



## Literacy Standards and Near-Peer Learning

### *The Watson Anthology Project*

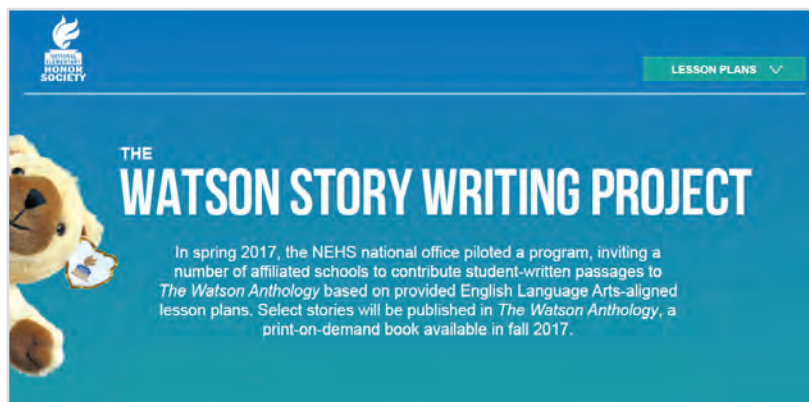
Before the end of this year, *The Watson Anthology*, a collection of select NEHS chapter members' stories featuring beloved NEHS mascot Watson the bear, will be available as an on-demand publication through the NEHS online store.

#### But what is *The Watson Anthology*?

In spring 2017, NEHS began a pilot program inviting a select number of affiliated schools to contribute passages to *The Watson Anthology*. A total of 96 chapters participated, with 424 stories submitted describing how Watson comes to understand and teach others about the four pillars of NEHS: scholarship, responsibility, service, and leadership. Through the writing of these stories, chapter members gained valuable literacy skills and developed their leadership capabilities.

#### Mastery of Literacy Standards

A goal of the pilot program was to advance students' mastery of literacy standards through engagement with flexible lesson plans. The lesson plans were created to align with each of the NEHS pillars as well as with Common Core ELA Standards and ASCA's K–12 college- and career-readiness standards. Each plan can be tailored to the needs of



students—whether they are in NEHS or not—and takes them through the writing process at various stages. Students learn to craft a narrative based on a writing prompt which ties back to a specific NEHS pillar, and then proofread and reflect on their writing. Opportunities for students to extend their learning are also built in and rigor can be increased for students at different stages, depending on what level of challenge they require.

#### Near-Peer Mentorship and Youth Development

Furthermore, lessons can be modified to allow older students to deliver content to younger students as peer mentors. Because *The Watson Anthology* features stories told through the lens of NEHS chapter members, the collection is an accessible tool for a near-peer literacy experience. Chapter members can use the stories to begin conversations with K–3 students about the pillars. These

conversations would come with reading exercises and reflective activities, which allow members to track individual literacy skill development in their mentees.

By focusing on youth leadership through literacy, *The Watson Anthology* can help create a culture of achievement at schools. Through participation in the anthology and providing near-peer support, a pipeline can be built for student success and academic achievement, which can help sustain and further define a school's culture.

For schools wanting to participate in a future iteration of this project, there will be an opportunity to do so at the start of 2018.

Great things happen when students have space to explore while learning, and the stories in *The Watson Anthology* show us how creative and thought-provoking students can be.

# ADVISER FAQs

**Q: I'm a new adviser and we have students transferring to our school who were NEHS members at their previous school. Does the membership transfer to our chapter?**

**A: Yes.** NEHS membership does transfer automatically from each respective NEHS chapter to another chapter. No student who has been inducted can be required to go through the selection process again. If a new student informs you of their membership at their previous school, please request a transfer membership letter from the previous adviser or principal. If members of your school have transferred to another school with an active NEHS chapter, please provide a letter of membership verification. Sample letters are available in the Adviser Resource Center on the NEHS website. Adhere to the national transfer

**In this issue, we answer your questions about NEHS chapter membership.**

policies outlined in the NEHS Constitution and *Handbook*, and contact the national office at [nehs@nehs.org](mailto:nehs@nehs.org) if you have any questions.

**Q: What is the selection process for new chapter members?**

**A:** With the start of the school year, many chapters are starting the process for selecting new members. As a reminder, all chapters are required to have a faculty council in place to consider new members. (See the NEHS Constitution for details.) A majority vote of the faculty council is required for selection (and dismissal, when necessary). For help, review the selection section of the *NEHS Handbook* or visit the online Adviser Resource Center for a step-by-step guide to member selection, including customizable letters and forms. Contact the national office at [nehs@nehs.org](mailto:nehs@nehs.org) with any questions.

## NEW THIS YEAR BE AMONG THE FIRST RECIPIENTS!



### NEHS Adviser of the Year

The NEHS National Adviser of the Year Award has been established to recognize outstanding NEHS advisers for their leadership and commitment to the purposes of NEHS. This year, the National Association of Secondary

School Principals will recognize two advisers as recipients. Each honoree will receive a plaque and \$250.

