

BARBERS HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Barbers Hill Middle School, in an attempt to ensure voice of the student body, do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Council. The sole purpose of this organization shall be to comply with and discharge all of the rules and policies of the Board of Trustees of the Barbers Hill Independent School District and of the administration of the school, and to carry out the wishes of the student body so as to demonstrate the mechanics of the American system of government, so long as such wishes do not directly conflict with established policy. Student Council is the governing body that promotes school pride, leadership, service and serves as a voice between the faculty, administration, community, and student body.

**Article 1. Name**

The representative body of the students of Barbers Hill Middle School shall be named the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council, to be known here out as “The Council”.

**Article II. Purposes**

The purposes of the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council shall be as follows:

- A. To develop attitudes of and practices in good citizenship.
- B. To promote harmonious relation throughout the entire school.
- C. To promote orderly direction of student activities.
- D. To promote better relationships between our school and others.
- E. To promote the general welfare of the school.
- F. To improve student-teacher relationships.
- G. To improve school morale and enhance school spirit throughout the campus.
- H. To act as a welcoming body and information source for new students.
- I. To make for a more informed student body and promote interest among the students, faculty, and community in school activities.

**Article III. Functions and Limitations**

Section 1 – Functions

The functions of the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council shall be as follows:

- A. The Council shall act in an advisory capacity to the faculty, administration, and board of trustees in matters affecting student life.
- B. The Council shall suggest the formation of student activities, and work out means by which these activities shall take place.
- C. The Council shall make every reasonable means to ensure and promote democracy and goodwill among faculty and students, and at all times foster the highest type of democratic school citizenship.
- D. The Council shall be delegated the power and responsibility of administering activities involving the student body, in cooperation with the Principal and Assistant Principals, that promote wholesome student life.
- E. The Council shall diligently attempt to represent to the faculty the true opinion of the student body on all matters pertaining to the welfare of the school, and shall undertake the responsibility to communicate to the students the true picture of the policies of the school.
- F. The Council shall serve as a means of promoting cooperative action through the democratic process among the student body.
- G. The Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council, upon acceptance, may be a member of a larger association of Student Councils at the District, State, and National levels, and may participate in and programs thereof.

## Section 2 – Limitations

The limitations of the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council shall be as follows:

- A. The Councils shall not be construed as a “police force,” shall have no powers to pass rules and/or regulations regarding discipline, and shall not take disciplinary action against individuals or groups with the exception of those specific actions required to operate and maintain the functioning of the Student Council itself. Any activity of the Council designed to improve groups or individual behavior must be carried out in a cooperative rather than disciplinary action.
- B. The Council shall have no jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the expenditure of state and local school funds except when called upon for an opinion, nor shall it have any jurisdiction concerning the employed personnel except with the consent or request of the persons involved.
- C. The Council must recognize the right of the Barbers Hill Middle School Principal, representing the community and the Barbers Hill I.S.D. Board of Trustees, to veto any action of the council. The Principal of Barbers Hill Middle School shall appoint a faculty sponsor(s) as the Principal’s personal representative on the Council.

- D. This constitution, amendments, by-laws, acts, or resolutions shall not be contrary to the policies and constitutions of its charter organizations.
- E. Specific class activities, excluding general elections, are separate from Student Council. It is the responsibility of the appropriate Class Officers, Class Sponsor, and Class Principal to oversee all class activities.

### Section 3 - Veto Power

- A. The President of the Council may veto any action of the Council, provided that he/she should give his/her reason in writing and present it to the council prior to the implementation of the action.
- B. The Council may override the veto of the President of the Council or of the Executive Council by a 2/3 vote.
- C. The School Principal and the Faculty Sponsor(s) have the power to override any decision of the Student Council in the best interest of the Student Body of Barbers Hill Middle School. The veto power of the Principal and Sponsor is not subject to appeal.

## **Article IV. Membership**

### Section 1. The Council shall consist of the following:

- A. Five (5) Officers: President, Vice-President, Council Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.
- B. An unspecified number of Senators for the current year.
- C. Appointed Officers, Senators, and Representatives that may be chosen by the Sponsor(s) With the consent of the elected officers.
- D. Representatives from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes of Barbers Hill Middle School.
- E. Transfer Student Council members from other schools accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the sponsor at the former school.

Section 2. Each position shall be for a period of one (1) year. One year shall be considered one academic school year or the time between annual elections.

## **Article V. Elections and Qualifications**

Section 1. The Sponsor(s) must approve all applications for membership in the Student Council and shall have the authority to remove any member from office or from the Council after a proper warning has been given to the member.

Section 2. Students wishing to seek an elected position must complete an official application with recommendations from two core subject area teachers to become eligible for candidacy.

