

JAMES S. RICKARDS HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES HONOR SOCIETY BY-LAWS

Article I: Name and Purpose

- I. The name of the chapter shall be the James S. Rickards High School Social Studies Honor Society.
- II. The purpose and goals of this club are to promote social studies engagement among Rickards students passionate that have demonstrated success in the social sciences. The club will allow Rickards students to participate in service opportunities pertaining to the social sciences from internships to volunteer opportunities. This club will additionally be a platform for students to participate in competitive events such as (but not limited to) the National History Bee & Bowl, National History Day, and National Economics Challenge.

Article II: Membership

- I. Chartered Member (11th-12th Grade)
 - A. To be a chartered member for the club, members must demonstrate excellence in their Social Studies classes. With the signature of their social studies teacher, and the maintenance of an unweighted GPA above 3.5, a student may apply to become a member of the Rickards Social Studies Honor Society.
 - B. Chartered membership is only available to Juniors and Seniors. Students may apply for chartered membership at the end of their sophomore years. Being a junior member does NOT guarantee chartered membership.
 - C. Chartered members will additionally be recognized as official Florida Rho Kappa members
 - D. Transfer students that were members in good standing at their previous Rho Kappa society will be eligible to become chartered members of the Rickards chapter. This must be verified by the sponsor of their previous club or the principal of their former school.
 - E. Must be on a track to take 4 social studies credits by graduation.
- II. Junior Member (9th-10th Grade)
 - A. Junior membership is open to all freshmen and sophomores who maintain a 3.5 unweighted GPA and have the approval of a social studies teacher. The purpose of junior membership is to promote interest in social studies from the onset of high school, thus allowing students to develop potential passions earlier in their high school careers.
 - B. While junior members may be a part of the Social Studies Honor Society, they will not be recognized as Florida Rho Kappa members unless they are chartered in their Junior year of high school. This is because Rho Kappa requires all its members to be Juniors or Seniors.

Article III: Member Selection

- I. To be eligible to apply as a chartered member one must maintain a 3.5 GPA, must submit the application in a timely manner, and must receive the signature of their social studies teacher.
- II. Members that are eligible to apply will be notified.

Article IV: Discipline/Dismissal of Members

- I. To remain a member of the club a student must:

JAMES S. RICKARDS HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES HONOR SOCIETY BY-LAWS

- A. Maintain a 3.5 unweighted GPA
- B. Must attend 75% of meetings
- C. Must pay dues in a timely manner (unless there is an excusable reason)
- II. A club member may be removed if they:
 - A. Receive 1s on citizenship
 - B. Are suspended
 - C. Fail to maintain academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, etc...)
 - D. Disrupt club activities (at discretion of Sponsor)

Article V: Officers and Elections

- I. The club will have the following officer positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Historian. Additionally, there will be Captains for competitive events selected at the Sponsor's discretion for leadership ability and demonstrated ability in the event at question.
- II. Officers must maintain a 3.5 UW GPA, must receive good citizenship, and must be a Junior or Senior. Captain positions will be primarily given to Juniors or Seniors or Sophomores that have demonstrated exceptional ability in an event.
- III. Elections will occur at the end of each academic year. The final decision on whether to instate an officer will be at the discretion of the Sponsor.
- IV. Roles and Responsibilities of each position
 - A. President: Overseeing club activities, presiding over meetings, and representing the club at external events.
 - B. Vice-President: Performing the duties of the President, if the President is unavailable. Aiding the President in the completion of club tasks.
 - C. Secretary: Taking meeting notes and distributing to club members.
 - D. Historian: Maintaining club website and maintaining club social media presence.
 - E. Team Captains: Will be selected **by Sponsor** for performance at events and leadership abilities.

Article VI: By-Law Amendments

- I. By-law amendments may be passed with majority approval from Club Officers (not including captains) and approval from Sponsor