

TO: Members of the Vicksburg School Board

FROM: Jennifer Rodas, Spanish Teacher/Department Chair

RE: Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica- (SHH)

Esteemed Members of the School Board,

The Spanish Department would like to implement a Spanish National Honor Society in our district, and we are asking that you, the School Board, approve this initiative. We would be asking for a national charter and would be abiding by their by-laws and expectations.

There are many benefits to being a part of the Spanish Honor Society such as:

- **College scholarships**
- **Travel scholarships**
- **There is access to information for students**
- **Optional testing for students to take to verify proficiency as well as qualify for scholarships.**
- **Motivation to get involved outside the classroom in the Hispanic community**

Here is some information taken from their website, as well as a link to their website:

<https://www.aatsp.org/page/SHHoverview>

<https://www.aatspshh.org/>

The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH) is an honor society for high school students enrolled in Spanish and/or Portuguese, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

The SHH was formally organized as the Spanish National Honor Society in 1953. The name was changed to Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica in 1959. At present there are more than 2,900 national and international chapters of the SHH.

The mission of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is to recognize high school achievement in Spanish and Portuguese and to promote interest in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian studies.

All accredited secondary schools are eligible to charter a chapter.

Chapter sponsors must be active members of the AATSP. REMINDERS: AATSP memberships are for the calendar year: January 1 through December 31. To join the AATSP or to renew your membership, please visit www.aatsp.org

Any secondary school student who has maintained an honor average in the study of Spanish or Portuguese for a minimum of three semesters and is in the 10th grade or higher is eligible to be a member of the SHH. The definition of "honor grade" is left to the discretion of each chapter. It should be remembered that the SHH is an honor society for those students of high academic achievement.

In the spirit of our mission, each year the SHH contributes more than \$160,000 in awards to student members of the SHH. The most prestigious of the awards are college scholarships given to 60 high school senior SHH members and the Student Travel Awards given to 24 high school junior SHH members.

With approval from the School Board, students who meet the expectations of the Spanish National Honor Society would be able to wear special graduation cords. Their graduation cords would be yellow and red, the colors of the association. We will have a volunteer component, a GPA expectation, as well as a minimum requirement of language classes that must be taken. The specific expectations would be set by the World Language Department upon approval of the School Board and upon acceptance of our request for a charter to the national association. We anticipate having slightly higher expectations than the national requirements.

The national requirements are:

1. Maintaining an honor average in the study of Spanish or Portuguese for a minimum of three semesters and is in the 10th grade or higher
 - a. The definition of “honor grade” is left to the discretion of each chapter

This would be the minimum for entry into the organization, however, as a department we will determine the requirements that encourage students to accomplish what we feel is beneficial for them as a member of the organization.

Ideally, we would like to induct our first chapter of members for the 2019-2020 school year, so this school year, for students who have already taken the necessary classes and have met the required GPA. They would have to meet the volunteer requirements. We understand if the school board feels as though inducting these students might be too soon, we would set everything up to have our first group of inductees for the 2020-2021 school year.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request. We really feel that this could also be an added benefit and motivation for students to continue language learning. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Rodas with questions.

Thank you for your time.

The World Language Department