

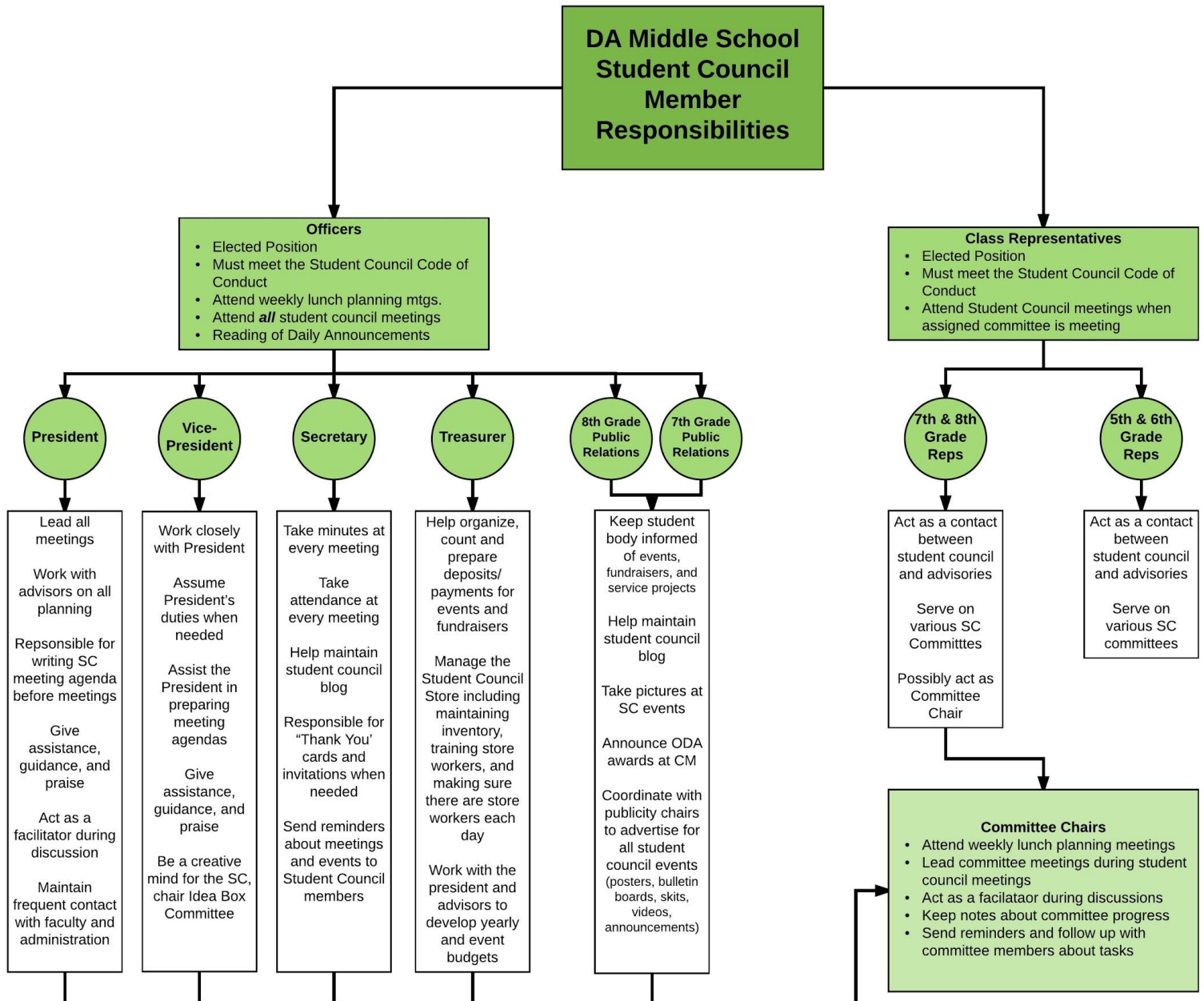
# STUDENT COUNCIL SPRING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PACKET 2017

## WHAT IS STUDENT COUNCIL?

The Student Council is an elected committee of student representatives from 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade who want to plan school events while working to strengthen and improve our middle school community.

