**Italian National Honor Society Constitution**



**Article 1: Name and Purposes**

**Section 1.**

The name of this organization shall be the *Società Onoraria Italica* for Secondary Schools (public, private, and parochial).

Ridgewood’s High School’s Chapter shall be named after *Leonardo Da Vinci.*

**Section 2.**

The purpose of this organization is to give recognition for distinguished achievement in Italian and to promote an understanding and appreciation of the Italian culture and civilization.

**Section 3.**

This organization is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI).

**Article II: Membership**

**Section 1.**

Membership shall be restricted to students enrolled in classesof Italian beyond Italian 3.

**Section 2.**

Candidates must have achieved an average of 89% or above in Italian for the previous levels prior to the invitation. Also, they must have maintained a general scholarship (GPA) of 3.2 or above.

**Section 3.**

The number of candidates shall not exceed 30% of the students enrolled in Italian at the time of the election.

**Section 4.**

Italian instructors of each school chapter must be members of the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI).

**Section 5.**

Students may continue their active membership for one year after the termination of their study of Italian.

**Section 6.**

 A chapter which does not submit a list of initiates during a period of two years may be considered inactive. To regain active status, the chapter must resubmit an application accompanied by the fee which shall be the same as the original charter fee.

**Article III: Administration**

**Section 1.**

 The national officers of the organization shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

Ridgewood’s officers shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

**Section 2.**

The president of the Società Onoraria Italica shall act as liason officer with the American Association of Teachers of Italian, shall promote Italian culture, and shall be responsible for the welfare of the organization. The position of the president is subject to yearly term limits. The president shall also oversee all INHS events, organize weekly meetings, and follow all guidelines of this constitution.

**Section 3.**

The secretary and treasurer of the *Società Onoraria Italica* shall keep accurate records of the chapter, its members (attendance) and activities, maintain an up-to-date website, collect and manage fees, and manage all the expenses. The secretary and treasurer shall render annual accounting of the financial status of the organization to the president, vice-president, and advisor.

**Article IV: Recognition**

**Benefits of the *Società Onoraria Italica* are as follows:**

1. Students receive a certificate of membership, a pin, and/or a medal.
2. Newly elected members are published in the AATI newsletter and in the local newspaper.
3. Instructors may place a photograph of members in the yearbook.
4. Counselors include membership on student’s transcript.
5. Schools honor the new members at an induction ceremony.
6. The Italian instructor(s) presents and award to the Outstanding Student of Italian at the Awards Assembly.

**Article V: Amendments**

1. If a member of the *Società Onoraria Italica* does not maintain an average of 89% or above, the Italian instructor may terminate the student’s membership.
2. Suggestions for amendments may be submitted to the president of the Società Onoraria Italica.

**II. Electing New Members**

1. Candidates must be enrolled in the third semester of Italian courses or above at the time of election.
2. Candidates must have an average of 89% or above in the study of Italian.
3. Candidates must have an overall scholarship average of at least 80% at the time of election.

**III. Activities**

**1. Cultural:**

a. Organize an induction ceremony that carries a cultural component.

b. Arrange meetings with guest speakers on cultural topics.

c. Plan excursions to museums, special libraries, theaters, monuments, etc.

d. Coordinate discussion sessions on cultural topics.

 e. View films on Italy and Italian civilization.

**2. Social:**

a. Plan and conduct regular meetings.

b. Conduct an induction ceremony.

c. Organize school gatherings/outings or inter-chapter gatherings with members of near-by schools.

**3. Service:**

a. Members shall engage in at least one community service project per year.

d. Members should maintain an Italian bulletin board.