

# Murtaza Kitbawalla Executive Vice President

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List any previous leadership positions or experiences.

I have held many leadership positions like being the Junior class's Member-at-Large, a Summer Stem Mentor, an underclassmen peer mentor, and am currently a rising club, Gwinnett Key Club's Vice President. I also hold leadership positions in National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society. Besides academic positions, I am also a teacher at my mosque's Saturday School, in which I teach 3rd-grade kids the fundamentals of Islam.

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

I want to be a member of Student Council because I can provide valuable information and perspective, beneficial to the Council and the student body. I have already served as the Member-at-Large for the Junior class, and I believe that my time as a council member will be helpful for the following school year. I want to run for Executive Vice President specifically because I can act as an excellent second-in-command to the President and still maintain and provide for the student body's needs. As a Student Council, it is our responsibility to work for the student body and listen to their wants and needs, and I will make sure to put forth my best effort in ensuring an enjoyable experience for the following school year.

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

Student Council's primary role at GSMST is to provide for the student body's wants and needs. Although we, as a council, cannot solve every problem at GSMST, it is our job to try and unite all students regardless of their differences in raising school spirit, generating money for future events, and creating memories that the students can hold on to for the rest of their lives. In our community at large, it is the Student Council's job to maintain proper behavior and integrity and uphold the beliefs and values of GSMST. We can make efforts to get the community involved in our events to truly highlight what makes GSMST so unique.

**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?**

Leading by example, communication, and honesty are three crucial qualities that would describe an effective leader, and I believe that leading by example and my communication skills are my strengths in terms of being an effective leader. To me, leading by example and being compassionate go hand in hand because it's so easy to make sure that the people around you are doing okay, but as StuCo members, it is even more vital that we lead by example because we are always in the spotlight. Whether outside of GSMST or inside school hours, we must always maintain a positive attitude and character toward the students because we want them to do the same. Communicating is also essential because by holding a position in StuCo, it is our obligation to properly listen to the students and even our fellow StuCo members to ensure that we are all on the same terms on moving forward or just handling a minor issue. Honesty is a trait that all people should have, but StuCo must maintain a high level of honesty because we need to be able to communicate appropriately and not be scared to shut down specific ideas while ensuring the best outcome for big and small events alike.

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

There is never a fixed point for a perfect leader, so I am constantly growing, but a common issue that I notice is that unless it is something I enjoy, I tend to meet the bare minimum on assignments, projects, and activities; I aim for the A and nothing more, and I have to switch that attitude. Although an A is good, this problem is more about my self-control and work ethic because if I can always do better, why not always strive for the best? If I can always meet the best level, that only means the best outcome for me and my student body.

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

Although it is not a new event, I think Student Council should hold another movie night like the one during our Covid year. Many people seemed to enjoy it, and it was very refreshing after all the negative aspects of the Covid year. It wasn't anything too hectic or energetic like a Class vs. Class event, but it gave some friend groups a chance to reconnect after nearly a year and just chill and

enjoy each others' presence. Movie Night would be beneficial to the students as watching movies is a lot of peoples' favorite pastime.

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

If Student Council hosted an event like Inside Scoop, but with questions for StuCo members, I think it could improve their connection with the student body. The ice cream gives students an incentive to come to the event, and they will also be given a chance to ask any questions they have and even throw out possible ideas for future events.

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

The biggest challenge facing the GSMST community is the mental health issue. Many students are burnt out, stressed, losing sleep, and are in a bad place, both mentally and physically. I understand that school is supposed to be stressful at times, but we have to make an effort to battle these struggles indirectly. Making our events enjoyable for students is crucial because that is something we can control and work on to better our students' mental health.