

TUNDE ARABA-OWOYELE SENIOR PRES

List any previous leadership positions or experiences

- I am currently the Vice President of our amazing GSMST Chinese Club, where I also served as a secretary for 2 years. As Vice President, I assist in running and creating meetings, and as secretary, I coordinated meeting schedules, took diligent notes of officer and club meetings, and kept club members updated with meetings, information, and important upcoming events. I also served as the GSMST Junior Class President this past year, where I learned the ins-and-outs of being a part of student council, planned events like Prom and GSMST on Ice, and gained extremely valuable leadership experience. I also currently volunteer for Elevate Student Tutoring as a math tutor, as well as working as a student leader for CAT-Student, a merging of two community non-profits. As a CAT-Student, we have organized "CAT-Talks," an opportunity to listen to figures from different areas of study, and ask questions/learn more about what professionals in those fields do. We also have planned and executed a nation-wide college fair with a fellow non-profit, and have secured admissions officers from many top colleges. Along with this, we have also planned various device drives, where we have collected used devices from members of our community in hope that we can distribute the devices to those who are in need of them the most, especially amidst the Coronavirus pandemic and the digital learning that has ensued.

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 was fortunate to be the President of my Student Council in Elementary School. During that period, I had the opportunity to learn and develop a keen sense of peer-to-peer collaboration for improvement of student welfare. At GSMST, I believe that being a member of the Student Council is a terrific opportunity to be part of something much bigger and consequential than any single person. Being a member of the Student Council this previous year has given me a whole new love for this school, and has allowed me to gain new insight and a new perspective on our school and community as a whole. There were many things that I was able to help accomplish last year as a StuCo member, but there are even more things I feel can be implemented to truly help our student body and senior class even more. I want to be a member of our GSMST Student Council to be given the opportunity to make our senior year the most enjoyable year it can be, as

well as to be given the time to put things in practice to help our students that I was not able to implement last year. I am running for Senior Class President this year because I feel it gives me the opportunity not only to share my ideas for events like our Senior Week, Senior Breakfasts, and Graduation, but also to share any ideas that you may have as well. I hope I am elected as Senior Class President because I recognize that our GSMST Student Council is an amazing opportunity to do just what I want to do: get things done.

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

- GSMST's Student Council should be viewed as an opportunity for students to have their opinions, feedback, and ideas heard. The role of the Student Council here at GSMST should always be to never stop looking for ways to improve our school and enhance the experiences of our student body. The goal of our Student Council should be to constantly improve, allowing them to create new ideas to produce an environment where every student is happy to be. When it comes down to it, Student Council is merely a group of students who have been given the chance to serve their peers, providing them with the best events, opportunities, and chances to express themselves at school. From my perspective, Student Council is a place where students make a difference on their peers and the community surrounding them.

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?

- A leader is someone who listens, is passionate about what they do, and has the patience to work with others to reach a goal that benefits everyone. I am extremely passionate about what I do, and I feel that this passion leads to the other qualities falling into place quite easily. Because of my passion for what I do, I listen to others to see how people truly want things done, allowing me to introduce new ideas and initiatives that will benefit our school and student body. Furthermore, my passion invokes patience; because I always go for the best result, I know that being able to be patient and realize that things take time is an important trait. This patience is especially helpful when working things out with others, as patience allows for better compromises between groups, better results with others, and a better student council overall. I feel that my passion for becoming Senior Class President is a trait that overarches many traits of a good leader, including patience, listening, and honesty.

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

- I mainly hope to improve my skills of communication and timeliness. I sometimes find it hard to be able to convey ideas to others, or sometimes downplay the idea after being asked a question I have not thought of the answer to. I hope to be able to not abandon a great idea because of a trouble that arose from communication, and hope that this will result in the implementation of even more astonishing Student Council events.

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

- Similar to how Student Council already sells Candy Cane Grams to raise money for varying causes, I propose that we have a special breakfast to raise money for Doctors Without Borders. Doctors Without Borders is a humanitarian organization that is best known for providing medical aid in 3rd world countries and countries heavily impacted by epidemic diseases. Hosting a special breakfast would raise a significant amount of money that could be donated to their cause. Along with this, the importance of our upcoming election and need for poll workers is something that GSMST students can assist with. I hope to be able to lead an initiative to gather groups of our own GSMST students to get an opportunity to work as poll workers in their communities, and take part in the election process in any way possible, even if they are unable to vote.

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

- Opening a forum or digital “suggestion box” to GSMST students could be an effective way for the Student Council to communicate with the student body, and vice versa. This forum could allow for Student Council to send out surveys about upcoming or prior events to be sent out to students, insight about upcoming events, and to take one-way suggestions from students. This would allow for student voices to be heard and for possible conflicts to be addressed quickly.

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

- A big problem here at GSMST is the issue of coping with stress. While stress is not an issue with an “end-all” solution, it is something that can definitely be alleviated. This can be through small pick-me-ups to show students that they are loved and that they matter, through fun events to get students’ minds off of school for an hour or two, or just through the opportunity to talk to a fellow student about something that they are going through. Because GSMST students may have to deal with more stress than your average run-of-the-mill high schooler, it means that our Student Council will have to work even harder to lessen the pressure and anxiety that can arise from such an intense and vigorous environment.