The King's Academy, a boarding school near Knoxville, TN; Chinese exchange student and NHS president who finished in the top 10 in the TMTA (Tennessee Math Teacher Association) in geometry and calculus contests, top three in Tennessee for Sevier Aquatic's Water Polo Team, second place in Roane State's Piano Competition, scored in the 99th percentile on the PSAT (Commended Scholar), and earned the AP Scholar with Honor designation by obtaining high scores on several AP examinations



**Advise:** When did you first know you wanted to become a member of the National Honor Society? What did you hope to gain from the experience?

**Jiang:** I first knew I wanted to participate in NHS when I saw the NHS induction ceremony at my school. I had a hope of learning about leadership in NHS because I thought it would be very hard to lead a group of elite students. The induction ceremony for King's Academy involved the officers each discussing the core values of NHS: leadership, service, character, and scholarship. After each officer spoke, each inductee received a certificate and keychain to commemorate the event. While serving as president of my chapter this year, I have seen the difficulty of leading the brightest young minds at my school. They are an elite group, but someone always needs to take leadership. Understanding what that means has been a major challenge and a rewarding endeavor during my tenure in NHS.

**Advise:** You're originally from China. Are there benefits to being a National Honor Society member that you feel are especially helpful for foreign-exchange or ELL students?

**Jiang:** I think participating in NHS helped me understand more about American culture, because the service projects that we do helped me learn something about the United States that I can't get elsewhere. Doing service projects allows me to observe and interact with places in America that a typical tourist or boarding school student would not see. One such

service project was going to the local homeless shelter to hang out one Saturday. We sang, handed out treats, and listened to stories. I would not have been able to do all of this without being a member of NHS.

**Advise:** How did your involvement in the National Honor Society help shape your high school experience?

**Jiang:** My high school experience is enriched by participating in NHS. I have always had good grades, but participating in NHS means that you have to interact with all high-achieving students; you are no longer just the smartest kid in class. I began, slowly, to understand how I needed to be humble while at the same time motivated to increase my resolve to better myself and distinguish myself from my amazing peers. That really improved my leadership—realizing I still had a lot to learn.

**Advise:** The primary focus of your studies seems to be on STEM courses. Do you have any advice for other students who wish to pursue that area of study?

**Jiang:** STEM courses are normally pretty challenging. I think the key to success in these courses is the great motivation behind them. You have to study very hard in order to get good grades in these classes, so motivation to do well is very important. The motivation is understanding that STEM-related careers are well-paying and offer opportunities to greatly impact society—from building new technology to conducting research to cure a

specific disease to many other worthy causes. It's about making people's lives better, which drives me personally. Also, a key to success from a boarding school point of view is constantly asking questions and seeking help from the teacher when you don't understand a topic.

**Advise: What are your plans once you graduate from high school?**

**Jiang:** I am from China, but I wish to stay in the United States to further my education beyond high school. I have applied to many colleges including Harvard, MIT, and Stanford. I really wish to go to Harvard to pursue my study in medicine. I have been privileged enough to have received multiple awards in science and math throughout my high school life, and received extraordinary comments from professors around the world on my cancer research. I really enjoy school and learning.

**Advise: Speaking of your love of studying medicine, during the summer of 2016, you conducted research to combat breast cancer cells as part of the Dongrun-Yau Science and Mathematics competition. Could you share some more details about that?**

**Jiang:** My research involved finding a chemical that would treat breast cancer cells that have developed resistance to chemotherapy treatments. As is seen with the use of antibiotics to combat bacterial infections, some cancer cells have built up resistance to chemotherapy, leaving doctors with fewer effective treatment options. I found two chemicals that allowed the chemotherapeutic agent, ADM, to kill cancer cells that had become resistant to it. In my experiments, the two chemicals actually helped protect healthy cells from the harmful effects of chemotherapy. I did this research partly because my family members suffered from cancer, too. Cancer has caused so much damage to our society, and we still cannot find a cure. I hope I can contribute to this area in order for humanity to not suffer from this horrible disease. The outcome of this research is very positive; I learned how to communicate with other people and the endurance you need in order to succeed in this type of research. It takes time, effort, and patience to conduct worthy research. These things in society are still unsolved for a reason—because they are difficult to understand.

