

**John Foster Dulles Chapter
Mu Alpha Theta
By-laws**

Article 1. Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this organization is to promote scholarship in, and enjoyment and understanding of, mathematics among students at John Foster Dulles High School (herein referred to as “DHS”).

Article 2. Name

Section 1. The name of this chapter shall be the John Foster Dulles High School chapter of Mu Alpha Theta (hereinafter referred to as “the chapter”).

Article 3. Sponsor(s)

Section 1. The organization shall at all times have a designated sponsor(s).

Section 2. The national Mu Alpha Theta Secretary-Treasurer must be kept informed of the current sponsor(s)'s name and email address.

Article 4. Membership

Section 1. Members are classified as Full or Associate members. All members are entitled to attend and be heard at meetings of the chapter and are entitled to vote on questions of national policy.

Section 2. Full members are high school students in grades 9 through 12, at the school where their permanent record resides, who have completed four semesters of college preparatory mathematics (Algebra I and Geometry) and have completed or are enrolled in a fifth semester of honors level mathematics (Algebra II or higher), provided that this work has been done with distinction.

Section 3. Associate members are high school students in grades 9 through 12, at the school where their permanent record resides, who have completed two semesters of Algebra I or their equivalent with distinction and who have completed, or are enrolled in, a semester of honors level Geometry or Algebra II. Associate members planning to attend the National Convention or compete in national competitions must be registered with the National Office.

Section 4. All members are required to complete their current math courses with a minimum of a 85 at the end of each grading period (nine weeks), with the exception of Calculus courses (Pre-Calculus, Calculus AB/BC, and Multivariable Calculus), requiring a minimum of 80. All members must maintain at least an 80 average for all other classes.

Section 5. All members must maintain enrollment in a honors level math course until completion of Calculus AB/BC.

Section 6. New members shall be required to go through a formal application process to become inducted into the chapter, the nature of which is subject to the discretion of the sponsor and chapter officers.

Section 7. Members shall demonstrate ability to work with others and to conduct independent research, and shall possess qualities of industry, initiative, and reliability. Full participation must be observed. Members must abide by UIL (University Interscholastic League) standards. Any infractions will result in immediate dismissal. If any disagreements should arise, the Appeals Committee will arrive at a timely

verdict.

Section 8. There shall be no minimum prerequisite time requirement for inducting new members.

Section 9. Any Associate member that meets the aforementioned requirements before a formal induction is eligible for initiating as a Full member.

Section 10. In order to be recognized as a member (Associate or Full) of the chapter, each member must have fewer than 3 demerits and accumulated a minimum number of volunteer hours, of quantity subject to the discretion of the sponsor(s), per semester of math-related volunteer activities designated by the sponsor(s) as appropriate.

Section 11. All members are required to pay annual dues in the amount specified by the sponsor(s).

Section 12. Financial assistance is available to interested parties and members who are economically disadvantaged according to criterion set by the sponsor(s). Request for financial aid must be submitted to the sponsor(s) and will be handled on an individual basis.

Section 13. In order for seniors to graduate with a Mu Alpha Theta cord, each senior must be a Full member.

Section 14. No student will be denied membership on account of race, religion, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual preference and/or physical disability.

Article 5. Meetings

Section 1. The chapter shall meet regularly at a specified time that is agreeable to both the officers, sponsor(s), and the school administration hereinafter referred to as “business meetings”.

Section 2. For a business meeting to be considered official, the officers and sponsor(s) must communicate the intent to meet and meeting details including a date, time, and location at least one week in advance through a generally accessible medium.

Section 3. All members are required to attend all business meetings.

Section 4. Informational meetings at the beginning of the school year are open to all interested persons.

Section 5. In all matters of conduct not specifically addressed in this constitution, the chapter shall be guided by standard parliamentary procedure.

Article 6. Officers and Dismissal of Officers

Section 1. The chapter officers shall be the following: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, historian, and parliamentarian.

Section 2. All Inducted members in good standing are eligible to apply for officer position at the end of the school year through a readily accessible medium established by the sponsor(s).

Section 3. New officers for the following year shall be designated at the end of each school year by the sponsor(s) and all graduating officers.

Section 4. The term of office is one school year.

Section 5. An officer may be dismissed by the sponsors(s) for failure to do his/her designated duties or for failure to maintain the guidelines under which he/she was inducted into the society.

Section 6. In the event that a vacancy occurs, a meeting of the entire officer panel and sponsor(s) shall be called within four weeks of the time of the vacancy. At that time, a new officer will be appointed.

