

SOUTH LAKES HS STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION

We, the students of South Lakes High School, in order to establish an efficient student government association, encourage outstanding school citizenship and school spirit, promote student and faculty cooperation, assure for ourselves and succeeding classes a better school, and keep South Lakes High School in good standing with other schools and the community, do hereby establish this constitution for South Lakes High School.

South Lakes High School

Student Government Association Constitution

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization representing the student body shall be the South Lakes High School Student Government Association (SGA).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The SGA exists for three general purposes. These are:

- A. To serve as an official medium through which students' ideas and opinions may be presented for faculty and administrative action
- B. To cultivate a positive school environment in which students have a voice.
- C. To promote the development of individual character and leadership.

ARTICLE III: AUTHORITY

Section 1 All powers of the Student Government are delegated to it by the school administration and/or the board of education.

Section 2 All actions of the Student Government are subject to review, and possible veto, by the principal.

Section 3 The principal shall appoint a member of the faculty as an adviser to aid the Student Government in its activities and projects.

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

The SLHS SGA shall be comprised of three groups: elected class officers from each grade (Class Councils), students selected for the Leadership Development Class (Leadership), and students elected from Leadership to serve as the Executive Council.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Section 1 Class Councils

- A. Members must have a 2.5 minimum G.P.A. as verified by a guidance counselor, to be eligible to serve on Class Council.
- B. Members must maintain a passing grade in all seven classes.

- C. Candidates with formal honor code violations in the prior calendar year are ineligible to run for office.
- D. Candidates must comply with all campaign requirements.
- E. Candidates must submit the appropriate application to run for office including the application sections requiring approval from the subschool administrator, the finance office, and the candidate's counselor.
- F. Candidates must sign the South Lakes High School Extracurricular Participation Policy and agree to abide by all rules and regulations governing Fairfax County Public School Students.

Section 2 Leadership

- A. Members must have a 2.5 minimum G.P.A. as verified by a guidance counselor, to be eligible for Leadership Class.
- B. Candidates must obtain signatures of five teachers who will recommend the student for a position in Leadership, as well as two written recommendations from SLHS teachers.
- C. Candidates must submit the appropriate application including the application sections requiring approval from the subschool administrator, the finance office, and the candidate's counselor.
- D. Candidates must sign the South Lakes High School Extracurricular Participation Policy and agree to abide by all rules and regulations governing Fairfax County Public School Students.

Section 3 Executive Council

- A. Members must meet the requirements for Leadership Class to be eligible for Executive Council.
- B. Candidates must have been a member of the SLHS Leadership Class for at least one year prior to serving on Executive Council.
- C. Candidates must comply with all campaign requirements.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Section 1 The Class Council members shall:

- a. Set the tone for and lead the class in planning class participation in class activities
- b. Conduct and chair Class Council meetings
- c. Develop and assist with conducting class fundraisers

- d. Identify and initiate a community service project that allows the entire class the opportunity to participate.

Section 2 Each Leadership class member shall:

- a. Work to engage the student body through planning activities and service projects
- b. Strive to develop a positive school climate
- c. Serve as a role model through his or her day-to-day actions
- d. Represent the views of the student body to administrators
- e. Attend all Leadership Class activities
- f. Fulfill the responsibilities of his/her assigned Commissioner's position
- g. Work to achieve the class' yearly vision and goals.

Section 3 Each Executive Council member shall:

- a. Lead the Leadership Class in creating a vision and setting goals for the school year
- b. Serve as chair for various Leadership Class committees and work with other student leaders to prepare them to assume leadership positions on committees
- c. Assist with facilitating class discussions and committee planning sessions
- d. Serve as the voice of SGA by making the daily PA announcements and by representing SLHS at various events
- e. Fulfill the duties of a Leadership class member.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS

Section 1 The Elections Committee of Leadership Class shall conduct all student government elections.

Section 2 Elections for sophomore, junior, and senior Class Council positions for the following year shall be held in May. The incoming freshman class shall hold elections for freshman class council positions by November 15.

Section 4 All students interested in running for an elected student government position must attend all mandatory meetings prior to the elections, unless they are excused by the SGA advisor. In addition, students must state their candidacy by submitting application papers to the Elections Committee and SGA advisor in accordance with guidelines published annually before elections.

Section 5 All candidates for Class Council must write and give an election speech. The full, written text of the speech must be submitted for approval by the Elections Committee and SGA advisor two weeks prior to elections. The speech shall be presented to the appropriate audience, either live or via video recording, prior to elections.

Section 6 A simple majority of all those voters in a particular election shall be required for the election of a candidate.

Section 7 Elections shall be conducted in the following manner:

- A. **The elections for Class Council** shall take place in May for the following school year. The candidates shall present their speeches and elections shall take place electronically over several days. Students shall only vote for candidates from their respective classes.
 - 1. Immediately following the voting, the Elections Committee chairs shall verify the vote tallies with the faculty member supervising the electronic ballot
 - 2. Prior to public announcement, each candidate shall receive a letter indicating whether or not he or she has been elected.
 - 3. The newly elected students for each position shall be announced and posted immediately after school the day of elections.
 - 4. The newly elected students shall assume office the following September; however, Class Council or SGA advisor may require certain newly elected students to attend meetings and perform duties beforehand in preparation for the school year.
- B. **The selections for Leadership Class** shall take place in February for the following school year according to guidelines published each year.
- C. **The election for Executive Council** shall take place within the Leadership Class in the spring semester for the following school year. All members of the current class, including seniors, are eligible to vote.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section 1 **Class Council meetings** shall occur regularly throughout the school year according to a schedule established each year by the Class Adviser and the Class Council.

Section 2 **Leadership Class meetings** shall occur each week on the designated Blue or Green day during the class period assigned to the class.

Section 3 **Executive Council meetings** shall occur weekly during lunch on the first class day of the week.

ARTICLE IX: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1 **Class Council members** who fail to fulfill the duties of office may be removed from office or placed on probation following due process by the Class Adviser and the Class Principal.

Section 2 **Leadership Class members** who fail to abide by the tenets of the Leadership Class Agreement will receive a warning that their behavior is not meeting expectations. After two warnings a student may be removed from the class for a third infraction following due process by the Leadership teacher and the appropriate Class Principal.

Section 3 **Executive Council members** who fail to abide by the tenets of the Leadership Class Agreement and the expectations of Executive Council members will receive a warning that their behavior is not meeting expectations. After two warnings a

student may be removed from the class for a third infraction following due process by the Leadership teacher and the appropriate Class Principal.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENT

This constitution may be amended if, having been passed by a Constitutional Revisions Committee in Leadership Class with a simple majority, an amendment is passed by two-thirds of the SGA membership.