**Advise: To your fellow students who are eligible, what would you tell them are the advantages of NHS membership?**

**Jiang:** I think no matter if you are a student seeking to improve your leadership skills or a student trying to share or learn new ideas, NHS would be the perfect place. It provides lots of opportunities for you to share ideas and take on responsibilities outside the classroom. Your sponsors work very hard to provide enrichment activities, from getting guest speakers representing local businesses and colleges to doing service projects

around the community. NHS provides a great atmosphere to challenge oneself academically and socially to be a more rounded person.

**Advise: How did your involvement in the National Honor Society make you a better leader?**

**Jiang:** Being able to communicate with everyone and coordinate with them when doing a project together really helped me improve my leadership skills. You have to not only listen and understand different viewpoints, but also be decisive. For example, we have often divided our NHS chapter into different groups in order for them to function properly on a project. We have coordinated a students-teaching-teachers workshop where different groups of NHS students teach teachers about the technology used by teenagers today, such as Snapchat, Instagram, and Slader. All these situations require wise and difficult decisions, which NHS helped prepare me for while serving as president of my school's chapter.

**Advise: Did the service work you did with NHS ignite an interest in helping others? How so?**

**Jiang:** I think the service work we did actually helped a lot. I have rarely seen how those in poverty in the United States live. Helping them made me aware of people who really need assistance. Some people lack physical resources, while others lack spirituality or social skills. I don't think we can do much on physical resources, such as money, since we are high school students, but I do believe that we can help them spiritually or socially by being kind and listening to them and not judging them. I hope when I have the resources and time, after my academic career has concluded, I can help these people suffering from poverty and disease through medical research and compassionate acts.

**Advise: Please share your fondest memories from your time in NHS.**

**Jiang:** My fondest memory is when our NHS chapter went to KARM, an agency for homeless people in Knoxville, for a service project. With some initial understanding about these people, we divided into several groups, some bringing food to them, some preparing music to worship with them, and others bringing all kinds of games to play with them. This project just made me realize how much we can do even without monetary resources. I think of this as my fondest memory not only because I learned how much I can do, but also because I was deeply touched by the behavior of my classmates. I saw some students sitting down patiently to communicate with these people and others deliberately losing a game, without being too obvious, just to make the homeless people happy. One of my classmates even gave his new hat to a person who just lost their legs in a car accident. The joy on all the faces is one of the best scenes I have ever seen. •



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[NASC.us/store](http://NASC.us/store).



NHS, NJHS, and NASC are programs of NASSP



# PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE

BY JAYEELE DORRIS

Engage your chapter or council by participating in this interactive activity

## Warm Up

### Objective

National Honor Society (NHS) members worked together to make blankets for the Project Linus campaign—an organization that makes blankets by hand for critically ill children—and Phoenix Children's Hospital.

### Materials

- Minimum of 3 yards of fleece or 2 premade blanket kits (6 yards total) per participant
- Scissors
- A smile and a happy, group-oriented attitude!

### Estimated Time Required

At least two meeting periods—one standard meeting for planning and one Saturday session to assemble the blankets, lasting for roughly three hours. It takes about one hour to assemble one blanket.

### Procedure

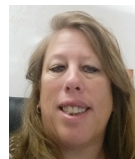
**Planning:** Our chapter had heard about the need that Project Linus had for blankets about five years ago. We decided the first year that it would be a special project for just NHS officers. The next year, we decided we could provide even more blankets by opening it up to the whole chapter. We made it a mandatory event. To get the word out, we posted on the school activities page. We also used Remind.com for all communications, since technology is such an integral part of our students' lives these days. We decided to spend the majority of a Saturday morning in the school cafeteria assembling the blankets. Members and other students alike were invited to participate. We also shared a how-to video so students could quickly grasp how to accomplish the task ([www.nancysnotions.com/category/video+demos/quick+fleece+blankets.do](http://www.nancysnotions.com/category/video+demos/quick+fleece+blankets.do)).

