

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **about Student Council and the Elections Process**

### **What is the job description of Student Council members?**

- Attend a Student Council preliminary meeting. At this meeting, you will be welcomed to Student Council and will further clarify your leadership role at PHS. This meeting time will be announced after the elections.
- Attend weekly meetings on a class level to work on class events, to raise money for the Junior/Senior proms, the Senior Class gift and any other activities that promote inclusiveness. These weekly meetings typically take place on Mondays during lunch.
- Act as a voice for your classmates by attending three mandatory Student Council Senate meetings. These three meetings are scheduled by Student Council members and usually take place on Saturday mornings. At these Senate meetings, Student Council members discuss ideas and concerns about topics related to the PHS community as a whole. The principal and/or members of the PHS administration are present to hear the Senate act as the voice of the student body.
- You are encouraged but not required to participate on a Student Council committee that addresses a school-wide event. The current school-wide committees are:
  - 1) Holiday Raffle/Giving Tree Committee
  - 2) Spirit Week Committee
  - 3) Equity and Inclusion Committee
  - 4) PHS Grading/GPA Committee
- You are asked to carry the Student Council mission statement in and out of school. Keep in mind, *"The mission of Student Council is to develop leaders and strengthen the Portsmouth High School community."* To carry this mission every day, Student Council members:
  - 1) act as model representatives to our school, Portsmouth High School alumni and the surrounding community.
  - 2) act as a political voice for the student body.
  - 3) foster an inclusive sense of community at Portsmouth High School.

### **How are Student Council Representatives selected?**

There will be 12 students elected from each of the freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior classes. Students vote through an online ballot sent to their school email. At a later meeting, elected Student Council members for each class will determine a process to select their class officers.

## **How will voting take place?**

All students will vote online through their PHS apps email account.

## **How is Student Council Structured as an organization?**

[Click here for a diagram of how Student Council is structured along with our constitution.](#)

## **What ways can your classmates know more about your qualifications as a candidate?**

Students running for Student Council will have an opportunity to share their qualifications with their classmates in the following ways:

1. Student are encouraged, but not required, to give a 1-2-minute speech via video in which you share why you would make an effective Student Council Representative. You can also write this out on a Google Doc rather than a video. The quality of your speech is a key step in making sure that students vote on whether you will be a faithful and effective leader who is committed to excellence. Your speech needs to be uploaded to Google Classroom for approval.
2. You are welcome to submit any credentials about yourself through this Google Classroom. This information will be attached to your name on the online voting ballot.

\*Please note - Participation on Student Council does NOT require election, however only elected Student Council members can vote in the Student Council Senate because they have been given that authority and consent by their peers to act as their voice.

## **What steps should I take to create a highly effective speech?**

[Click here for tips on effective speeches.](#)