

ANGIE ZHENG EXEC PRES

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- Sophomore Secretary
- Junior Vice President
- CAT-Student with Connect with Gwinnett

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?

- When I first ran for the Student Council in sophomore year, my goal was to provide the student body with numerous events that can help alleviate their stress and make them feel welcomed and know that they mattered. Two years later, my goal for myself on the council has not changed, but has instead expanded: I want to create a welcoming and warm council with transparency. Because of this, I am running to become Executive President this year, rather than a class officer to be given a platform to achieve this goal. Serving as a Class Officer in previous years, I was an active participant on the Student Council, planning over 20 events and serving as the committee head for Fall Dance, Spring Dance, Holiday Serenades, and Teacher Appreciation to name a few. However, through my time in the council, I realized that it was not always explained why some decisions were made the way that they were, nor were we informed of many details of the events we thought we were planning for until much later. Overall, this lack of communication can create confusion among council members and the student body. By electing me as your Executive President this year, I vow to create a more transparent council where every executive decision, except for those which interfere with individual student privacy, will be shared with the whole council and student body alike, so that everyone is made aware of what is going on in the Student Council and given context to the reasoning behind every decision. In addition, my two year experience on the council will allow me quickly to quickly transition into this new role, so I can help new members transition and adapt also. This will benefit the council as a whole in that we can quickly get back on our feet and start planning new events for the student body without delay.

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

- From school basketball games to homemade brownies attached with hand written notes, our school's student council goes out of their way to bring the best for the students. As a freshman, struggling to adjust to the transition to high school, these activities and heart-warming treats made me feel warm and welcomed; they took my mind off school during stressful times and encouraged me to keep trying when times were difficult. Needless to say, the Student Council played a huge-if not the largest- role in my transition to GSMST. That is probably one of the primary roles that the Student Council serves at GSMST- to help students destress and enjoy themselves while surviving the rigorous nature of GSMST. However, GSMST StuCo does not just limit themselves to GSMST only. They reach out to provide help and educate others in the community too either by hosting the Voter Registration Night in 2018 or starting fundraisers for Hurricane Relief in 2017. Except for the dances and class v. class competitions, all profits made by the Student Council at GSMST goes towards Bert's Big Adventure, a non-profit aimed to help kids with disabilities. From my perspective, GSMST Student Council is an outstanding organization that truly reaches out to help their peers and community.

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?

- Three qualities an effective leader should possess are the abilities to listen, adapt, and take action. I believe out of the three, it is the most critical for a student council leader to be actively listening to their peers. StuCo members are elected on to the council by their peers; hence, it is imminent that they are listening to the student body's feedback and suggestions so that StuCo can present to the student body events that are in the interest of the student population. I recognize the importance of listening, and I will be very grateful if I am elected back on to the council that I will always work to ensure that I and everyone on the council always have an open ear for new ideas and suggestions. In the last two years that I have been on this council I have transitioned from the one being welcomed as a new member to being the one welcoming new members and new advisors, I have been there through all the changes that the council underwent last year. I was able to adapt to these new changes and continue to bring fantastic events to the student body. Similarly, this year, despite being in the middle of a global pandemic, I know I am able to adapt to these special circumstances and present to the student body newer and better events to provide relief to students by helping them cope and destress during these difficult times. Most importantly, amongst all these changes, I was able to quickly adapt and take action again. It

is important to not just simply have ideas, but to be able create an effective plan of action to execute these ideas. If not, these ideas will forever just remain ideas. It is something I learned through experience: a great idea is useless without a great plan. By voting me into office, I promise to be responsible for taking action for every event you propose to the council.

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

- For every event I have participated in planning in, I am always determined to create the best and perfect event for the student body so that I am making the most of their time. Thus, it is safe to say that I always strive for perfection in everything I do. As a result, I find many ideas proposed during the brainstorming stage so appealing that I fail to recognize my limit and accept all of the ideas. Sometimes, this results in me overworking myself so that I can create the vision I have formed in my head for that event or project. Thus, this year, I would most like myself to understand my own and my team's limits so that I do not push myself past my limit when organizing an event.

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

- The Student Council can host a fundraiser for frontline workers by organizing a small drive-in movie theatre at the school parking lot. Many of the equipment needed for this event can be provided by what the school already has, so the profit made by this event will go to frontline workers by buying masks and necessary protection to those working to fight against Covid-19. Additionally, StuCo can probably host a food drive, and potentially ask other schools to join in, to collect edible goods and provide it to those who are suffering as a result of the impact of the pandemic.

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

- The Student Council should send out an Interest Form to the whole student body after all members of the council are elected asking the student body for any new events or changes they would like the Student Council create or push for. By sending out this interest form early, StuCo can begin brainstorming for these events and then send these ideas to the school's administration to get approved. After approval, these new events can then be integrated among StuCo's calendar with other existing events. I believe this method would increase the likelihood of student-proposed events getting approved and actually executed. In addition, StuCo should post on all social media the link to the Meeting Minutes after every Full Council Meeting so that the

student body can review these meeting minutes and be kept in the loop of all Student Council activities and discussions.

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

- One great challenge faced by the GSMST community is the ongoing struggle of stress and its strain on student's mental health. Being a student at such a rigorous and accelerated high school is not the easiest. Parents and students themselves set very high expectations. In addition, it can sometimes feel as if the work will never stop, leading students to feel helpless. Although there is no one solution to this issue that has plagued GSMST and many other high schools for years, there are ways to help provide relief to this stress. Every Monday, StuCo can create different small types of encouraging treats for the students to help alleviate stress. For example, some Mondays StuCo can pass out small treats attached to encouraging notes reminding them to push on while Mondays leading up to finals Stuco can pass out little cards reminding students of different tutoring opportunities. Although these may seem small, I know these efforts can go a hundred miles for some students.