The Student Council (SC) is lead by a group of elected officers from 7th and 8th grade. The officer positions are President, Vice President (VP), Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations. In addition, there are grade level representatives from 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Specific responsibilities of the various positions can be found below.

In the Spring Election, we will be electing our SC President and Vice President for the 2017-2018 school year. The runner-up in the election will be elected as the VP. If a student does not get elected as President or VP, he or she is able to run for one of the other officer roles in the fall. Runner-ups in the officer races will become 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade representatives.



## WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT OF STUDENT COUNCIL?

Student Council meetings will rotate between different class periods one day per cycle. At our first meeting, all students will have the opportunity to join various committees focusing on each of the major SC responsibilities and events.

The President and Vice President should plan to attend all meetings, including a lunch and recess meeting each cycle. **Because you will be missing a class every cycle, you must be a conscientious and hardworking student to participate in SC.** You are responsible for all work that is missed and should talk with your teachers prior to meetings to arrange any make-up work. A teacher may choose not to excuse you from class if there is an important activity that cannot be made up. Should you need to miss a Student Council meeting, you must check in with an advisor *prior* to the meeting.

**The President and VP will be required to be a member of the SC club during the first semester. In addition, you will be expected to do some work for SC outside of our meeting times.**

## HOW TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT?

### THE PACKET

1. ***Please be sure to read this entire packet.***
2. The signatures at the end of this document indicate **both you and your parents understand and accept the guidelines for election procedures and the Student Council Code of Conduct.**
3. You must get 20 signatures from students who support our run for office.
4. You must get signatures of all of your teachers as well as your advisor.
  - a. You should print the teachers' names and have them sign your form.
  - b. Please note: missing a class can be disruptive to your learning as well as to the class dynamic. When asking for a signature, please initiate a conversation with your teacher(s) to determine whether missing class is academically advisable for you. Being the SC President or Vice President is a large responsibility. If you are choosing to run, you should have good time management and communication skills. You will be a leader in the school for all students to look up to.

### THE VOICETHREAD

1. You will need to record a **video comment (up to 90 seconds long)** explaining why you would make a good President on the MS Student Council Voicethread. You can access the VoiceThread from the DA Middle School Student Council blog: <http://msstudentcouncil.edublogs.org/>
2. **If you are proposing any changes or making any promises for next year, you must get approval of your idea from Ms. Aitken or Mrs. Morris before submitting your recording.**
3. **There should not be any props, music, extra people, or special effects in your video.**
4. Your comments will not go live until Mr. Schaefer approves the comment, which will happen when everyone who is running for the office has finished their recordings.
5. This recording must be done and your form returned to Ms. Aitken (room 413), Mrs. Morris (room 411), or Ms. Mack (room 209) by **3:30pm on WEDNESDAY 5/17.**

### THE SPEECH

1. Presidential candidates will present their speech in person at an assembly on **WEDNESDAY, 5/24.**
2. **Presidential candidates will meet with Ms. Aitken and Mrs. Morris to practice their speech at an assigned time during lunch and recess on 5/22, 5/23, or 5/24.**
3. **Again, you may not use any props, music, other people, or special effects in your speech.**
4. The election will be held online in advisory immediately following the Presidential speeches on WEDNESDAY 5/24.

### HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please see Ms. Aitken, Mrs. Morris, Ms. Mack, or Mr. Schaefer (technology questions).

# MS STUDENT COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of the Student Council and an elected representative for your classmates, you should act as model citizens in our community. This includes working hard in class, striving to do your best, helping others when they are in need, and conducting yourself in a respectful manner towards other students and teachers.

**If at any point in the year it is brought to our attention that a student council member is not acting as a model citizen as described below, he or she will be asked to take a break from the Student Council for a quarter (this may be the remainder of a quarter or a full quarter to be determined by the Student Council advisors and/or the Middle School Director).** If the student is back on track by the end of the quarter, he or she will be allowed to rejoin the Student Council. In his/her absence, another member of the student body (someone who ran for office but was not elected) may be asked to take his/her place. If the officers and Student Council advisors feel this replacement adds significantly to the Student Council, he/she could potentially be asked to stay on as a member after the return of the suspended member.

