

## NHS Student Speech by Jonailie M.



Good afternoon, faculty, scholars, welcomed guests, and of course, our impressive new National Honor Society inductees. My name is Jonailie Medrano Hernandez, and I am a representative of the NHS and a student of the graduating class of 2025. This ceremony celebrates academic excellence and distinguished characters. Being considered for NHS is a tremendous honor, so know that your diligence and tireless work are acknowledged and that your acts of kindness are appreciated: You are seen and revered by many. Congratulations to you all. However, this does not conclude your journey. For the inductees, whatever grade you may be in; sophomore, junior, or senior year, although you have received your acceptance, the work continues. You all shall carry the NHS pillars for the rest of your high school years and beyond: Scholarship, service, leadership, and character: These pillars of NHS serve as a testament to the commitment we owe to ourselves, our neighbors, and our world. To be an NHS member is to embody what it means to be a leader of true justice for all people: Let that be the drive for the work that must be done. Now, for the dreaded 3.5 GPA requirement. I know the stress that comes with having and maintaining a 3.5 GPA. Like I said, I am in the class of 2025; a senior: I've been going through it for four years. I especially feel the pressure with college being just around the corner, but it can be accomplished! My fellow NHS members and I have done it, so you can too! I cannot say that it will be easy though. There will be nights when you are studying for your classes when it seems hopeless, but I urge you to persevere through those hours. Hard work may be sour in the moment, but once you see all that you've accomplished, reflecting is so, so sweet. Please, inductees as well as future inductees, do not let the GPA requirement deter you from NHS. Let it be a reminder of the responsibilities that you owe to yourself. Our high school years are meant to be years of self-exploration, self-development, and self-expression. So, no matter what that journey looks like for every single one of us NDCR students, let it be true to who we are. There will be difficulties with academics and social life and to put it bluntly, they will define who you are, but if you take the time to water yourself, you will bloom. It is never too late for you to change for you. To close, let me encourage you to pursue NHS with genuine interest rather than just adding another title to applications. In any context, your life is not yours if you do things for the sake of validation: You should be doing the work because it brings fulfillment to you; assisting those in need of grace is a bonus that comes from authenticity and

sincerity. Once more, congratulations to you all and may you continue to blossom into greater people. Thank you!