**Execution:** NHS chapter members and other students came to school on that predetermined Saturday to make blankets. We spread out across the cafeteria in groups. Some kids made new friends and others worked together. It was a great experience. Each student had their own fleece

or blanket kit. They all worked independently, but also came together as a huge group. Many students walked around looking at all the different fleece patterns, prints, etc. We had everything from pastels to school colors (orange and yellow) to baseball and basketball prints to the movies *Frozen* and *Cars*, and of course the ever-popular Mickey Mouse! Once we had bagged them all, I contacted my friend at Project Linus and she came and picked them up. We were able to make a grand total of 372 blankets! The Project Linus representative later sent me an email and said she was able to utilize our blankets in four different Arizona shelters in Tempe, Phoenix, and Mesa. We were so honored that our efforts had reached outside our city!

### Reflection

The students LOVED participating in the blanket drive. The only real downside or negative feedback we heard is that some students, due to the cost of purchasing the items, were not able to participate. I purchased additional materials, and we had several of our officers and their families volunteer to donate additional materials to help others. I think one of the biggest lessons the officers learned from this is that not all members are as affluent as others. It was eye-opening for them to see the differences in just our own school. We are located in a very affluent area, and we don't often see the difference in the demographics of our school. I think this was a huge experience for our officers. •



**Jayelee Dorris** is a co-sponsor of NHS at Corona Del Sol High School in Tempe, AZ.



To learn more about Project Linus, visit [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).



# COLLABORATION

Get fresh and inspiring ideas for your next project

## GLOBAL CLASSROOM SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

National Honor Society students at Hanover High School in Hanover, MA, collected donations of school supplies from both their school and OfficeMax customers. Over the course of two weekends, for three hours per day, students stood outside the store and collected donations while also keeping a donation box in the main



office of their school to encourage donations from classmates. Once all supplies were collected, they were packed into a box and shipped halfway across the world to a small, poverty-stricken town in the Philippines.

**Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand:**  
empathetic actions and wellness



## QUENCH THAT THIRST

The student council at Arbor View High School in Las Vegas decided to team up with The Thirst Project—a nonprofit organization that strives to end the global water crisis by building drinking wells for people in African countries. The goal was to raise \$24,000—more than any high school had ever contributed to the organization. By including donation incentives such as the assistant principal



cornrowing her hair, the student body president shaving his head bald, throwing pie in teachers' faces, and selling custom T-shirts, the lofty goal was reached by the end of the school year!

**Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand:** equity

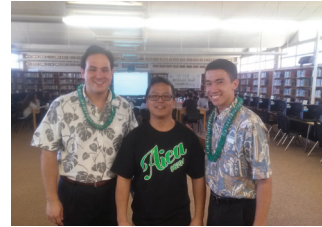


Use this key for help determining whether these projects could work for your school.



## LEADERSHIP CAMP

Summer is a great time to prep your leaders for the coming school year. Student council students at Aiea High School in Aiea, HI, attend an annual leadership training session during the first week of June to bone up on their



skills. During the first day, students learn the fundamentals of leadership. Another activity helped students conduct a mock meeting where parliamentary procedure and meeting etiquette was covered. Later in the day, the results from the school's Evaluation/Appreciation Day were presented by the secretaries. This gave council members a chance to review the pros and cons of each school event that happened during the previous year, and the chance to enhance future events. Later, students went to the gym for leadership-oriented games and activities.