Article 7. Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the chapter. He or she shall preside at all business sessions, and it shall be the duty of the president to direct the activities of the organization.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President at times when the President is absent, and shall also serve as Program Chairman.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings. He or she shall, with the approval of the sponsor(s), certify the names of new members, forwarding these (together with initiation fees) to the national office before the initiation. Additionally, the Secretary will maintain records of members who attend tournaments. He or she will also keep track of the number of volunteer hours each member has accumulated.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall handle all money belonging to the Chapter and shall maintain an accurate record of financial transactions.

Section 5. The Historian will record all of the members who place at tournaments and submit the names and places to the sponsor(s) before the Monday of the following week. He or she is responsible for creating a presentation which will be presented at the annual year-end meeting.

Section 6. The Parliamentarian will maintain order throughout each meeting and during practices. He or she will also keep track of the number of demerits each member has.

Section 7. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and sponsor(s) will constitute the Appeals Committee.

Section 8. All unmentioned duties of any officer will be determined by the officer panel and sponsor(s) present at any officer meeting.

Section 9. Officer meetings can be called at any time by the President. At least half of the officers must be in attendance to consider the meeting official.

Article 8. Demerits

Section 1. Demerits represent infractions of chapter policy and on accumulation constitute grounds for expulsion from the chapter.

Section 2. Failure to attend a mandatory meeting as designated by the officers or sponsor(s) will result in ONE demerit assessed toward the offending member. Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the sponsor(s) who may designate the absence as excused if provided express notice and appropriate justification by the member prior to the meeting's conclusion unless the offending member has already accumulated an excess of one excused absences during the current semester.

Section 3. After each grading period of 9 weeks, the officers or the sponsor(s) will check each member's class grades. If the requirements enumerated in Article 4 Section 4 are not met, members will be assessed ONE demerit.

Section 4. If a member fails to provide the sponsor(s) with a valid record of his/her grades by the due date specified by the officer, the member will be assessed ONE demerit and be exempted from

receiving grade-related demerits for that 9 weeks grading period.

Section 5. Failure to submit the required hours of math-related volunteer service designated by the sponsor(s) within a date designated by the sponsor near the end of a semester will result in the assessment of ONE demerit toward the offending party. If the required hours are not submitted within three weeks of the aforementioned deadline, the offending member will be considered as having not completed any hours of volunteer service and will be assessed THREE demerits.

Section 6. Failure to pay dues outlined in Article 4 Section 11 by a date designated by the sponsor(s) will constitute an infraction and result in ONE demerit. Continued failure to pay dues can result in immediate dismissal from the chapter at the discretion of the officers and sponsor(s).

Section 7. Anyone found guilty of violating the DHS Student Conduct Code or Fort Bend Independent School District Student Code of Conduct will be assessed demerits at the discretion of the sponsor(s).

Section 8. The chapter sponsor(s) retain the right to examine the membership of any member at any time, nullify their membership, and assess or rescind arbitrary amounts of demerits.

Section 9. If at any time a non-probationary member accumulates THREE demerits, he/she is placed under a probationary status for three weeks. At the end of the 3 weeks, if the member continues to possess THREE demerits, his/her membership will be terminated unless he/she has scheduled an appeal meeting (as outlined in Article 8 Section 10) which has not yet occurred.

Section 10. All members are guaranteed the right to appeal once during each school year. At each appeal, the Appeal Committee will decide to terminate the appealing member's membership or to rescind ONE demerit, resulting in a the reassessment of the member's probationary status. In order to appeal, the member in question must schedule an appeal meeting with the sponsor(s) within 1 week of the issuance of the 3rd demerit.

Article 9. Emblems

Section 1. Each member of this chapter shall be entitled to wear the Mu Alpha Theta insignia (buttons, pins, charms, shoulder patches, medallions, or t-shirts) available from the National Office. (Price lists and descriptions of items can be found online at their website.)

Article 10. Constitution

Section 1. Concurrence of a majority of the full members shall be required to accept this constitution.

Section 2. Any amendment to this constitution must be presented by a Full member in the form of a motion during a business meeting. It must then be placed on the table until the following meeting, at which time it will become effective provided it is passed by a three-fourths majority of the Full members.

Section 3. The local chapter constitution must not violate any stipulation of the national constitution.

Revised and Edited on December 12, 2013,

President – Elaine Ramirez

Sponsor – Ms. Sarah Cleveland