

WAYSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Wayside Middle School, in order to create and maintain a wholesome understanding and cooperation between the members of the student body and the faculty, and to foster an interest in school work, spirit, and pride, do ordain and establish this constitution of the Student Council of Wayside Middle School.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The Name of this organization shall be: Wayside Middle School Student Council

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

1. To unify all student organizations.
2. To aid in the positive attitudes of students and community members.
3. To foster positive student-teacher and peer relationships.
4. To assist in the promotion of general activities of the school.
5. To represent the interests of the entire student body, and faculty.
6. To review and respond to feedback of the student body, and faculty.
7. To act as liaison to the school administration and/or School Committee, when it becomes necessary for issues to be addressed at this level.
8. To provide aid to the students, the school and the community
9. To host school functions. These functions may include, but are not limited to: assemblies, fundraisers, dances, and teacher appreciation.
10. To sponsor a number of community service activities designed to bring the school and community closer together as a whole.
11. To create an atmosphere that promotes student involvement in both the Student Council and other student organizations.

ARTICLE III

POWERS

Section 2: Members

- All members in good standing are given one vote in all voting situations. Voting situations may include, but are not limited to: approval of activities; approval of functions; changes made to standing functions or activities; and approval of new ideas.
- All members have the right to make suggestions for functions, meetings, and activities.

Section 3: Officers and Committee Chairs

- All officers and committee chairs are given one vote in all voting situations that are presented.
- All officers and committee chairs have the right to make suggestions for functions, meetings, and activities that will then be voted on.

- All officers and committee chairs have the right to represent the goals and ambitions of the Wayside Middle School Student Council and make executive decisions when a full meeting of the Wayside Middle School Student Council is not possible.

Section 4: Advisers

- Wayside Middle School Student Council adviser(s) are given the authority to supervise the administration of activities, meetings, and planning.
- Wayside Middle School Student Council adviser(s) are given the authority to veto any activity, decision, idea, etc.
- Wayside Middle School Student Council adviser(s) have the right to make suggestions for functions, meetings, and activities that will then be voted on by the Wayside Middle School Student Council.
- Wayside Middle School Student Council adviser(s) have the right to represent the goals and ambitions of the Wayside Middle School Student Council and make executive decisions when a full meeting of the Wayside Middle School Student Council or a meeting of the officers/committee chairs is not possible.
- Wayside Middle School Student Council adviser(s) are given the authority over all Wayside Middle School money, budget, and accounts.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: General Membership

- Membership of Student Council is offered to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders.
- Elections for officers will normally occur in the spring for membership in the following school year
- Those interested in being in Student Council will sign-up, during a set time frame, and return a signed permission form.
 - At the end of the sign-up time frame, the names on the sign-up sheet that have returned the permission form will be recommended for Student Council.
 - Each Wayside Middle School faculty member may be presented with a list that will include all candidates for all grade levels. Each faculty member will have the opportunity to provide either positive or negative feedback for each candidate.

Alternative membership:

- Members can be accepted after the selection process through a unanimous vote of the Wayside Middle School Student Council at a meeting. The vote will occur upon the request of the student wanting membership. Persons are considered for this type of membership by attending meetings and working with the Wayside Middle School Student Council in activities for at least two months. These persons will be considered based

on merit and worth to the Wayside Middle School Student Council. Faculty feedback can be used in this membership selection process.

- Membership into student council can also be granted to those students who move/transfer into the Wayside Middle School campus if the student served on student council at their former school. A letter/email confirmation from the former principal or adviser may be requested before membership is granted. General membership will be granted, but officer positions will not be recognized. Transfer members must meet with the Wayside Middle School standards, and are held to the regulations set forth by the adviser(s), director(s), and this document.

Section 2: Grades

- All members of the student council must maintain a passing average of (70) in all classes.

Section 3: Officers:

- The Wayside Middle School Student Council will have five officers. There shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. If for some reason the person elected cannot serve his/ her term, there shall be a nomination of an elected representative who meets the election qualifications, and an election will be held within the Student Council. However, if the President is unable to complete his/her term, the Vice-President will assume the role of President and election will be held for the position of Vice-President using the above-mentioned process.

