

RACHNA RAJESH SOPHOMORE CLASS SECRETARY

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- I am a part of the Executive Board of ConnectWithGwinnett, a student-ran organization focused primarily on serving and helping members of Gwinnett County during this pandemic. I am the Sophomore Member-At-Large in our TSA, and I am one of the founders of Georgia UNO society, an organization that writes about issues we are currently facing to spread awareness and solutions to members of our state.

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?

- Being able to serve and give back to my community greatly affects me; I feel content and satisfied in that I am able to help someone out some day. Student Council provides various opportunities to brighten someone's day, assist someone with questions, and even provide moral support to strangers. I would appreciate being a part of this wonderful Council so that the work I do, whether it be recording data or gathering supplies, will always put a smile on one's face. I decided to run for Sophomore Secretary because I am exceptionally well at taking notes by keeping them succinct, and I am also good with data recording and managing tasks.

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

- Student Council primarily serves as a partner-in-crime with the students at school and serves as a body dedicated to spread love, encouragement, and leadership skills in our community. In our school, our Student Council is like the friend who has our back, who is with us when we are down, and who is encouraging when we are stressed. The Council spreads positivity and prevents adversity.

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?

- Leaders need to be collected, great-listeners, and passionate. In times of crisis, it is essential to stay calm and handle situations maturely; I am well at making rational decisions since I always consider every aspect of the certain issue at hand. Additionally, leaders need to be able to communicate with their peers; the best communicator is the best listener; I always listen to everything someone has to say before providing my opinion because I know a couple of words can twist the meaning of a sentence. By listening intently to the student body and members of our Council, we would make the Council strong and powerful. Lastly, my passion towards helping others, working on tasks for long periods of time, and reaching goals will enhance and make our Council extremely reliable.

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

- I would like to improve keeping my cool when situations get a bit heated and overwhelming. I believe it is the most vital characteristic a leader can possess in that its versatility applies to almost any situation we may be in. I also believe it is one skill which can't be perfected, which is ideal, knowing that we are always growing. I believe if I can stay calm and collected, I will be able to make rational decisions, speak with confidence, and provide reassurance to other members.

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

- Since the environment this school year is far different than other years, an event where we have members "brag" about their quarantine skill and share it with others would be entertaining and increase participation. Ultimately, it provides a break for students from their regular routine and lets them share something quirky with their peers.

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

- Interaction is essential when leaders serve their peers; Holding polls on Instagram for students to answer a particular question or posting motivating polls will help improve the wholeness between the members of the Council and the Student Body. Information wise, advertising on social media pages and the GSMST website (including StuCo) with areas for students to easily reach out (DM's, google form, email) and ask questions would immensely improve communication within our members and the body.

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

- Adversities are always present in any situation; in GSMST, the greatest challenge facing our community is the formation of groups and separation as a whole. This often leads to isolation, but the Council's efforts in increasing interactions between the members (polls mentioned earlier, participative tasks, etc.) and the body will piece our community together effectively. In a way, all of us at GSMST contribute to the name and legacy we have created, and our Council will help keep us connected.