

Constitution of the St. Mark's Lutheran School Student Council

Adopted on March 11, 2011

Name

This organization shall be known as the St. Mark's Lutheran School Student Council.

Preamble

The purpose of the Student Council shall be:

- To promote Christian faith, community, leadership, civic development, and pride of the student body.
- To act as a central organization of St. Mark's Lutheran School that gives students opportunities for representation and expression.
- To foster a spirit of cooperation among students and faculty.
- To encourage student involvement.
- To help create a safe and orderly learning environment.

Qualifications

Members of the Student Council must:

- Exemplify Christian character, leadership, responsibility, concern for fellow students, a spirit of school pride, and desire to be involved.
- Meet the academic eligibility requirements for extracurricular activities as outlined in the *School Handbook*.
- Receive no disciplinary detentions or suspensions during the current term of office. To do so would result in removal from the Student Council.
- Receive no detentions resulting from incomplete schoolwork. To do so would result in suspension from the Student Council for one meeting.

Composition of the Student Council

Officers

The President shall:

- Be a 7th or 8th grader with prior experience on the Student Council.
- Preside at all Student Council meetings.
- Represent the Student Council before the student body (examples: chapel announcements, intercom announcements).
- Not vote on matters decided upon at Student Council meetings unless his vote is needed to break a tie.
- Assume all other duties generally associated with this office.
- Participate in all Student Council functions.

The Secretary shall:

- Be a 7th or 8th grader.
- Attend all Student Council meetings.
- Keep written records of all Student Council meeting proceedings (attendance, actions taken, etc.).
- Write a monthly Student Council update for the *Lions' Roar*.
- Participate in all Student Council functions.

Composition of the Student Council (continued from previous page)

Representatives (one from each of grades five through eight)

The representatives shall

- Attend all Student Council meetings.
- Report and receive information pertaining to class-related matters.
- Perform all duties assigned to them by the Student Council.
- Participate in all Student Council functions.
- Assume the duties of the President and/or Secretary when the President and/or Secretary is unable to do so (order from 8th grade to 5th grade)

Elections

- Elections shall be held in April for the next school year. Newly elected Student Council members shall attend the May meeting.
- Election procedures shall be left to the discretion of the faculty advisor.
- Officers shall be determined by the popular vote of students in grades five through eight.
- Representatives shall be determined by the popular vote of each respective homeroom.

Term of Office

- The term of office for all Student Council members shall be one school year.
- Representatives may not serve two consecutive terms.
- Officers may serve two consecutive terms.

Meetings

- Regular meetings shall be held once a month.
- Meetings shall be scheduled by the Student Council advisor and published on the monthly school event calendar.
- The president, with the approval of the Student Council advisor, may call a special meeting. In such cases, Student Council members should be notified as far in advance as possible.
- A form of parliamentary procedure shall be used at meetings.

Absences

- A member of the Student Council may not miss more than three scheduled monthly meetings during the course of one school year without a valid excuse. Any member who misses more than three meetings shall be removed from the Student Council.
- All absences must be excused in writing to the Student Council President.

Removal from Office

A member of the Student Council shall be removed from office if:

- After closely working with the student, the faculty advisor determines that the student is not meeting the necessary qualifications.
- Any midterm or quarterly report indicates that the student does not meet the academic eligibility requirements for extracurricular activities as outlined in the *School Handbook*.
- He receives a detention or suspension for disciplinary reasons.

Vacancies

If a Student Council position is vacated during the term of office:

- The president shall appoint someone to finish the current term of office.
- The Student Council shall approve the appointment with a majority vote.

Amendments

- Any member of the Student Council can propose an amendment to the Constitution.
- The amendment shall be approved and proposed to the students in grades five through eight with a two-thirds vote of the Student Council.
- The amendment shall be adopted with a two-thirds vote of the students in grades five through eight.

Approval

- The Constitution shall be approved and proposed to the students in grades five through eight with a two-thirds vote of the Student Council.
- The Constitution shall be adopted with a two-thirds vote of the students in grades five through eight.
- If the students in grades five through eight do not adopt the Constitution, the Student Council shall work to bring a new proposal to the students.
- Any action approved by the Student Council shall be subject to the approval of the St. Mark's Lutheran School administration.

Student Bill of Rights

- Students may bring ideas or concerns to the Student Council through their class representative.
- All students in grades five through eight who meet the necessary qualifications may run for office.
- All students in grades five through eight may vote.
- All students in grades five through eight may nominate themselves or others for inclusion on the election ballot.
- All students nominated to serve on the Student Council may prepare a campaign in an effort to be voted into office.