

## **What is Student Senate?**

Student Senate is an elective course in which students may receive up to 1.0 credit each year. Students receive a letter grade based off of attendance, participation, in-class and out-of class assignments and discussions, and commitment to the class.

Student Senate is the organization that was created to provide students experience and training in leadership building skills. Student Senate helps share students' ideas, interests, and concerns with teachers, administrators and other students. This group is in charge of continuously expanding and coordinating a program of student activities, to stimulate interest and support in the development, assessment and execution of educational, social, cultural, and recreational activities, and to develop communication amongst students, administration, and faculty. In effect, Student Senate represents the best interests of the general student body.

Student Senate may participate in helping raising funds for school-wide activities, including social events, community projects, helping people in need and school reform. Activities include food drives, fundraisers and parties. Many Senate members learn skills that are an extension of their formal education.

Student Senate members assist in making Innovations Early College High School a fun, safe, and learning environment by being an example for others. Senate was designed to help students interact with each other and to better the environment of Innovations Early College High School. Senators are not voted into office, and all students are encouraged to participate. Senators are expected to show up on-time, be ready to work, communicate, and help make Innovations a safe, fun place.

## **Eligibility for Student Senate**

- A student must apply to Student Senate by completing the formal application process during the spring, fall, or semester break. The formal application includes completing questions, attaching a copy of his/her transcript, and submitting a resume.
- A student must come to an interview with the Senate advisors, one of the presidency, and an administrator.
- A student must be on-track in their core classes as well as total credit acquisition.
- A student must be able to commit to attending the majority of class meetings on A-days at 1:00-1:45 PM.
- A student must be able to commit to any after-school events, activities, projects, etc. that may be occurring.

## **Advisors**

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## **Student Senate Schedule**

Student Senate meetings are every A-day at 1:00-1:45 PM in Ms. Inama's room.

## **Set-Up**

### **The Presidency**

A President and two to three vice presidents are selected to serve as the leaders of Student Senate. The presidency leads the Student Senate meetings and make sure all other committees are running smoothly and completing their jobs on task. The presidency also takes part in the scheduling of the committees duties. It is their duty to follow through with committee leaders and members to make sure the job is getting done correctly and for the benefit of the students. Presidency members work as one team and as a unified front in helping guide students in the right direction and offer help when needed.

### **Committees**

There are three to five different committees within Student Senate. Students will be divided up into these committees and remain within that committee for the entire year. Each committee will have an opportunity to participate in different responsibilities such as activities, touring, assemblies, etc. Below is a list of some of the major responsibilities:

- Attending and fully participating in school-wide activities that include dances, parties, talent shows, games, etc.
- Creating flyers and participating in other announcements
- Listening to the “voice of the students” by making sure activities that are planned in accordance with students’ desires
- Giving tours to visitors from other schools, states, etc. who may be interested in learning more about our school
- Possibly attending conferences and speaking on behalf of the school
- Participating in community service projects
- Planning and participating in school-wide assemblies once a month

\*All committee members are responsible and expected to work with the other committee’s throughout the school year, regardless of what committee they may be on. This may include helping with after school activities, or being involved in a service project.

Committee members are subject to change at anytime throughout the school-year.

**Committee Leader and Co-Leader:** The job of the committee leader and co-leader is to be the head of their committee. Below are some of the responsibilities involved with these positions.

- Informing their committees and implementing good communication
- Keeping themselves updated on what is happening both within Senate and in the school as a whole
- Leading committee discussions in “committee time” during Senate
- Being a reliable and involved figure in their committee
- Making sure all committee members’ opinions/ideas are heard and represented

**Expectations for Senators:**

- Uphold the rules of the school
- Treat everyone with respect
- Set an example for the students of Innovations
- Represent Innovations in a positive and professional way
- Be able to answer questions relating to Innovations
- Stay on track academically
- Be cooperative
- Attend all senate meetings and senate run activities (see “Participation” section)