Principals from schools with an active NEHS chapter may nominate their chapter adviser for the award. All nominees must have been an NEHS adviser for at least three years.



### Outstanding Service Project

The NEHS Outstanding Service Project awards program has been created to recognize NEHS chapters that make significant school or community service contributions at the local

level. Five NEHS chapters will be selected among the submissions and recognized in December 2017. Chapters must have been affiliated with the national office during the project term. Projects must have taken place between January 1, 2017, and December 1, 2017. Only one project per chapter will be considered.

**Applications are due December 1, 2017. Details can be found at [www.nehs.org/awards](http://www.nehs.org/awards).**

# CHAPTER PROFILE

## “Gallop into Greatness” at Mary E. Bryant Elementary School

Mary E. Bryant Elementary School in Tampa, FL, considers having an NEHS chapter a point of pride. The chapter’s members are highly engaged fourth and fifth graders who take their role as student leaders to heart. Out of nearly 70 students chosen to apply to be in the chapter, only 15 are selected for induction each year. Those selected represent members of the student body who best exemplify the four pillars of NEHS—scholarship, responsibility, service, and leadership.

Adviser and fifth-grade teacher Donna Tippin discussed how exciting it is to step back and watch NEHS members work. “Watching one of our meetings is amazing. They’re very official. The agendas and meeting minutes the kids take on—and they’re so respectful. They know this is such an honor and they feel so privileged.”

Tippin suggests that NEHS advisers should allow member officers to take hold of and lead the chapter as early as possible, as the other members respect their officers as peers who are not in an adviser or teacher role. Letting the students lead is critical for them to fully engage in the chapter and make it their own.

When NEHS members at Bryant Elementary were given the opportunity to take charge, it became clear that service was of particular importance to them. The students have fun, but they are also serious about serving their school and community. Projects and activities that chapter members engage in are conceived by the students themselves. Among their many service-oriented projects, Bryant Elementary NEHS members have:

- Written letters to the military for the holidays
- Made place mats for senior citizens at a retirement home
- Created valentines for children receiving chemotherapy



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DONNA TIPPIN



They’ve even included NEHS’ mascot, Watson the bear, in a commercial they created for a book drive run by the chapter. The students’ written work will also be published in *The Watson Anthology*, which you can read about in the cover story of this issue of *NEHS News*.

An especially meaningful chapter project focused on faculty appreciation. Members wanted to tell all the teachers in the school how important they were to them, so they wrote cards about what a gift a teacher is, attached these cards to candy canes, and put them on every car in the faculty parking lot.

At the end of each year, Tippin has chapter members write what their favorite activity was and what they want to do the following year. Based on student suggestions, projects on the horizon include cleaning up a park, visiting a children’s home, and taking a field trip to a big cat rescue in Tampa. They plan on submitting information about their park cleanups as part of the National Association of Secondary School Principals’ student leadership initiative on global citizenship (details can be found at [www.makingglobalchange.org](http://www.makingglobalchange.org)).

“NEHS is a wonderful opportunity for students—outside of their academics—to be able to set goals for the betterment of the community,” stated Tippin.

With the full support of the school, parents, and community, Bryant Elementary’s NEHS chapter shows what students can do at any level when they are empowered to lead. True to their school theme, they are “galloping into greatness.”

*How is NEHS making a difference at your school? Email [nehs@nehs.org](mailto:nehs@nehs.org) about your chapter’s activities and you could be featured in an upcoming edition of NEHS News.*

# IDEA EXCHANGE

## IMAGINE THAT!

Here is a roundup of projects and activities you can discover when you search the National Student Project Database: [www.nehs.org/projects](http://www.nehs.org/projects).

### HAUNTED HALLWAYS

**NOLAN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
BRADENTON, FL**

In an effort to raise money for the American Cancer Society, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) students at Nolan Middle School in Bradenton, FL, held their very own haunted hallway event. The sixth-grade hallway had an "enchanted forest" theme, and the eighth-grade hallway had a "scary zombie" theme. Students and staff were charged a fee to walk through. The chapter raised \$2,000 for its charity!



### WAGS 'N KISSES

**DAGGETT MONTESSORI SCHOOL  
FORT WORTH, TX**

NJHS students at Daggett Montessori School in Ft. Worth, TX, are really the cat's meow. For the past several years, students at the elementary and middle school levels compete to see which class can bring the most pet food and other supplies to donate to the local Humane Society or to help supply pet food to families in need by partnering with Don't Forget to Feed Me, a pet food bank. Elementary winners get a popcorn and movie party, and middle school winners get a week to dress any way they choose.



## CANDY ELECTIONS

**FAIRBANKS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MILFORD CENTER, OH**

To help Fairbanks NJHS members understand what campaigning is about, the school held "Candy Elections." One day in early November, they held a pre-election vote to determine the favorite candy of all time among the student body. The choices of candies were Smarties, Tootsie Rolls, gummy bears, Laffy Taffy, and Life Savers. (Schools can substitute the candy for healthier alternatives, if desired.) NJHS members were divided into the five candy groups and, later in the month, campaigned for their candy. Members win the election by having the best positive change from the pre-election vote to the actual vote held on a Friday in late November. During campaign week, each group was allowed to have one morning announcement, hang posters, give candy samples, and demonstrate both positive and negative campaigning.



