

UMMAR SALEH SOPHOMORE

MEMBER AT LARGE

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- At my community mosque, I helped with many events. I helped plan and volunteered at our "Community Picnic" and "Beautification Day", which were events designed to give back to the community. Whatever task I was given I fulfilled to the best of my ability. However, overall I don't think I've had anything I can call "leadership experience" in the past

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've seen that Student Council has many ways to encourage and motivate their fellow classmates. For example, as I walked through the halls last year, there were many posters with encouraging messages telling students that they are special, and they can persevere through anything if they put their mind to it. That's the part of Student Council that makes me want to join. Messages like these have the potential to make people's days better, which is why I want to join Student Council.

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

- Although Student Council arranges all the bright light events such as the spring and fall dances, it's role at GSMST, in my opinion, goes far beyond that. Many Student Council initiatives, like candy cane grams, are specifically designed to personally make someones day better and for others to show appreciation to one another. Student Council also plays a major role in spreading school spirit, with events like spirit week reflecting how much pride GSMST students have in coming here.

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?

- I am resilient, and I try my best to never allow adversity to slow me down from reaching my ultimate goal. Leaders should be resilient because one never knows what circumstances they might face, and must be ready to adapt to those circumstances if necessary. For example, if two people were assigned to work on a prop, but one person doesn't show up, the other person must accept the challenge and work as hard as they can to finish their task. I also feel that I listen to others very well. There is a difference between hearing and listening. I feel that a leader must be able to listen in order to improve certain aspects of something to make it more enjoyable. I'm also willing to share my input on matters. Although a leader must listen and take the ideas of others into consideration, they should also speak their ideas and thoughts during discussions. Good leaders share their ideas and take feedback from others regarding it.

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

- I feel that I should learn to handle criticism better. Regardless of how good a leader may be, it is inevitable that they face criticism from some of their surrounding people. Some people take criticism as a sign of failure, but a leader must learn to accept it and improve upon it, which is something I feel I need to work on.

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

- Assuming that we all are back in school in a safe environment and the pandemic's statistics have drastically dropped, an event Student Council could potentially host is a class vs class kickball tournament. Players can pay a certain fee and rosters for each class can fill up on a first-come first-served basis. Additionally, students can pay to be viewers at this event. Unlike the class vs class basketball tournament which was played in the gym, the kickball tournament can be played outside on the field, allowing for many more students to watch the game with much more free space. GSMST has all the facilities and materials required for this event, and Student Council could potentially carry on with this idea because it has a high reward for a low cost.

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

- Student Council currently has a very good communication system with the student body. I see that they frequently use polls on Instagram Stories to receive feedback from the GSMST

population on how they're events should run. I feel that maybe they could get a little bit more interactive on their social platforms, however. Although Student Council has planned excellent dances in the past, maybe they can open a box on their stories that allows GSMST students to share their idea for a dance theme. Things like this can further improve the Council's communication with 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?

- Many people nowadays are struggling with schoolwork load and stress. I feel that Student Council does a good job in encouraging and motivating people that they can get through their tough times. They do many things as simple as attaching small notes on walls for students to read and feel encouraged, which goes a long way especially at GSMST.