

# ZAHRA FAROOQI FRESHMAN PRESIDENT

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## List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- I was previously president of my school's Beta Club chapter, where I was responsible for coordinating with my fellow officers to plan and lead meetings every month. I worked with a team to help organize various school events and volunteering opportunities such as canned food drives, coat drives, and our annual Veteran's day breakfast. I have also been passionate about volunteering in the community and have spoken at various fundraising events for organizations such as DIL, an organization that empowers young girls to receive an education in developing countries, and Glitter of Hope, which helps refugees and homeless individuals in Clarkston.

## 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 want to be a member of Student Council because I am passionate about working with my fellow students to improve our school. I have enjoyed organizing events and working with a team in the past, and feel that being a member of Student Council will not only give me an opportunity to do that, but also give me an opportunity to better my school and community. Based on my previous leadership experience in this arena, I was encouraged to run for Freshman Class President.

## 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 and in our community at large is to be a positive representation and voice for GSMST's student body. We are a group of individuals that gives our fellow students a voice, and we represent and uphold our school's values and morals, in addition to organizing various school events throughout the school year.

## 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?

- Three important skills that describe an effective leader are the ability to work well in a group setting, the ability to accept criticism, and the ability to properly manage time and meet deadlines. I am extremely adept in all three skills. However, the one skill that I feel is the most important to the benefit of student council is the ability to work as a team. Student Council is by no means a one man show! It involves the contributions of each and every individual to make it successful.

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

- I would most like to improve on my leadership quality of dealing with imperfection. I hold myself to very high expectations, and when I do not meet those expectations, I often get disappointed. Rather than dwelling on the flaws of an event or outcome, I should focus on working with my peers to improve for next time.

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

- Given the current health situation, it is very difficult to come up with something in the near future that is both safe and practical. While this semester may not be the best time to hold an in person event, in the cases that cases do go down, an idea for a new event would be a social distanced masquerade ball/dance. This theme would allow students to wear masks as part of their costume. If needed, we could hold two separate dances to make the social distancing more effective.

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

- Student Council could improve its communication with the student body by holding regular zoom meetings, where the general student body could ask questions and give their input on various school 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 single greatest challenge facing our GSMST community is the divide between digital and in-person learners. Especially for my fellow freshman, who may be digital and not know many of their classmates, I feel that the ability to form friendships and open lines of communications through regular zoom meetings will help resolve this divide.