The purpose of National English Honor Society at DCHS, otherwise known as the Lords of DC—Pline (in honor of the late Pat Conroy) is to honor students who, in the field of English, merit special note for past and current accomplishments (minimum 3.5 average in English classes). Individuals must be inducted into Society membership, and immediate benefits of affiliation will be national recognition, scholarship eligibility, and opportunities for national networking with others who share enthusiasm for, and accomplishment in, the language arts.

The NEHS motto, "gelast sceal mid are," is Old English for: "duty goes with honor." The motto represents one of the earliest forms of our language—it affirms and celebrates an obligation to use one's gifts in service to others. Service to peers, school, and community is part and parcel of the NEHS mission—and, indeed, in the grammatical structure of the Old English phrase, "duty" actually precedes "honor."