

RITIKA VAKHARIA FRESHMAN VICE PRESIDENT

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- I am an intern at DanceFlix Academy and teach dance classes to 10 year olds every Sunday! I also teach Gujarati to elementary schoolers and have participated in many youth leadership conferences at YugalKunj community center.

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 would like to be a member of the student council this year because of the positive influence that it is trying to bring upon our community and school. I am specifically running for freshman class vice president because I feel that I would perform the best as a vice president since I am an extrovert, hence I love communicating with people. Additionally, I am a well organized person who can and will keep up with the rigor of being a class vice 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 is to uphold the morale and positive environment of GSMST. However, in the Gwinnett community, the role of the student council is to continue to withhold a positive impression of our school and its students and to positively impact our community by creating a wonderful student body.

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?

- Communication, positivity, and reliability are the three qualities that make an effective leader. Personally, all three of these are my strengths. I will use these skills to be the best leader

possible in the student council by always looking for the positive outlook in situations, never failing to complete a task, and always being there for people even if its just to talk.

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

- To be a better leader, I would like to improve my patience. I can sometimes tend to get annoyed when people are late to events. However, this is a skill that I am trying to improve everyday!

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

- A new activity that student council could host is a Be Happy Party during extended lunch! This could provide a break for students during the school day where it is just 20 minutes of pure serotonin. During these 20 minutes, we could be playing throwback songs from the mid 2000s, as it has been proven that music releases stress, and we could hand out a piece of candy to every student as an extra treat. This would allow for students to forget about their stress and just have fun in the middle of the school day. :)

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

- Student Council could improve its communication with the student body by posting more on their Instagram. Even if its just on the student council story this would allow for students to know more about the events that are going on and be more involved in the GSMST community.

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

- The greatest challenge facing our community is the lack of morale. Many freshman haven't done much school work all summer and they are still getting used to the rigorous pace of GSMST. Student Council could help resolve this challenge by providing more study tips from upperclassmen so the freshman have an older mentor to refer to. One way this could be implemented is if every upperclassmen wrote a email to a freshman as a "letter of advice". This would not only assist freshman, but it would also allow them the opportunity of making a older friend.