

KATHA PATEL FRESHMAN VICE PRESIDENT

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- I was the vice president of Beta club throughout middle school.

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 help 9th graders feel comfortable enough to voice their thoughts. I feel like 9th grade students starting on this digital platform don't feel as comfortable to contribute their thoughts to improve the school. Due to that reason, I want to make sure they know that there is someone that will listen to their ideas. I am running for vice president because I want to be close enough to the center to be able to communicate with the student body as well as communicate with the rest of the members of Student Council. I want to make sure that the decisions carried out by the president are with regards to all sides.

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 enable the students to be able to communicate to the teachers and the principal. This can help to improve the school altogether and their experience at GSMST. The Student Council helps enable certain events and activities to take place that benefit the school and the students in different ways. It helps the community at large by making changes and improvements based on the changing times while also taking into account new ideas.

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 decisiveness, accountability, and effective communication. The leadership skills that are my strength is effective communication and accountability. I am very good at communicating my thoughts and being responsible for my actions. These skills will benefit Student Council at GSMST by making sure that I am able to communicate to 9th graders and other members of the school. This will make sure that I am able to effectively assist people based on their needs and also solve problems collectively. I am also responsible and accountable for my actions and decisions. If I make a mistake, I will accept it and make sure that I do everything in my power to prevent it from happening again.

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

- What I would like to improve about my own leadership skills to become a better leader would be to effectively communicate ideas that are not only my own. I would like to be able to improve my communication skills by making sure I can voice the ideas of others effectively. Not to mention, I would also like to improve my decisiveness and my ability to make fast decisions.

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

- An activity for a new event that Student Council could host would be collaborating with teachers and administrators and hosting a school wide event in which students teach fellow peers the lessons for that specific day. The teachers could sit and participate as students in the lessons. This way, the teachers can understand what the students are learning and how they are able to grasp and teach others those concepts. This could also be a very fun activity in which students can learn from their peers and make learning more engaging.

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

- Student Council could improve its communication with the student body by gaining close insight about the feelings that students have towards Student Council. This could be through anonymous surveys online, fostering a trustworthy environment, and also making the student body feel that their thoughts and ideas matter and contribute to the decisions that are made in Student Council.

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

- I think the single greatest challenge facing our GSMST community is students leaving GSMST because of the difficult and vigorous curriculum. I feel like the basis of this problem starts from the

general image that students and society paints about GSMST. Then, that mindset affects the students' performance which then drives their decision to leave the GSMST community. Student Council can help to resolve this challenge by helping students understand that despite the difficulty, it is possible to succeed and that it has been done before. They can do this by possibly creating a support system where seniors, juniors, and sophomores speak to students who are going through the same things they did. They can then, give insight on ways how they dealt with the same problems and overcame them. This can help the students' that are actually dealing with difficult times, feel better which can also motivate them to persist through the hardships.