

# **National Honor Society Welcome Speech – 2012**

## **Joseph Cohen, Faculty Advisor**

Hello everyone and welcome to the 59<sup>th</sup> annual induction ceremony of the National Honor Society here at Huntington High School. I am Joseph Cohen, science teacher here at the high school and faculty advisor of the National Honor Society. Tonight, we will be welcoming 61 new members into this prestigious society. I believe a special congratulations is in order. Well done!

And congratulations to the parents and families of these remarkable young people. Your unconditional love, guidance, support, and encouragement throughout the years is a big reason why your sons and daughters are here tonight. Your efforts have definitely paid off.

Also, thank you to our teachers, administrators, and staff for their contributions and unwavering dedication to our students. I would like to recognize a few important and supportive faces in the crowd.

This is my fourth year as the faculty adviser of the Nathan Hale chapter of the National Honor Society, and every year, the passion of this society never ceases to amaze me. This past school year, the members of our chapter rallied the Huntington community to put together an extraordinary event. I'm sure our president will fill in the details. I would like to thank our current members for their continued commitment to service within the school and the community. You are setting a high standard of service for our future members.

For the 61 inductees being honored tonight, you were selected based on four criteria inscribed on the honor society emblem: Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. You excel in academics, but this only a part of the reason you are here. You have a fire inside that drives you to give. To give your time. To

give your knowledge. To give your energy to those who need help the most.

You do not sit back and rely on your ability to study and work tirelessly in your classes. That is not enough for you. You have taken an active role in your lives. You share the belief that the few can help to inspire the many. You are selfless leaders who give service to others without worrying about what you will receive in return.

Our chapter is named after a young American revolutionary named Nathan Hale. Before performing the most dangerous and courageous act of his life, he had this to say to a friend who tried to talk him out of it,

“I am not influenced by the expectation of promotion or pecuniary reward. I wish to be useful, and every kind of service necessary for the public good, becomes honorable by being necessary.”

Of course, he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, but it is his spirit of doing that which was popular that allowed him to show his true character. Do those deeds that do not return glory, and that may not return praise. I know this is a quality which all of you share.

I look forward to this upcoming year and working with you as new members of the National Honor Society.

Now, I would like to ask our president, Nicole Smoot, to say a few words. Thank you.