

CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL OF BENOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Benold Middle School, in order to promote and improve democracy by developing better citizenship, to establish a spirit of friendship, loyalty, and unity among the student body and faculty members, do hereby establish this constitution for the Student Council of Benold Middle School.

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be Benold Middle School Student Council.

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage respectable student participation in all school activities, to promote good citizenship, to acquire experience in democratic procedure, to serve as a voice for the student body, to increase student-faculty cooperation, to sponsor and organize specific school activities, and to promote the general welfare of the school. The policies of the Board of Trustees of the Georgetown Independent School District shall be abided by in all activities sponsored by Student Council.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The active membership of Benold Middle School Student Council shall be as follows:

- A. Ten to 12 representatives from each grade level (seventh and eighth).
- B. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian elected from the eighth-grade class only.

Section 2. To be eligible for the Benold Middle School Student Council, one must maintain a "C" average and satisfactory conduct in all classes during his term in office. He or she must be free to attend scheduled meetings of the Council.

Section 3. If a Student Council member misses three (3) meetings without a reasonable excuse, after being warned at the second absence, he or she will be dropped from the Council. A new representative may be appointed at the discretion of the Student Council advisor(s) and the principal.

Section 4. There shall be at least one faculty advisor appointed by the principal or voluntarily to work with the Student Council. The principal and counselor(s) will act as ex-officio advisors with veto power over all motions passed by the Student Council.

Section 5. The election of Student Council representatives will take place during the month of September. Student Council officers will be elected as part of the Student Council Formation activity (usually held one evening in October).

To ensure diversity of membership, each homeroom will nominate three Student Council candidates. These candidates must complete an application questionnaire and provide two faculty recommendations. No candidate will be allowed to run for office who has less than a "C" average in all classes the previous spring semester. All candidates must also have satisfactory to excellent conduct grades for the last nine weeks of the previous spring semester. Grades will be checked before a candidate can receive an application.

All candidates successfully completing the application process will be placed on the ballot for that grade level. Students can vote for up to three (3) candidates on their ballot. The 10 to 12 candidates for each grade receiving the highest number of votes will become the Student Council representatives.

Student Council officers shall be determined by the eighth-grade student receiving the majority of the representative votes by secret ballot. In case of no majority, there will be a run-off between the top two candidates. The one receiving the highest number of votes will be the holder of the appropriate office.

Section 6. Representatives will hold office for the whole of the school year following their election unless one of the following situations occurs.

- A. A Student Council member may be removed for inefficiency on recommendation of the Student Council, for misbehavior as defined in a council vote, or from absence from three (3) meetings without a valid excuse.
- B. Any member whose report card shows a failing grade (below 70%) shall have three weeks to bring up the grade. Otherwise, the council member will be permanently dropped.
- C. Any member having a failing semester grade shall automatically lose his or her membership.
- D. Any member receiving an unsatisfactory conduct grade will be placed on probation or dropped from the council. Any member placed on probation has three weeks to improve his or her conduct. Otherwise, that member will be permanently dropped. Certain specific acts may be immediate grounds for removal from the council. Such acts may include suspension from school or a referral to GAP.
- E. A member has only one probationary period, after which he or she will be permanently dropped.

Section 7. Vacancies caused by removal or resignation shall be filled at the discretion of the Student Council advisor(s) and the principal.

Section 8. Duties of Representatives

- A. To give full report of proceedings of the Student Council to the student body in a timely fashion.
- B. To represent the interests of his or her class (seventh or eighth) in a fair and democratic way.
- C. To attend all regular meetings or provide notice in advance if not able to attend.
- D. To accept responsibility for serving on all committees and projects to which he or she is appointed.
- E. To present before the Student Council any recommendations or problems originating within the student body.

**ARTICLE III
OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

Section 1. Officers

Officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.

Section 2. Election of Officers

All officers shall be qualified and elected under the terms of Article II, Section 5. Upon dismissal of the student-elected President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President. The Student Council shall elect a new Vice-President for the remainder of the school term. In the case of the dismissal of the Vice-President or any other officer, the Student Council shall elect a new officer to fill the vacancy.

Section 3. Duties

A. President

- 1. To preside over all council meetings.
- 2. To appoint committee chairpersons and/or committee members.
- 3. To call special meetings.
- 4. To vote in case of a tie.
- 5. To preside over executive committee meetings.
- 6. To preside at assemblies and act as an official to assembly guests.
- 7. To carry out all duties delegated to him or her by the council, the council advisor(s), or the administration.
- 8. To lead designated service projects.

B. Vice-President

- 1. To act as President in case of his or her absence.
- 2. To fill the office of President on removal from office.
- 3. To serve as over-all chairperson of committees.
- 4. To carry out any other duties assigned him or her.

- C. Secretary
 1. To take minutes at regular and special meetings.
 2. To handle all necessary paperwork and files.
 3. To check roll at all meetings.
 4. To notify the advisor(s) after the second absence of a council member.

- D. Treasurer
 1. To keep accurate records of the finances of the council.
 2. To collect all fees.

- E. Historian
 1. To keep in a scrapbook a record of council activities.
 2. To keep a calendar of the activities of the council for the school term.
 3. To publicize the activities of the council.

Section 4. Faculty Sponsors (Advisors)

The faculty advisor(s) shall be appointed by the principal. Advisors represent the principal at Student Council meetings and shall have the principal's powers to veto any proposal before the Student Council. Advisors have the responsibility of proposing Student Council projects to the principal and receiving his or her approval for such projects. The duties of the council are largely delegated by the principal and advisor(s). The principal has final veto power over the actions of the council.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Student Council officers and the faculty advisor(s).

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall serve as the major planning group for the council.

Section 3. Any member of the Executive Committee may be removed from the committee membership by the faculty advisor(s) for absence from three (3) preannounced committee meetings without an excuse acceptable to the advisor(s).

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Section 1. The council shall meet at least once a month at a regular time with the advisor(s) present.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Student Council may be called by the President, with the approval of the principal and/or faculty advisor(s).

Section 3. Three-fourths of the official members shall constitute a quorum to do business.

ARTICLE VI RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. All meetings of the Student Council shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order, revised.