

# Neeshu Prabakar Member at Large

List any previous leadership positions or experiences.

FTC Red Robodragons Team Leader

Teens Tutor Teens Georgia Chapter Vice President

Medfinity Executive Board Member

GSMST Peer Mentor

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

I want to be a member of Student Council in order to truly provide representation of the senior class in many of the events/activities that STUCO organizes. This past year, I feel that STUCO could have done a better job taking into account the opinions of the student body when making certain decisions on events, such as ideas for the theme of Fall Dance and ideas for spirit week. I also want to make sure that any concerns from the student body are addressed to make sure that STUCO can improve from its failures and provide better experiences for GSMST students. For these reasons, I am running for the Senior Class Member at Large. The Member at Large has a duty of acting as a liaison between the class and the student council, which is what I want to do as a member of Student Council.

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

Student Council has a tremendous role not only at GSMST, but also on our community as whole. In terms of our school, STUCO plays a vital role in students' mental health and providing a necessary factor of enjoyment, as well as creating a positive school community that is focused on helping others. STUCO accomplishes this by organizing events for the student body, such as Fall Dance, class vs. class basketball, and many other events. In addition, STUCO works to improve students'

mental health through "Take what you need" boards and other enjoyable activities. As the student council at the top-ranked school in Georgia, GSMST STUCO undeniably has larger impacts on the Georgia community. GSMST STUCO sets an example for other schools' student councils through representation at Georgia Student Council, and creates a standard of excellence by intricately planning school events and executing plans to the best of their ability.

**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?**

An effective leader needs to have good communication skills. In almost all leadership positions, a leader will have to communicate information with other people, and this information needs to be conveyed clearly to make sure everything runs smoothly. Moreover, an effective leader should have good time-management skills. They have to make sure that they keep up with upcoming deadlines for projects and setting a pace for work to be completed, so having these time-management skills is vital. Most importantly, an effective leader should be a good listener. A leader cannot only make decisions based on his own thoughts and beliefs; he has to take into account the opinions of others in order to make decisions that will benefit the group as a whole. Moreover, they should listen to advice provided by other people in the group in order to improve themselves, rather than being closed-minded and believing that their own thoughts are best for the group.

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

In order to become a better leader, I would like to improve my communication skills around people that I am unfamiliar with. I feel that it takes me a bit to "come out of my shell", and I hope to be able to more easily start conversations with people that I don't know so that I can form more connections. I also want to improve my time management skills. I need to start setting schedules for myself and keeping a timeline of when certain projects/assignments need to be finished, in order to work more efficiently.

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

One new event that Student Council could host is class vs. class flag football. This would be a wellness event that would replace class vs. class soccer, and I believe that it would be much more popular with the student body. I have talked to numerous other people about this idea, and the overwhelming majority agree that class vs. class flag football would be a better option than class vs. class soccer for a spring activity. This event would be extremely simple to implement because STUCO can simply use the field that is currently used for class vs. class soccer and the school already has all of the equipment needed for this event.

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

Student Council can improve its communication with the student body by using more forms of media to notify students of upcoming events and activities. Student Council already does a great job using the morning news and their Instagram platform to advertise their events, but they can further improve their communication by doing things like sending emails and possibly using polls via eClass to invite the opinions of the student body.

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

I believe that mental burnout is the single greatest challenge facing our GSMST community. As student workloads continue to pile up, students need to balance out their work with enjoyment, which is something that Student Council can provide. While Student Council already does a great job of planning enjoyable events such as Fall Dance and Prom, it can diversify the events planned to reach more portions of the student body. For example, for students that might not find dances enjoyable, student council can offer other activities such as games during lunch that engage the entire student body. These changes will help to reduce the mental burnout of GSMST students and prioritize a healthy balance of work/enjoyment that students need.