

ISABELLA SUN SOPHOMORE MEMBER AT LARGE

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- I was the team leader of an award winning team for the STEM club Future Cities at my middle school. I have also coordinated with teachers to arrange to mentor incoming teams for the next few years. Additionally, I was a part of STUCO in middle school; I was my class representative and kept everyone updated and aware of all upcoming events and changes that were made.

Why do you want to be a member of Student Council? Why are you running for the position that you are running for this year?

- I want to be a member of Student Council because I want to make sure that the students at GSMST have a wonderful and memorable year, even with our current quarantine situation. I want to make sure that everyone's voice and opinion is heard and taken into account in some aspect, and that everyone here really feels like they are part of our community. Lastly, I want to give back to this community because it has given me so many amazing memories and opportunities and has helped me grow as a person so much.

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

- In my opinion, the role of Student Council at GSMST and in our community at large is to represent all the students in the school and make our school the best environment possible. Student Council is responsible for making sure students feel safe, welcomed, and part of a community here. They do their best to help students deal with stress and make amazing high school memories by planning events and putting up posters and notes of encouragement.

List up to three qualities would you 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?

- Three qualities I would use to describe an effective leader is someone who is considerate, dependable, and outspoken. Being considerate and dependable are my strongest qualities out of these three, although I am pretty outspoken as well. I will use my consideration to make sure that everyone's voices are heard and their opinions and feelings are taken into account when making decisions. I will use my dependability to help ensure students that they can count on me to represent them. I will also use my dependability to ensure that other members of StuCo can count on me to do my part and be very involved in everything we do.

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

- I would most like to improve on my conversation skills. I am pretty outspoken, but the biggest thing that prevents that from being my strongest ability is my lack of these skills. I'm always willing to voice my ideas or the ideas of others, but sometimes the conversation following can get awkward, which is not ideal for a leader. I would like to become better at holding conversations that flow well and also stop using filler words.

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

- An activity for a new event that Student Council could host could be a workshop for middle schoolers that our students would run and mentor. There could be multiple different categories to sign up for; a few of these categories might include chemistry, engineering, biology, forensic science, or mathematics. This would give our students a chance to experience mentoring and working in a leadership position while also getting to teach younger kids something they are passionate about/strong in.

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

- I think Student Council could improve its communication with the student body by sending out emails or even creating a Remind class to alert people of upcoming events, workdays, and just general information. Since we are digital, a lot of students aren't watching the morning news so they may miss these announcements about things they may be interested in participating in. Even when in person, receiving emails and texts for these kinds of announcements would help tremendously and would probably increase participation level as well.

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

- As of right now, I think the greatest challenge facing our GSMST community is stress levels and low morale during digital learning. Something I think StuCo could do to help resolve this challenge is send out videos or letters of encouragement to students (along with candy if possible). This will help students remember that at GSMST we are one big family, and we all care for each other even through these hard times.
- If by chance we do go back in person at some point this year (or even when we go in person for PSATs), I think StuCo could give out personalized messages and candy to people and hand them out through advisement classes in addition to the pre-existing tradition of leaving generalized messages in the halls during testing season. I also think events should be planned after testing season instead of before if possible (for example, last year's Fall Dance was the weekend before midterms and while people had fun at the dance, it left a lot of people feeling a lot more stressed than if it had been after midterms).