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NEHS NEWS

NEHS Chapter Profile History Repeats Itself

This summer, NEHS News continues its retrospective look at some original NEHS chapters in celebration of the centennial anniversary of its parent organization, the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

In 2008, Foulks Ranch Elementary School in Elk Grove, CA, became one of the very first NEHS chapters. Randy Stringer, a computer resource teacher, would go on to become its adviser. He describes the K–6 school of approximately 900 students as one with “high academic achievers who were also doing some community service.”

There, they observed that they had an opportunity to connect the dots—to prepare students for middle and high school, and possible candidacy in National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and National Honor Society (NHS), by offering its companion at the elementary level. In fact, those NJHS and NHS members often would return to their elementary alma mater as mentors, workshop leaders, and induction ceremony assistants.

“One of the great accomplishments of our program was our kids got to high school and they came back to serve as leaders,” he says.

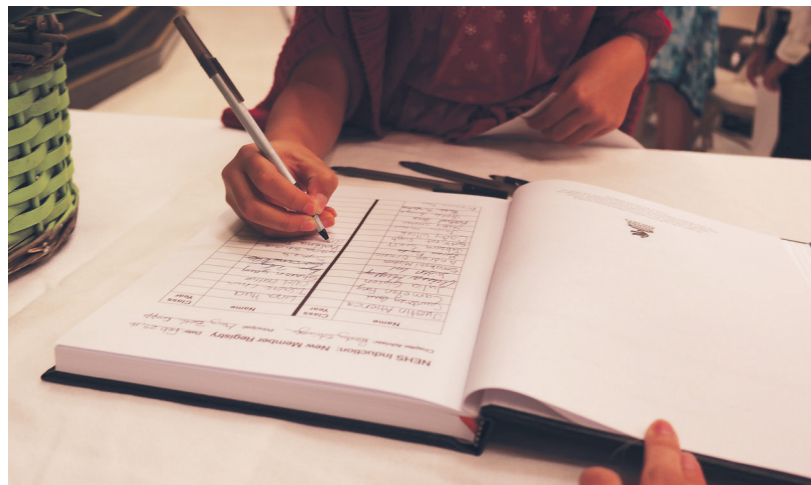


PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDY STRINGER

“They helped run leadership workshops. They’re part of the induction ceremony. So, it’s really been a great connection academically and service-wise.”

Fast forward to the 2015–16 academic year, and now Stringer is a computer resource teacher at Edna Batey Elementary School, a K–6 school of approximately 1,000 students, also in Elk Grove, a burgeoning community outside of Sacramento. This year, a new NEHS chapter launched at Batey. It inducted its first 103 members just this spring.

“I thought it was so rewarding to see what happened where I came

from and knew I would love to have the opportunity to start that at Edna Batey,” Stringer elaborates. “We know that the process is getting more selective for kids to get into college. So if students can show they’ve been involved in leadership studies and leadership projects, they have an opportunity for more choices when it comes to applying to college.”

He also says they’re working on their school motto at Batey. “The ‘why’ of our existence—one of the things that we landed on of why we exist as an educational facility—is to develop leaders. We had

(continued on page 2)

ADVISER FAQs

Q: Do members have to go through selection and induction each year?

A: No. Students remain members of NEHS for the duration of their time at the school or through the conclusion of sixth grade—whichever comes first. During that time, membership may only be ended through a member's written resignation or dismissal (in accordance with Article 9 of the NEHS Constitution). There is no yearly "reapplication" for membership or induction. See page 42 of the *NEHS Handbook* for reference.

Advisers should monitor members' compliance with chapter requirements throughout the year. If a member falls below the chapter's standards, advisers must follow the due process procedures outlined in Article 9 and in the Disciplinary

**In this issue,
we answer
your questions
about reapplying
for membership
and changing
advisers.**

Procedures section of the handbook. At no time can a "reapplication" process be used to end a student's membership.

Q: I won't be serving as the NEHS adviser next year. How do I change advisers for my chapter?

A: If you are transitioning out of the adviser role, please notify the national office by completing the online adviser change form in

the "Renew a Chapter" section of www.nehs.org so that your chapter's information is up to date in our database. This will help to ensure a smooth transition for the next adviser. The new adviser's information can also be included on the annual chapter renewal invoice. If a new adviser hasn't been selected yet, please share this information with your school principal.

History Repeats Itself continued from page 1

students focus on doing volunteer projects to be leaders, so once they go into middle school and high school they're more connected with the leadership structure there."