## CARE PACKAGES FOR CANCER PATIENTS

The student council at North High School in Sioux City, IA, assembled and donated care packages to the June E. Nylen Cancer Center in their city so their efforts could provide a positive impact on people who were going through a very challenging



time. Each care package included a bottle of water, a snack item, breath mints, a bottle of hand sanitizer, a tube of lip balm, a bottle of lotion, a small notepad, and a pen. Students also decided to include handwritten messages in each of the care packages. The bag for the items included a message on the outside: "When it rains, look for rainbows. When it's dark, look for stars. From the students at North High." The council donated 200 care packages in total.

**Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand:**  
empathetic actions and wellness



# SPACE



## SOCK THE COURT

Here's a fun way to "sock it" to homelessness. Student council members at Millard South High School in Omaha, NE, decided to raise awareness at their school by collecting socks for the needy in their community. They picked an important basketball game during the year and encouraged all attendees to bring socks to donate. During the game, student council set up a table with socks they had purchased for people to buy for a dollar. At halftime, the announcers counted down and yelled, "Sock the court!" Then, anyone who brought their own socks or



purchased a pair from student council bombarded the court with socks at the same time. All pairs were collected, and the money people donated by purchasing socks was used to purchase even more. More than 500 pairs of socks were donated!

**Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand:** awareness/perspectives



## A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY

NHS members at Isabella High School in Maplesville, AL, decided to restore an old family cemetery in their community that had not been cared for since 1981.



The cemetery's 33 graves were all overgrown by weeds and shrubbery. The project took almost a year to complete and required close to 500 hours of work, more than \$1,650 in donations, and more than 25 volunteers and professionals. Underbrush was cleared from the cemetery, some larger trees were cut down, a sign was made and installed, benches were installed, and some headstones were made level. All headstones were cleaned, and six headstones were professionally reattached to their bases after being broken.

**Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand:** empathetic actions and wellness



## PROJECT PLAYTIME

NHS students at Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock, IL, held two sports equipment donation drives by partnering with other local schools. Equipment collected over the course of two weeks included basketballs,



baseballs, tennis rackets, football pads, roller blades, flag football gear, and jump ropes. Students were thrilled to deliver the goods to needy Catholic elementary schools in the Chicago area.

**Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand:** positive social change



## A STICKY SITUATION

Armed with muscle power, plastic gloves, baggies, putty knives, and scrapers, intrepid NJHS members at Princess Anne Middle School in Virginia Beach, VA, overturned desks and tables in the eighth-grade wing and scraped seven pounds of gum from the bottom of the furniture. Despite the gross-out factor, the students had a great time laughing and exclaiming how disgusting it all was—and reportedly thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. The building's custodians were very pleased that more than 100 hours of their summer work had been completed for them by 60 eighth graders in one afternoon.



**WANT MORE IDEAS?** Log in to the National Student Project Database for thousands of project ideas from schools across the country.

[nhs.us/projects](https://nhs.us/projects) • [njhs.us/projects](https://njhs.us/projects) • [nasc.us/projects](https://nasc.us/projects)





# TAKE TEN

As a busy adviser, your time is especially valuable, so we've rounded up tips and resources just for you that only take 10 minutes or less.

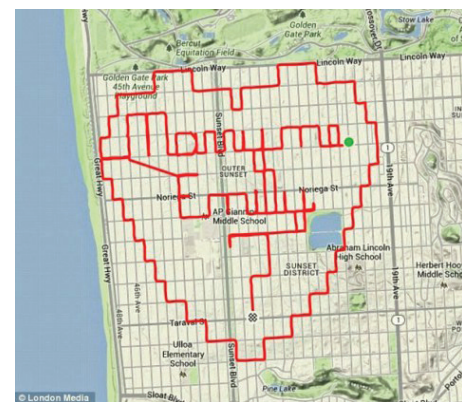
## HUG It Out



We've all had those days where just about the only cure to feeling awful is a tight embrace from another human. Luckily, we live in the digital age where the world's nicest people came together to create "the nicest place on the internet." TheNicestPlaceOnTheInter.net is a website that runs a loop of various kind souls from around the globe hugging their computer screens, and whoever is viewing by proxy. Get your virtual hug on—just don't squeeze too tightly!

