

SAMAD HAKANI EXEC PARLI

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- Student Council Sophomore VP
- International Night Region and Committee Head
- Spirit Week 2018 Committee Head
- StuCo October 2018 Member of the Month
- Current IDEA 3D Printing Student Instructor
- GCANA Summer Camp Counselor

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?

- 1) Student Council - Freshman Member-at-Large (committee chair of Candy Cane Grams, Spring Dance, and GASC leadership committee)
- 2) Student Council - Sophomore President (committee chair of Infiniteam and Candy Cane Grams)
- 3) TSA - Junior Member-at-Large (Historian Committee)
- 4) Georgia Muslim Voter Project - Youth Community Organizer

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

- The GSMST Student Council is responsible for numerous events throughout the school year for the student body, including: the two annual dances, the winter fundraising events, mental health boosts by Infiniteam, prom, GSMST on Ice, and many more. While we do plan many of these events, we are also a member of the Georgia Association of Student Councils and have responsibilities to them as well to fundraise for the community at large. GSMST StuCo members must exhibit leadership qualities and serve as mentors and role models to the GSMST community (esp. underclassmen). Additionally, we must uphold the bylaws approved by the council and serve at the discretion of the GSMST administration and Student Council advisors; that is, serve as a mediating role between the student body and the administration to execute events that are both exciting while within school norms.

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?

- The three most important qualities of a leader are: dedication, empathy, and creativity. The leadership skill that I excel in would be dedication. When I am given a task, I refuse to quit until I complete it satisfactorily. I am dedicated to my friends, my craft, and my schools. I am dedicated to excellence in academic and extracurricular pursuits. In Student Council, I refuse to give up on events and will work my hardest to ensure that each event is produced to the best of our ability. Additionally, I am dedicated to serving the student body and ensuring they reap the benefits of our toils!

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

- I would most like to improve upon my empathy and sympathy towards others. All too often, it becomes easy to get lost in one's work and not see the greater picture. I admit that sometimes I forgo feelings to get the task done when actually I should be a better leader by first considering all viewpoints before moving forward. This year, I hope to be more considerate of the opinion of other members and the student body to make committee delegation more effective. Additionally, I hope to be more empathetic to the position of admin and the advisors to ensure a harmonious relationship :)

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

- One idea that I think would be particularly topical and engaging would be a town hall with a district administrator to discuss issues that students see in the district and to give students an outlet to voice their concerns. Being the beneficiaries of the district's education policies, it is important that students be given an avenue to discussing how they feel in certain sectors of GCPS policy, such as equity, access to technology, STEM programs, etc. My ideal plan would be a dual in-person/Zoom town hall with a GCPS administrator akin to the Colloquium series held before to fulfill the civic service and engagement policies of NASC.

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

- Student Council can definitely improve its community with the student body through more frequent updates. Frequently students feel assailed with the number of events we throw at them with little down-time. Setting a calendar early on in the year and making it widely available will

definitely improve communication. Additionally, biweekly newsletters from the council would help students be informed of upcoming events and service opportunities.

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 GSMST community is the mental health issues brought on by the isolation from the pandemic. Now more than ever the GSMST StuCo should seek to aid the student body through community wellness events in conjunction with the school's wellness committee. Some ideas I've had are to host community game nights, arts and crafts sessions, and freshman mentorship opportunities to help close the gap the pandemic has created in terms of social relations between students.