Section 4: Criteria for becoming an officer:

- Only 7th and 8th graders are eligible to run for office
- In order to run for an office, students must have been an active, eligible member of student council for at least one (1) year, with the exception of President. This candidate must have been an active, eligible member of the Wayside Middle School Student Council for two (2) years. Students that transferred into Wayside Middle School from other schools during these years may run for President on a case-by-case basis approved by the Advisor(s).
- 8th graders who have not served at least one year prior to election to an officer position may be considered if there are not enough seasoned 8th graders to fill the offices. These exceptions are made by the Wayside Middle School Student Council Advisor(s).

Section 5: Officer Positions and responsibilities:

o President –

- Serve as the head of their organization
- Will (jointly with the Vice President) run meetings.
- Will be the “face” of their organization to the principal, faculty, and student body
- Oversee all other officers, to ensure their duties are being fulfilled

- When necessary, initiate voting on Student Council matters
 - Lead the execution of activities and functions
 - Attend all student council events
- o Vice President –
 - Serve as the head of the organization when the president is unavailable
 - Will assist in running meetings
 - Be responsible for overseeing the Presidents of their council, to ensure their duties are being fulfilled
 - When necessary, fill in for the president of their council
 - Help in the execution of activities and functions.
 - Attend all student council events
- o Secretary –
 - Will take notes at each meeting and deliver their notes to an adviser at the meeting's conclusion.
 - Will, when needed, help the advisors with paperwork for the state and national levels
 - Help in the execution of activities and functions.
 - Record attendance at each meeting, both general and officers.
 - Keep attendance records for all members, and inform members when they have reached/exceeded their allowed number of absences.
 - Attend all student council events
- o Treasurer
 - Maintain current records of the monetary accounts
 - Approve the use of funds for committee projects with the assistance of the Student Council Advisor(s)
 - Attend all student council events
- o Historian
 - Maintain a scrapbook of all student council events
 - Submit all activities and events for school announcements
 - Attend all student council events

Section 6: Committee Chairs

- Committee Chairs can be 6th, 7th, or 8th grade members.
- Committee Chair Responsibilities:
 - o Assisting the officers and advisors to plan and execute activities for their specific committee.
- Committee Chair Positions:
 - o Community Service
 - o DASH (Drugs, Alcohol, Safety, and Health)
 - o Energy and Environment
 - o Pride and Patriotism
 - o Fundraising

o Recognition

ARTICLE V

Discipline and Dismissal

Student Council will follow these procedures for Probation and Dismissal: ●

Probation

- Reasons for probation for a student council member are as follows:
 - Missing more than four meetings and/or events per semester
 - Major infractions resulting in disciplinary action
 - Not fulfilling duties required of his/her office.
 - Grades below a 70 in one or more classes
- Rules for probation for a student council member are as follows
 - Each member is permitted only one probation per year. A second probation will result in automatic dismissal.
 - The student council advisor will meet with the student and the student will be put on contract. If the terms of the contract are not met, the student will be automatically dismissed.

● Dismissal

- Reasons for dismissal for a student council member are as follows:
 - Repeated infractions.
 - Missing more than eight meetings and/or Student Council events per year.
 - Grades below 70 in one or more classes for two six-weeks grading period.
- Rules for dismissal for a student council member are as follows:
 - Dismissed members lose all rights and privileges related to the student council.
 - Dismissed members will not be eligible to run for membership in student council for the upcoming school year.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1: General Council Meetings

Meetings involving all members of the Wayside Middle School Student Council will be held once a month in a designated meeting area.

Section 2: Officer Meetings

Meetings involving all officers of the Wayside Middle School

Student Council will be held once a month in a designated meeting area prior to general council meeting.

Section 3: Committee Chair Meetings / Committee Meetings

Meetings involving committee chairs will be called as needed throughout the school year. In addition, regular committee meetings may be scheduled by the committee chair as needed.

ARTICLE VII

Provisions for Amending this Constitution and Bi-Laws

If the Wayside Middle School Student Council believes that this document needs to be amended, then the following procedure must be followed:

1. A meeting of the entire Wayside Middle School Student Council must be held where the problem must be addressed, and a solution suggested
2. Any proposed changes must be approved by the Advisor and Principal as appropriate.
3. The Wayside Middle School Student Council will discuss the change and vote on amending at the meeting following approval by the Principal or Advisor.
4. Three-fourths vote is required to make the change.
5. The Secretary and advisor are responsible making for changes to the official copy of the Constitution and Bi-Laws once amendments have been accepted by the Wayside Middle School Student Council.