Taking a page from his experience at Foulks Ranch, the chapter activity at Batey will be structured similarly. "Fourth graders are kind of the worker bees," Stringer says. "They serve in community

projects. In fifth and sixth grades, you could be a project leader. You are required to serve on a project every trimester and lead a project one time before you were promoted out of sixth grade. So fifth graders were geared toward projects for our school community, and sixth graders were geared toward projects for our greater Elk Grove community."

His advice for fellow chapter advis-

ers? "Even though it's a student organization, you have to make sure that you get connected with parents and help parents see the value in it." At Batey, members report their service hours online, and "we really depend on the parents to help students keep track of the service projects, keep them organized, and help keep the reporting going for students." He concludes, "It takes a village!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDY STRINGER

IDEA EXCHANGE

These project ideas will help your students understand the importance of giving back to your community and boosting your school climate. Save them now for when you start planning next year's activities!

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE. Through their school supply drive, Global Classroom, the National Honor Society chapter at Hanover High School in Hanover, MA, collected new school supplies both from their school and the community. For two weekends, for three hours a day, members collected donations at a local OfficeMax. A collection box was also placed in the school's main office to encourage donations from classmates.



Once they concluded their donation drive, members packed the school supplies and shipped them to a small, poverty-stricken town in the Philippines.

Your NEHS chapter can undertake a similar project by identifying local schools in your area that may have student populations in need of school supplies for the upcoming school year. Local businesses may be willing to let students set up a donation area to collect supplies from shoppers as they exit.

ORIENTATION EFFORTS. At Linden Avenue Middle School in Red Hook, NY, 30 student council members act as mentors for the incoming class. Every June, entering students arrive for introductions to staff, an overview of student activities, a tour of the school, and an address

by the incoming student body president. To plan for this activity, surveys are conducted before the orientation to determine any concerns or questions the new students have.

The chapter plans its activities by assigning members to groups to plan the formal addresses that will be delivered during orientation, mapping out the tour, reading the surveys and developing skits to address any concerns, assigning peer mentors to each group, and setting up a luncheon for teachers to enjoy.

This project can be adapted for any grade level in your school. If your school holds an orientation for incoming students, talk to your administration about ways that your NEHS chapter can assist in welcoming new students (and faculty) to your school.

Tell us about your projects!

The National Student Project Database contains thousands of project ideas, and we're looking for more project submissions from NEHS chapters. Did your chapter undertake a particularly successful or unique project this year? Go to www.nehs.org/projects to submit your projects, including photos and descriptions of your chapter's activities. You can also tell us about it by emailing nehs@nehs.org for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue of *NEHS News*.



Before you close out the school year...

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OFF OF YOUR END-OF-YEAR TO-DO LIST BY JUNE 30.

Complete the annual adviser survey. The link to the 2016 national survey for NEHS advisers is now available on the www.nehs.org homepage. Your feedback is essential and assists the national staff with evaluation and planning, so please schedule 15 minutes before the end of June to complete this task. The results will be shared with all advisers in the fall. We appreciate the valuable input that NEHS advisers provide.

Renew your annual chapter affiliation. Annual renewal notices have been mailed to your principal's attention. Encourage your principal to renew by June 30 in order to ensure you will receive chapter communications and get your next school year off to a running start. Advisers are encouraged to renew online at www.nehs.org/renew. Questions regarding membership renewals can be addressed to membership@nehs.org.



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BRING THE NEHS MASCOT TO YOUR SCHOOL



Watson, the official NEHS mascot, is available to visit chapters around the country and learn about their service projects and other chapter activities currently underway. He'll even show up for your induction ceremony!

Watson is quite the experienced traveler and is anxious to hit the road again. After Watson visits your chapter, you are asked to submit a short report about his visit, as well as a photo with chapter members and/or the school principal.

If you'd like to have Watson visit your school, please email nehs@nehs.org. Include your school name and address, the purpose of Watson's visit, and the date of your event. Please provide at least two weeks' notice prior to your event.

You're Invited!

Your experience is invaluable, so all NEHS advisers are invited to contribute to a future issue of *NEHS News*. Email nehs@nehs.org with your ideas and submissions, which could include:

- Articles about your chapter's projects and activities
- Good news or announcements from your chapter
- Exciting accomplishments by your chapter members
- Advice you'd like to share with fellow advisers
- Links to news about your chapter from local media



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