## **What we expect from a model citizen/Student Council member at the Durham Academy Middle School:**

### **1. Attending Student Council meetings**

At the end of each quarter, all Student Council members are required to get signatures from the teachers of classes they are missing for meetings. This ensures that they are acting responsibly and keeping up in classes missed for meetings.

### **2. Being a responsible student**

Each quarter, the average of all of the student's grades must be a B- or above and all Habits of Learning (HOL) grades must be Meets Expectations or Exceeds Expectations. In the event that a student earns one HOL grade of Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory, the student will have one quarter to raise that HOL grade to a Meets or Exceeds Expectations before being asked to take a leave from the Student Council. This should involve a conversation with the teacher assigning the grade to determine how best to improve the student's habits of learning. A student earning more than one Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory HOL grade will be asked to leave the Student Council until all of their HOL grades are meeting or exceeding expectations.

A Student Council member cannot go on academic probation/warning at any time. If a student goes on academic warning or probation, they will be asked to take a break from the Student Council until they are off academic warning/probation. Students elected who are on academic warning from the previous academic year are expected to earn their way off academic warning by the end of the first quarter. Students elected who are on academic probation from the previous academic year are expected to either (a) earn their way off of academic probation by the end of the first quarter or (b) be halfway off of academic probation by the end of the first quarter and completely off by the end of the second quarter.

### **3. Following the anti-bullying rules.**

If a Student Council member is sent to the MS Director or Dean of Students for disciplinary action, the MS Director and/or Dean of Students will decide whether the behavior in question warrants being taken off the Student Council for a quarter or longer.

Student Council members must respect the honor code and the rules outlined in the student handbook. Student Council members should respect teachers, other students, show good sportsmanship, and avoid inappropriate behavior and speech.

# MS ELECTION PROCEDURES

The following are a set of guidelines for the Student Council election. **Students running for office must follow these procedures or they will be taken off the ballot.**

- If you are interested in running for office, you **MUST** attend the information meeting held prior to the elections. The time and place of this meeting will be announced during morning announcements. If you are not at school during this meeting, you must contact one of the Student Council advisors for information.
- Posters can be hung outside on doors, but should not be hung inside a classroom or on other students' lockers
- Posters are limited to 8.5x11 size and you may only hang 10 posters so be creative on them and pick your locations wisely!
- Be respectful. Do not cover or move other people's posters. If you find a poster has fallen down, please do what you hope somebody would do for you and neatly place it back where it belongs.
- You may **NOT** send emails campaigning for office. You may talk to people, but no additional advertising is allowed. This includes hanging extra posters, large banners, or handing out any items.
- All students interested in running for office must record a video VoiceThread speech. The speech should be a maximum of 90 seconds and be complete by the publicized date. Please speak with Mr. Schaefer prior to the due date and after watching the VoiceThread video on the Student Council blog if you have any difficulty with recording your speech.
- All election procedures and rules governing both running for office and voting in the election must be followed or your name will be removed from the ballot.

**\*NOTE: Campaign posters may be put up starting on FRIDAY 5/19 and must be removed by 12:30 on FRIDAY 5/26.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print each of your teacher's names and then have them sign to support you running for this office.  
\*If you have a study hall, get a signature from the teacher who proctors your study hall most frequently.**

Advisor:	_____	Signature:	_____
A Period Teacher:	_____	Signature:	_____
B Period Teacher:	_____	Signature:	_____
C Period Teacher:	_____	Signature:	_____
D Period Teacher:	_____	Signature:	_____
E Period Teacher:	_____	Signature:	_____
F Period Teacher:	_____	Signature:	_____
G Period Teacher:	_____	Signature:	_____
H Period Teacher:	_____	Signature:	_____

**Student Signatures who support you running for this office:**

1. _____	11. _____
2. _____	12. _____
3. _____	13. _____
4. _____	14. _____
5. _____	15. _____
6. _____	16. _____
7. _____	17. _____
8. _____	18. _____
9. _____	19. _____
10. _____	20. _____

**I have read all of the information in this 4-page document and would like to run for Student Council. I understand I will be missing a class once every rotation and that I am responsible for speaking with these teachers in advance of each meeting and making up missed work. I will do my best to be a model MS citizen in accordance with the SC Code of Conduct.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_