

# JADE LASANAJAK FRESHMAN VICE PRESIDENT

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## List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- In the past, I have had many volunteering experiences even when Crews Middle School did not require community service. My most recent official volunteering experience was in November, 2019. I planted many trees and cleared nature paths with Emory alumni who are members of Emory Cares. Throughout middle school, I organized and led a study group, and we studied a variety of subjects along with Science Olympiad. I was a senior Science Olympiad member. Also, I strived to listen to and aid all my peers at all times. I often tutored students in math and science whenever I had the chance. I may not have much past experience, but I look forward to attaining more skills in the future through the position of Class Vice President.

## 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 the Student Council because I recognize that community is essential to every school, especially now more than ever. Because of Covid-19, students are more prone to feeling lonely and self-isolated than usual, and I want to play a role in not only getting students' voices heard but also making freshman year of GSMST a memorable one. To be honest, I'm running for Vice President this year because I know that I definitely don't have the experience to be President. That's why I want to learn this year, so that I can properly learn how to serve the community in the future. My long-term goal is to be in a high position in my senior year, so that I can help plan prom. Many of my friends said that GSMST had less than desirable proms, so I want to change that reputation for the better.

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

- The role of the Student Council is to provide students with a voice in what happens at the school. Student Council also plays a major role in providing unique experiences for students throughout

the year. Most importantly, the Student Council's job is to serve the students. This can be through small actions or big events.

### **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?**

- An effective leader needs to be able to communicate clearly and effectively. They must be able to problem-solve and adapt to changes. Lastly, an effective leader should always be empathetic and have confidence in themselves while still being open minded. My strengths include being able to understand others (except when people team kill in video games) and being dependable. I will use these skills to make sure that the Student Council is addressing the concerns of the student body and taking action on those concerns.

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

- To become a better leader, I want to handle failure better. Insecurity and anxiety often cause me to hold back from things due to my fear of failure. I am working hard to simply put myself out there. So, here I am typing this response. Hopefully, something interesting happens. My campaign video has definitely been a giant step out of my comfort zone. I hope Student Council can continuously put me into uncomfortable situations so that I can thrive.

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

- I was thinking of events that are centered around more virtual games. For example, there could be an Among Us night where those who want to play can join the Zoom and they will be put into random breakout rooms with other freshmen. That way everyone can have fun safely at home while also connecting and bonding with the other freshmen. Another event that could occur over zoom is a charades event. A breakout room could consist of two teams, and there will be a mediator in each room. The mediator will keep track of the time as well as privately chatting what each person should be acting out. This could be turned into a tournament, and the winners can earn prizes that will be redeemed once school starts again.

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

- The Student Council can improve its communication with the students that it serves through virtual comment boxes. For example, the Student Council could provide a google form on the eclass page to give students a chance to share any ideas, thoughts, or concerns with the Student

Council. If chosen, these responses can be anonymous, but they must always be school appropriate.

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

- In my opinion, the greatest challenge that faces the GSMST community currently is the lack of normal high school experiences due to Covid-19. These include losing the feeling of being part of a bigger community because everyone has been stuck at home by themselves for too long. Humans are social creatures, and even those who identify as introverts can get lonely sometimes. The Student Council can help resolve this challenge by coming up with ways to remind students that just because 2020 is not going the way anyone planned doesn't mean that we can't make the best of it.