### Section 3. Student Council Officers

- A. All offices shall be elected in a general student body following the election guidelines in effect at the time of the election.
- B. Candidates for President must have served on the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council for at least one year prior to filing for office, and currently be a member in good standing and have earned over one-hundred percent (100%) of the points possible in the year of the election.
- C. Candidates for Vice President, Council Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian must be members in good standing of the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council.
- D. All officers must maintain UIL academic eligibility. An officer will be placed on probation for not maintaining eligibility. A second violation of this during the school year will be brought before the Executive Council and may be grounds for dismissal.

### Section 4. Representatives

- A. Open sign-ups for all class representatives will make up membership.
- B. All representatives must maintain UIL academic eligibility while in office. They must maintain an 85 or above average in core classes.

Section 5. All elections and appointments shall be made in the Fall, unless special circumstances arise. Special elections may be called to fill any vacancies.

Section 6. The Sponsor(s) of Student Council, in cooperation with the Principal, will distribute, collect, tally, and post the results of all general elections. Specific numeric results will not be released to anyone.

## **Article VI. Time and Place for Meetings**

The Council shall meet monthly, on a day and time designated by the Sponsor(s) and Officers, or as often as the business demands of the Council may require. Student Council meetings shall be open to any interested parties. Persons with specific business before the Council should coordinate with the President prior to the meeting.

## **Article VII. Duties and Responsibilities**

### Section 1. Duties of Officers

- A. The President shall:
  - 1. Serve concurrently as Student Body/Student Council President.

2. Prepare for and preside at all meetings of the Student, Legislative, and Executive Councils.
3. Coordinate all activities of the Council.
4. Serve on committees in an ex-officio capacity.
5. Have a thorough knowledge of the Student Council Constitution.
6. Vote in the case of a tie.
7. Coordinate state report submission.
8. Serve as the official Student Body representative at all school/district functions.
9. Serve as representative for District 17 functions.
10. Assume any and all duties as requested by the Principal or Sponsor.
11. Set the example for all students to follow.

B. The Vice President shall:

1. Preside over all meetings and activities in the absence of the President.
2. Record and file all committee and project reports.
3. Maintain the council calendar of events.
4. Assist the Secretary with maintaining a record of all council members' points/hours.
5. Serve as liaison to all clubs and organizations.
6. Coordinate all social events for the council.
7. Assist the Historian with all photographic/video documentation of council events.
8. Coordinate council photographs (officer photo, council photo, council yearbook, etc.)
9. Serve on the Student, Legislative, and Executive Councils.
10. Have a thorough knowledge of the Student Council Constitution.
11. Assume any and all duties as requested by the principal or sponsor.
12. Set the example for all students to follow.

C. The Secretary shall:

1. Maintain all internal council correspondence.
2. Record attendance at all meetings.
3. Maintain a record of all council members' points/hours.
4. Prepare, record, file, and post accurate agendas and minutes for all meetings (council, legislative, and executive councils).
5. Maintain an up-to-date member directory.
6. Maintain all external council correspondence to the general public.
7. Prepare letters of thank-you, support, and condolences when necessary.
8. Maintain communication with District 17 and other Student Councils.
9. Have a thorough knowledge of the Student Council Constitution.
10. Assume any and all duties as requested by the principal or sponsor.
11. Set the example for all students to follow.

D. The Treasurer shall:

1. Keep an accurate record of all financial transactions between student council members and the council.
2. Prepare and submit financial reports to the Council after fundraising events in a timely fashion.
3. Assist in maintaining all financial records for the Council.
4. Maintain the supplies and equipment of the Student Council Office.
5. Have a thorough knowledge of the Student Council Constitution.
6. Assume any and all duties as requested by the principal or sponsor.
7. Set the example for all students to follow.

E. The Historian shall:

1. Prepare a photographic/video record of all council events.
2. Prepare and complete the annual scrapbook for District and State Conventions, as well as recruiting events.
3. Coordinate the maintenance of the Student Council website.

4. Serve as liaison between the school and local publications regarding the publicity of events.
5. Maintain all Student Council cameras.
6. Have a thorough knowledge of the Student Council Constitution.
7. Assume any and all duties as requested by the principal or sponsor.
8. Set the example for all students to follow.

## Section 2. Duties of Representatives

Representatives shall:

- A. Serve as active participants in all Student Council activities.
- B. Serve in a true representative capacity for their respective class members.

## **Article VII. Governing Bodies**

Section 1. A Student Council member that is absent from a vote forfeits their voting privilege for that occasion.

