

MARIAM DRAMMEH SENIOR SEC

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- Model United Nations Junior Officer (2018-19), International Night Region Head(2018-21), Student Council Executive Treasurer(2019-20), National German Honor Society Historian(2020-21)

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?

- To be frank, my whole heart and soul belong to Student Council. I love StuCo more than anything and I want to be able to continue the positive influence that I began last year into this uncharted school year. The thing I love the most about Student Council is being able to bring smiles to people's faces and bring comfort to people's hearts. I want to be able to spread this same happiness this year and I want to be able to play an instrumental role in making everyone at GSMST feel at home.

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

- At the end of the day, I believe that the most important part of Student Council's responsibility is service. I think the organization as a whole, as well as the specific members, have a responsibility to make sure that the GSMST community and environment stays as exceptional as it currently is. StuCo should facilitate comfortable relationships between students, begin initiatives that uphold the wellness of students, and provide a getaway from the stress of GSMST's academic environment. In short, StuCo's responsibility is to make sure that the student body can be a little more happy every day or with every event. As for the greater community, StuCo members should be leaders. It is important for Student Council to stand as an organization that is willing to help others and support other communities. Whether this is through community service or fundraising, Student Council should be bringing the community of GSMST with them wherever they go.

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 believe the three qualities that best describe an effective leader are determination, passion, and communication. Although I do pride myself in being proficient in all three qualities, I specifically believe that I am a good communicator. I have the skill to not only facilitate important discussions between students, teachers, and administration, but also the necessary empathy it takes to truly connect with people. This connection is important as a leader because, at the end of the day, it is your duty to serve others. My communication skills will not only allow me to successfully plan, organize, and execute Student Council events, it will also allow me to listen to the concerns and worries of the student body and be there for them. I can be the perfect liaison between the wants of the student body and the needs of GSMST as a whole. With these skills, I will be able to mediate productive discussions that will support both GSMST and Student Council.

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

- I think a good word to describe myself is a people pleaser. I do not like to let people down and I will always try to do anything it takes in order to make others happy. However, this comes with a very important downfall. I have a very difficult time saying no to people. This causes me to take on more than what is possible in order to please everyone and makes me juggle a lot of tasks on my own. I would like to become better at saying no and realizing that some ideas require a different pathway or a different timeline. This also means I would like to become better at delegating tasks to others in order to make sure that I am not taking on everything on my own.

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

- I believe that Student Council members learn very valuable and unforgettable lessons at District Rallies and at the Georgia Association of Student Councils (GASC) Convention. It helps Student Council members across the state become better leaders and better people. I think it would be an excellent idea to bring these lessons to GSMST students. If possible in-person, I think it would be great to hold a school wide leadership summit in which former speakers from GASC events would be invited to GSMST to give the students the same type of inspiration. I think this can also be delivered virtually through video leadership lessons. We could release a video every month or so with an important leadership lesson or an important thing that particularly sticks with Student

Council members that would be beneficial to the entire student body. This would help a lot with facilitating leadership in the general student body.

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

- Social media is a huge factor in our daily lives. I would like to increase our use of the IGTV videos feature which would allow students to view videos of updates with Student Council at their own leisure. I think Q&A livestreams are also a good idea, because students would still be able to get their questions answered by Student Council despite this hybrid learning model. Lastly, I believe that Student Council should release a monthly or bi-monthly (can be changed based on how much is done within a certain time period) newsletter with any updates that the student body needs to know. This would help the general student body feel more involved with StuCo and understand more about how StuCo works.

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

- It is quite well known how stressful GSMST can be. For this reason, many students face wellness issues and overwhelm themselves thinking of how much they constantly need to do. With digital learning, these feelings are especially heightened. This year, the most important thing is to make sure that the student body is okay. Student Council can play a very large role in boosting the morale of students. StuCo can have virtual events with very relaxed and fun activities such as a virtual game night. It is even possible to host socially distanced events (following all CDC regulations) such as a drive-in movie night. Wellness tips (i.e. sleep tips, stress handling tips, etc.) pushed through social media and on Eclass are also a good idea for helping making sure that the student body is feeling okay.