



Constitution and Bylaws of the Francisca Linconao Chapter

of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (*Spanish Honor Society*)

**Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School
Athens, Georgia**

Written and adopted by Dr. KC Barrientos, Chapter Sponsor and Spanish Teacher at Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School, this 10th day of April of 2023, following new charter approval by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish & Portuguese (AATSP) on the 8th of April of 2023.

Article I. Name and Classification

Section 1. The name of this organization is the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, also known as "SHH." The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is a national organization.

Section 2. The chapter of SHH at Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School is named "Francisca Linconao," in recognition of the activist impact of Machi Francisca Linconao on indigenous and tribal peoples' rights in Chile and in Latin America as a whole. This chapter recognizes all bylaws of the national society.

Section 3. The purpose of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is to recognize high achievement in Spanish and Portuguese by students of secondary schools and to promote continuity of interest in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian studies.

Article II. Qualifications for Membership

Section 1. To be eligible for membership in the SHH, students must meet the following criteria:

- a) Be actively enrolled in an upper level Spanish class (Spanish II/II Honors or higher) at the time of induction.
- b) Be in the 10th grade or higher.
- c) Have completed at least three semesters of Spanish prior to induction.
- d) If transfer student, have spent one full semester in the program at Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School.
- e) Have an overall GPA of 80% (B) or higher.
- f) Have a cumulative Spanish average of 85% (B) or higher from all previous and current courses.
- g) If applying for Honorary Membership without formal Spanish education at Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School, have concretely demonstrated fluency and interest in Spanish through communication and interview with the chapter sponsor or through a minimum performance of 75th percentile on the National Spanish Exam within the last year.
- h) Have never failed a class due to attendance.
- i) Have a good behavior record with no disciplinary incidents on file.

Section 2. At every midyear point, the Spanish teacher(s) of the upper level classes at Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School will review the academic and behavioral records of currently enrolled students to determine membership eligibility and to renew

current members or invite new inductees as appropriate. Newly eligible students will then be informed of their induction during the spring semester prior to Honors Day.

Article III. Application and Initiation

Section 1. Beginning in the first full school year after the new charter approval of this chapter, the Spanish teacher(s) of the upper level classes will offer SHH new membership applications to all students who are enrolled in a Spanish class at Monsignor Donovan Catholic High School and have not already been previously inducted into the SHH.

Section 2. Potential SHH members will complete a form for admission to submit to the SHH chapter sponsor for consideration by the application deadline.

Section 3. The Spanish teachers and SHH sponsor will meet to confer on applicant candidacy and come to a consensus of the new members for initiation.

Section 4. The SHH sponsor will meet with the Assistant Head of School and/or the Head of School in the event of a record of a handbook behavior violation or disciplinary incident that may interfere with a student's eligibility for membership.

Section 5. Should a current SHH student member become involved in a disciplinary incident after the date of induction, the matter of eligibility will be consulted and jointly decided on with the Assistant Head of School and/or the Head of School. In such event, the minimum action taken would be a written warning to the student and their family from administration and the chapter sponsor explaining the possibility of ineligibility for continued membership. Further action would depend on the nature and severity of the disciplinary incident.

Section 6. Acceptance and congratulatory letters will be sent to candidates approximately 3 weeks before the initiation ceremony. Each congratulatory letter will detail the academic significance and requisites of SHH membership, forecast benefits for future college applications and opportunities, and explain expected ceremony protocol for the new member and their invitees to the induction ceremony.

Article IV. Chapter and SHH Awards

Section 1. Each year, the chapter sponsor will award the Certificado de Excelencia (*Certificate of Excellence*) to winners in the National Spanish Examinations of that spring semester and to the initiated member(s) with the highest grade point average in Spanish for that school year. Should there be members with identical grade point averages, multiple Certificados de Excelencia will be awarded in equal recognition of their achievement. The number of excellence certificates awarded is limited to 10% of current chapter initiates.

Section 2. Each year, depending on the availability of service projects for the SHH in the months prior, the chapter sponsor may award the Certificado por Servicios (*Service Award*) to recognize initiated members who have rendered meritorious service to their chapter. While the Certificado por Servicios recognizes quality rather than quantity of service hours donated, the minimum number of service hours for an initiated member to be considered for the award is 15 cumulative hours throughout the school year. These service hours must be logged with Campus Ministry through their designated system and with the chapter sponsor via the sample service log found on the "[Sample Documents for Sponsors](#)" page on the SHH website. The number of Certificados por Servicios awarded is limited to 10% of current chapter initiates.

Section 3. Throughout the year, the chapter sponsor and Spanish teacher(s) will keep enrolled students informed of external SHH opportunities for travel awards and scholarships, as found and described on the "[Student Scholarships & Awards](#)" page of the SHH website. While the chapter sponsor or Spanish teacher(s) advising the applicant may assist the student in the application process with recommendation letters or general advice and direction, any personal or essay-driven portion of the application must be completed by the student independently.