## STEP IT UP

Summer is the season for getting back into shape. So, why not start with a relaxing 10-minute walk? Now you can track where you traipse with apps like MapMyWalk, Strava, and PumaTrac. Of course, the fresh air is nice, but there's something so satisfying about spelling a message over a mile or more around your neighborhood.



## #TUESDAYMOTIVATION FOR 10

If Monday has passed you by and you're still not finding the motivation you need to get through the week, it's time to take 10 and go searching for it. Start with a search for #TuesdayMotivation. In what some have described as a worldwide phenomenon, Twitter users from all around the world have devoted their Tuesdays to motivating everyone else with various uplifting quotes, jokes, stories, and pictures of feline friends demonstrating how to "hang in there" for the betterment of humanity. Before you know it, you'll be able to tackle anything—just as soon as you stop scrolling.

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

C.S. LEWIS

NASSP  
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## Strike a Posture



It may sound too straightforward to be true, but simply sitting with good posture can result in relaxing effects to your body and overall mood.

Good posture helps you take in more oxygen, which enhances performance under stress. You can start right at your desk: sit up straight, drop your shoulders, and breathe slowly and consistently. If you think it's becoming too easy, you're winning.



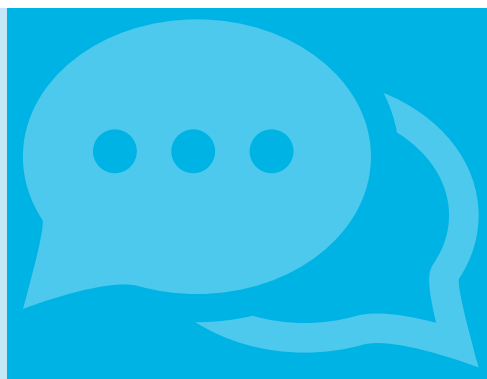
# Ask questions. Get answers.



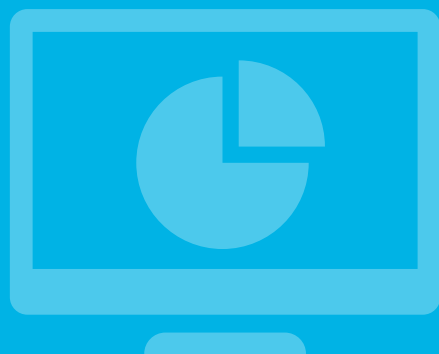
## CONNECT WITH FELLOW ADVISERS TODAY



The newly launched **Adviser Online Community (AOC)** not only allows you to communicate with other advisers to get tips and advice, but also gives you tools and resources to continually improve your chapter.



Great things happen when Honor Society advisers exchange ideas and share lessons learned. And now, there's an easy way to do it right from your computer.



Features of this powerful tool include discussion forums, a networking database, a resource library, NASSP news, and upcoming events.

### Sign into the Adviser Online Community today. Start exploring all it has to offer. Visit [community.nassp.org](http://community.nassp.org).



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## MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

How are your students #MakingGlobalChange?  
Join student council and Honor Society chapter  
members around the world in the first-ever  
**NASSP student leadership initiative on global  
citizenship.** Tell your students to post their pics  
to Instagram and we'll help them pay it forward!  
Their Instagram post using #MakingGlobalChange  
could win \$100 for their favorite charity.

**Get involved and start  
planning today!**



GLOBAL  
CITIZENSHIP

STUDENTS CHANGING THE WORLD TOGETHER



**NASSP**  
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NHS, NJHS, NEHS, NASC are programs of NASSP.

Visit [www.makingglobalchange.org](http://www.makingglobalchange.org) for ideas and contest details.