

Student Council Information
Bethesda Elementary
2014-2015

What is the Bethesda Elementary Student Council?

Our Student Council is a group of students who come up with ideas to make our school better. Each member of the Student Council gets the opportunity to actively participate in school-wide activities, make decisions, and see democracy in action.

Who is on the Council?

4th and 5th grade students who've applied and been accepted.

Why is this good for students?

Student leaders gain responsibility, experience working as a team, increased pride in their school, and a chance to interact with their fellow students in making decisions and debating issues. This is the ultimate chance to become an excellent citizen. A lot of the fun of the Student Council experience is learning to share ideas, to think critically, and to work through problems, even if no huge event happens.

What does the Council do?

The Council chooses its own goals after discussing ideas with the classrooms they represent. The Council might create publicity about school events, promote school pride, start fundraising programs or other school events and activities.

What do the Student Council members do?

The members attend Student Council meetings. They also bring ideas and suggestions from their class members to the meetings. They report information back to their class and to a K-3rd grade classroom. They also help with projects for the Student Council and the school.

When and where does the Student Council meet?

The Council *usually* meets on the first Friday of each month at 7:45 in Ms. Lee's classroom, 707. Members may also be called upon to work on various projects or activities, which will usually be outside of class time. Once the Student Council members are chosen for the year, they will receive a meeting schedule.

What do I do if I want to run for a Student Council position?

Students who are interested in being Student Council representatives should submit an application and **write an essay** (at least three paragraphs in length) explaining why they would make a good

student council member. Think about character traits such as respect, responsibility, cooperation, and best effort. The content **must include** why they think they should be on student council, how they would make a good representative in their classrooms and for the school, and what type of community service ideas they could bring to the table.

The essay can be hand-written (legibly) or typed. It must be turned in to Ms. Lee by **September 26th**. (There is a box labeled "Notes for Ms. Lee" outside of Ms. Lee's classroom.) The essays will be rated on **content** (not spelling or grammar). The students chosen for Student Council will receive an acceptance letter, permission slip, and meeting schedule by Wednesday, October 1st. The first meeting will be Friday, October 3rd! Student Council members will need to bring their permission slips to the 1st meeting. Once permission slips have been returned, the official 2014-2015 Student Council members' names will be posted outside the cafeteria.

Can a person lose the privilege of being on Student Council?

One office visit is automatic probation for all Student Council members. TWO office visits will mean a loss of Student Council membership for the year.

If I am elected but I don't like the job, can I quit?

When you decide to be on the School Council, you are making a commitment. It is for the entire school year. Make sure before you apply that you are sure it's something you'll want to do all year long.

What do I do when I miss classwork?

There will be very few, if any, times that this occurs. However, most teachers will require that you find out whatever work or lesson you missed and turn it in the following day. If you don't think you can keep up with the extra workload, this job is not for you. We will try to minimize the amount of classtime missed, but it may happen occasionally.

If I was on Student Council last year...

You will need to complete an application but do not need to re-do the essay.

If you have questions, please email Ms. Lee at: aprill@wcs.edu.