

## **National Honor Society—North Sound Christian/Mountlake Terrace Chapter**

By Elisabeth Tissell, NSCS NHS Chapter President

The National Honor Society, founded in 1921, seeks to promote the four qualities of character, scholarship, leadership, and service among high school students. The Mountlake Terrace campus chapter embraces these four criteria through the election of four vice-presidents, one to preside over each quality, along with a chapter president, a stenographer, and a treasurer. To be eligible for NHS, a student must have a minimum GPA of 3.2 as well as multiple teacher recommendations. This chapter consists of sophomores, juniors, and seniors (as freshman year grades determine entrance eligibility).

At the Mountlake Terrace campus, the chief activities of NHS are the annual Academic Oscars and student tutoring. The Academic Oscars is a yearly awards ceremony honoring high school students for excellence in specific subjects. Teachers nominate students who show passion and strength in a particular area and three to five students are nominated per subject. Students with a 4.0 GPA and those on honor roll also receive certificates and/or trophies for their academic excellence. NHS honors these Oscar candidates by making locker decorations proclaiming their nomination and hosting the evening awards ceremony. The heads of the departments present the Oscars, and each student is highlighted as to the reason for their nomination. The winners are given a trophy and the other contenders receive a ribbon in recognition of their hard work and talents. NHS takes great pride in honoring these diligent students and promoting academic excellence.

Another way that NHS encourages the development of leadership, service, character, and scholarship among the students is through tutoring. NHS members participate in one-on-one tutoring, study groups, and tutorials in an effort to use their academic gifts to help others. Each member fills out a form defining their academic strengths and is then assigned to one form of tutoring. NHS sees tutoring as an opportunity to serve the school and for members to exhibit leadership among their peers. NHS members are held to a higher standard than the general student body, and failure to uphold the values of the Society can result in expulsion. National Honors Society is more than a fancy club to write on college applications; it's a group of leaders dedicated to serving others with their God-given gifts and abilities.