

# Eric Xu Executive Secretary

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List any previous leadership positions or experiences.

I was a peer leader and a part of the leadership team in middle school where I was able to collaborate with other students from creating food drives to helping the homeless community.

I am also a teaching assistant at a piano studio where I teach children how to play the piano.

I was also the team leader for many science fair projects in the past where I worked with other students to create a quality project.

Why do you want to be a member of Student Council?

I want to be a member of the Student Council because I want to develop my skills as a leader and to be a role model for such a supportive community. So far, I had such an outstanding and unique experience at GSMST and I want to make sure that other students will also have the same opportunity to have an unforgettable memory of their time at GSMST. I believe that being a part of the Student Council will be the best way for me to become more understanding of other people, and use those skills to help my school and my community. At GSMST, I met many different people coming from different backgrounds, but they were all so supportive and thoughtful towards me, and I want to show support and kindness back to them. I want to reciprocate everything that the students of GSMST have done for me and give it back, and I believe that being a part of the Student Council is the most effective way to dedicate my time and effort to give back and to support the students by improving their experience at GSMST.

From your perspective, what is the role of the Student Council at GSMST and in our community at large?

The role of the Student Council at GSMST is to be a voice for all of the students and to share their ideas and to execute them so that every student has a good experience here at GSMST.

**List up to three qualities you would use to describe an effective leader. What leadership skill(s) is your strength? How will you use that skill(s) to benefit Student Council and GSMST?**

The three most important qualities of an effective leader would be dedication, passion, and communication. My strength would be dedication because it is very hard for me to give up and I always try to get stuff done. I dedicate my time to doing homework and dedicate my time to having fun with my friends. I will make sure to show my dedication in Stuco by making sure that each event is planned correctly.

**What would you most like to improve about your own leadership skills to become a better leader?**

I would like to improve my communication with other people because sometimes it is easy for me to focus on myself, so I would need to focus more on other people and how they feel. I need to improve on getting my message across as well as continuing a conversation with others.

**Describe an activity for a new event that Student Council could host.**

An activity or a new event that Student Council could host would be a talent show. It is true that GSMST already has an International Night where students could showcase their cultural talents, but there should also be an event where students can show off many of their own personal talents that do not have to be associated with their particular culture. This event does not have to be a contest, but it can just be a way for students to express some of their secret talents to their friends and to other students. There can be auditions to decide who gets to be a part of the show, similar to International Night, but the acts can be anything from singing songs to short theatrical performances.

**How can Student Council improve its communication with the student body?**

Student Council can improve its communication with the student body by creating more updates for students. There needs to be more of a variety of ways for Student Council to communicate with the students either through email, Remind, direct text, social media, or even being a part of the morning announcements.

**What do you think is the single greatest challenge facing our GSMST community and how can Student Council help to resolve this challenge?**

A challenging issue that students face would be burnout. Influencers can affect the decisions and actions of students. Sometimes, students can receive positive influence from them by feeling more encouraged and more motivated. However, some influencers can also provide negative influences such as distasteful entertainment and attention-grabbing wild behaviors. When students are under pressure, social media seemingly acts as a stress reliever, but in the meantime, it advertently occupies too much of students' precious time. In turn, it prolongs the students' effort and time on their schoolwork. Some students use social media as an escape from their responsibilities as a student. Then, it further degrades their performance at school, which can cause stress or demotivation. They will then seek more stress relief from social media, and this vicious cycle continues and can lead to massive burnout. What students can do as individuals would be to have self-awareness and to be an example to help others to pull out from this vicious cycle. Once students can properly balance themselves between their study and their social media involvement, then they can have a healthy balance of daytime activities and nighttime rest. Burnout is mainly caused by ignoring the physical and mental health of the individual, then the lack of sleep contributes to this mental health breakdown. In order to avoid this breakdown, we need to be aware of this vicious cycle mentioned above and support each other in raising awareness and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Student Council can resolve this challenge by encouraging students to partner up with another student so that they can manage each others time and get more work done together.