## CHILI COOK-OFF

**EAGLE COLLEGE PREP-SOUTH MOUNTAIN  
PHOENIX, AZ**

The NJHS chapter at EAGLE College Prep-South Mountain chose a fun, creative way to raise funds for their chosen charity. The project took place on November 4 during the student versus staff volleyball game. The chapter members advertised the event on the school Facebook page, sent an email blast to all school families, and discussed it on the morning announcements. Anyone from the school community could enter and people could buy an all-you-can-eat bowl of chili for \$5.00. The cook-off was outside of the gym in an area the school called the Hall of Chili. Four contestants entered to win the Silver Ladle, to be judged by teachers and staff. The chapter raised \$166 for Feed My Starving Children.

## BUDDY BENCH

**BISHOP MANOGUE HIGH SCHOOL  
RENO, NV**

A buddy bench is meant to be used as a tool for students in elementary schools to make sure they always have a friend to play with on the playground. The idea is that if a student has nobody to play with that day, they sit on the bench and other students are taught to make sure someone goes over immediately to ask that student to join them in play. NHS members at Bishop Manogue decided to make a buddy bench for one of their feeder elementary schools, Little Flower School. They purchased a bench from Lowes for about 100 dollars and painted it red to match Little Flower School's colors. They painted inspiring messages on the bench and presented it to the school. Although this project was conducted by a chapter of NHS for an elementary school, your NEHS chapter can implement it at your school as well.



**For more ideas and to submit your own projects, visit the  
National Student Project Database at [nehs.org/projects](http://nehs.org/projects).**



## HOW RESOURCEFUL—NEHS RESOURCE DIRECTORIES TO THE RESCUE!



### Need Ideas?

Do you need to kick-start your brainstorming on issues or causes that might interest and engage your chapter members? Visit the NEHS Adviser Resource Center at [www.nehs.org/arc](http://www.nehs.org/arc) and link to the Resource Directories in the toolbar above the tiles.

The Resource Directories offer lists, such as cause-related organizations and service and leadership organizations, with links to their websites. Browse the lists to open dialogue with your chapter

members and learn what may pique their curiosity or help further engage students already interested in a particular issue.

For example, your students may have a particular interest in animals. (What kid doesn't?) Under Cause-Related Organizations, you'll find descriptions and links to several organizations beyond your local shelter. The organizations listed under Health and Student Safety may spark valuable conversations with young learners about responsible decision making in matters related to

their well-being.

As you have discussions about various organizations or causes, you may also help students discover opportunities for them to connect and cultivate relationships with nonprofit groups.

Don't stop there! Once you've successfully executed a project, be sure to share it in the National Student Project Database. The database is a compendium of already-executed projects by chapters of the National Honor Societies and student councils worldwide. So, these are tried-and-true activities. The database is combed by advisers, just like you, in search of ideas. You can submit your project through an online submission form at [www.nehs.org/projects](http://www.nehs.org/projects). When making your submission, it's great to include any checklists, forms, or photos of your activity in action.

Let the Resource Directories and Project Database be the start of inspiring your members' hearts and minds.

**To access the Resource Directories, visit [www.nehs.org/arc](http://www.nehs.org/arc).**

## RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING SERVICE

### The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

program is the United States' largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service. Students from all over the country are recognized annually for their contributions to their community. Look for an application packet mailed to your school. Visit <https://spirit.prudential.com/> for more information.

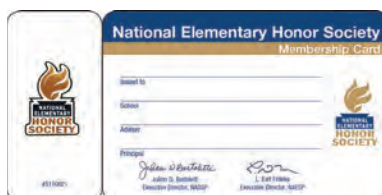




## GEAR UP FOR FALL

The new NEHS catalog is here, just in time to prepare for the new school year. Stock up on essential chapter supplies, check out the latest apparel for students and advisers, and prepare for induction ceremonies with official NEHS banners, certificates, balloons, and more.

Want to place an online order? The latest and greatest NEHS goods are always available for purchase at **nehs.org/store**.



## Tell Us Your Story!

We are always looking for chapters to profile or clever project ideas to spotlight. Consider sharing your experience for a future issue of *NEHS News*. Email [nehs@nehs.org](mailto:nehs@nehs.org) with details and your contact information. We look forward to hearing from you!



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## NEHS NEWS

FALL 2017

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



## We want to hear from you!

Calling all NEHS advisers—we invite you to contribute to a future issue of *NEHS News*! Tell your chapter's story on a national level or write about a particularly outstanding chapter member. Have another article idea in mind? Let's hear it! Email [nehs@nehs.org](mailto:nehs@nehs.org) with your ideas and submissions.

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Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/elementaryhonors](http://www.facebook.com/elementaryhonors) for  
inspiration, news, and  
tips. (And to be sure  
you see our posts, click  
“Following,” then  
“See First.”)



“Today I shall  
behave as if this  
is the day I will be  
remembered.”

DR. SEUSS