

## Inauguration Speech for New National Honor Society Members by Stacy I.



Good afternoon,

My name is Stacy Infante, I am a senior, and I've been a proud member of the National Honor Society for the past two years. I want to thank all of the faculty and family members who are here with us today, supporting the inductees. Your encouragement and dedication mean so much to these students as they take this important step.

Students, congratulations to each one of you for earning your place here — you've worked hard, and you've earned this recognition. It takes dedication and effort to have come this far. Being a part of the National Honor Society isn't just about academic excellence. It's about the responsibility you take on as a student, a leader, and a member of the community. As NHS members, you are expected to uphold the values of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. But those values aren't just words — they are actions that guide your everyday decisions.

The hard work that has brought you here doesn't stop now. In fact, it's just the beginning. You've proven that you're capable of excelling academically, but now you must prove that you can continue to push yourself beyond the classroom. It's about going the extra mile, exceeding expectations, and constantly doing your best, even when you don't feel like it.

In school, it can be easy to get distracted, to slack off, or to take shortcuts. But let me be clear: It's not cool to settle for less than your best. Mediocrity never stood out, but excellence does. The easy way out might feel tempting in the moment, but it's the consistent effort that pays off in the long run. Whether it's staying focused on your studies or volunteering your time — it all adds up. Every bit of hard work matters. And it's your overachievement that sets you apart.

To those of you who may still be working towards this moment, I want to say this: tune everyone else out. Keep pushing yourself. If you want to be a part of this society, let that desire fuel your drive. The key is persistence—never give up on your goals, never stop pushing to do better. In order to truly stand out, you need to want more for yourself. Make it your goal to be someone others can look up to. You all have the opportunity to defy odds, to make a difference. The world needs people who care, who lead, and who put in the effort to make things better. Never forget that you're here not just because of your grades, but because of your commitment to something greater than yourself.

As Nicki Minaj once said, "Don't ever be lazy, don't ever complain about hard work. Work hard, it pays off." That's the mindset you need to carry with you as you move forward.

Congratulations again to our new members, and I wish all of you continued success in your journey ahead. Thank you.