

SAMARTH SHRIDHAR SOPHOMORE

VICE PRESIDENT

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- I have worked previously in the 2019-2020 Student Council year as Freshman Vice President.
- I have been a leader/mentor to several robotics team
- I have a lot of experience in volunteer work and helping my community, for example going back to mentor robotics at my local middle school and teaching English weekly to children in India.

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?

- Student Council has always attracted me because of opportunities where one can help others and exercise leadership, and Student Council provides that medium. From my experiences last year, being a part of Student Council meant persistently brainstorming ways to make a small school such as GSMST a little more fun everyday and cultivating a culture for GSMST. Working for the dances, CVC, and events like Candy Cane Grams are a select few things that Student Council do to help the student body. That is my most significant reason for running because I sincerely want to interact with my peers and find ways that Student Council and I can improve school for them. Especially during online-learning, devising ways for students to feel a part of GSMST is vital. Although I am running for Vice President, this position carries the same responsibilities as the other positions. I am running for this position to be a part of Student Council, and to bring my skills and leadership to the table.

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

- The role of Student Council at GSMST to me is representing the student body appropriately to make their experience at GSMST better. In our community at large, holding events such as Candy Cane Grams and donating to charities are a core part of Student Council. Student Council

exists to give back to the school and to the community, and to express leadership and set role models for the student body.

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?

- 1. Ability to communicate with absolutely anyone and everyone. This is by far the most important quality for a leader to have. A leader has to be vocal to communicate with peers, or no ideas will be cultivated.
- 2. Commitment and Dedication. Commitment is integral because a leader must be willing to invest time and thought into their peers and those they represent. Continually interacting with students and working with other leaders should be a top priority for a leader
- 3. Ability to be a role model. A leader, especially a leader within StuCO, must be role models to the student body.
- My strongest skills include my ability to communicate and my commitment. In GSMST, I would use my communication skills to branch out and gain people's opinions for student council events. Perhaps even hosting days where Student Council members could discuss with their peers for just 10 minutes at lunch could be an effective way to utilize communication as a leader. As for commitment, Student Council, especially with a Student Council small as GSMST's, requires undivided commitment to help peers. My commitment would serve the purpose of extending my Student Council duties to thinking of proposals and ideas that represent the Student Body's desires.

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

- I would like to improve my leadership skills by extending them beyond normal bounds in representation of the student body. Having leadership skills is one thing, but improving upon your utilization of them is the next step. Mostly, I would like to ensure my peers are being heard and that everybody is represented.

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

- GSMST students in the past have especially loved game tournaments, and I believe it still stands as viable event StuCO could bring back during online-learning. Student Council could host game rooms where students can play JackBox games, Skribbl.io, Virtual Escape Rooms, the

possibilities go on and on. Its a great way to bring GSMST students back together to have fun with some students they might have not seen in a long time now due to online-learning.

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

- Monthly polls on social media could be a great way to communicate with the student body. Often google form links are put out for suggestions, but utilizing Instagram's poll tool could reach far more people and increase the feedback received. In addition, adding a "suggestions" highlight on the "stucogsmst" Instagram page where students can add input at virtually anytime would be another effective way to communicate with the student body, especially during online learning.

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 now, I think it is communication with Student Council and getting student input. Often a certain amount of students vote on google forms and Instagram, and a considerable number of students are not represented. For those inactive on social media, holding a monthly session for student council members to interact and hear from the students at lunch could be a viable idea to resolve communication challenges. Especially in days leading up to significant events (such as fall dance), allowing students to ask a question to Student Council directly could be integral to representing more opinions and ideas.