## Section 2. The Executive Council

- A. The Executive Council shall consist of the President, Vice President, Council Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Sponsor(s) of the Student Council.
- B. Functions of the Executive Council.
  1. The Executive Council, acting in best interest of the Student Council members, shall have the power to make those decisions requiring immediate or emergency action.
  2. The Executive Council shall meet one week prior to regularly scheduled Council meetings at a date and time set by the Sponsors.
  3. The Executive Council shall assist the President in planning and executing all activities of the Student Council.
  4. The Executive Council shall have a decision making and enforcing power, such decisions being those not decided by the entire Council, and the distinction between to be determined by the President, and above that by the Principal or Sponsor(s).
  5. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote shall be necessary for a decision by the Executive Council.

## Section 3. The Council as a Whole

- A. The Council will meet monthly.
- B. The Council may pass a motion by a simple majority vote.
- C. The Council may override any decision made by the Executive Council by a two-thirds favorable vote.

#### **Article IX. Removal from position**

Any member of the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council may be removed from position for actions which are detrimental to the welfare and best interest of the Council and Student Body, or for failure to meet academic or membership (points) requirements.

##### Section 1. Academic Requirements

- A. Academic requirements shall be defined as listed in Article V, Sections 4, 5, and 6.
- B. Failure to meet academic requirements will lead to a probationary period of one six weeks. Failure to meet academic requirements during another grading period will result meeting between the member and the Student Council Sponsor(s) to discuss academic issues. If the academic issue is not resolved in accordance with instructions given by the sponsor(s), the member will be asked to submit their resignation. If the request is not given, the member will be removed from Student Council.

##### Section 2. Membership (Point) Requirements

- A. Point requirements shall be defined as the total required points to be earned in a designated period.
  - 1. The number of required points shall be determined by the Officer Council and posted for all to see.
  - 2. The number of points required must be determined by the Officer Council to be fair for all members to attain.
  - 3. Any member finding themselves deficient in points should contact the Officers or Sponsor(s) immediately. In many instances, replacement point projects can be assigned. It is the responsibility of the member to seek replacement points. There is no guarantee that replacement point projects will be assigned.
- B. Failure to meet point requirements for any one (1) period shall result in place the member on probation during which the member retains his Council duties and has the opportunity to earn the required points for the next immediate period. If at the end of the probation period, the member has failed to meet the requirements, the member is then required to turn in a letter of resignation to the President and Sponsor.

- C. A member may not have more than two probation periods per year. If a member fails to meet point requirements a third time, the member will be required to resign.

Section 3. Resignation. A member of the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council will be requested to submit the resignation of their position to the Sponsor(s) when said member is found to be failing to perform in a creditable manner, performing in such a manner as to discredit the member, the Council, the School, or in a manner which tends to lower the morale and respect for the same.

Section 4. Any member may resign his position at any time. Resignations should be presented to the Sponsor(s) in written form.

Section 5. Actions which are detrimental to the welfare and best interests of the school and/or Student Council shall be determined by the officers, Sponsor, and Principal.

Section 6. Filling of a vacant position

- A. In the case of a vacancy through resignation, removal, or any other occurrence, in the office of President of Student Council, the Vice President shall assume that office. Upon assumption of that office, the Vice President shall assume the title of President with all duties, rights, and honors thereof.
- B. In the case of a vacancy in any elected position other than President, including Executive Council, that position shall be appointed by the Executive Council with the advice and consent of the Sponsor(s).

#### **Article XI. Amending the Student Council Constitution**

Section 1. The Constitution of the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council may be amended at any time provided that the proposed amendment is:

- A. Approved by the Officer Council.
- B. Introduced and discussed at a general Council meeting.
- C. Passed by a two-thirds majority of the Council.

Section 2. This Constitution shall be ratified by a majority vote of the Council.

Section 3. Present Student Council members will be accepted in this Constitution.

#### **Article XII. Revision of the Student Council Constitution**

Section 1. As needed, the Student Council Constitution may be updated and revised.

Section 2. A committee will be established to update and/or revise the Constitution.

Section 3. Upon acceptance of the Principal, the Constitution shall be presented to the Student Council, a two-thirds majority vote of those present being necessary for adoption.

Section 4. Upon adoption by the Council, the Constitution shall be effective immediately and apply to all members unless otherwise noted.

### **Bylaws**

1. The official Dress of the Barbers Hill Middle School Student Council shall be:  
Official Council T-Shirt and nice blue jeans.
2. Official Dress occasions shall be determined by the Officer Council.
3. Point tally sheets shall be turned in to the Secretary on a date specified by the Officer Council. It is the sole responsibility of the member to turn in point sheets on time. Failure to turn in points sheets on time may result in a zero tally for the period.