

# Student Council Constitution

NorthStar Academy

## Article I

The name of this organization shall be the NorthStar Academy student council, acting under the direct administration of NorthStar Academy (NSA) and henceforth referenced as the “StuCo” or the “council”.

## Article II

### Section I: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain a welcoming, entertaining, and spiritually edifying atmosphere for the student population of NSA. In producing various activities and projects, the StuCo must set an active example of godly leadership in accordance with the governing documents and the Bible.

### Section II: Mission

The student council seeks to maximize the use of resources and connections available through NorthStar Academy to promote creativity and invest in the student body through community engagement, spiritual emphasis, and personalized relationships between the staff and student body.

### Section III: Vision

The vision of the student council shall be established annually by the president, vice president, and StuCo advisors (collectively referenced as “StuCo administration”).

## Article III

All students legally enrolled part-time or full-time in NorthStar Academy shall be considered for membership in the student council, discriminating against no individual party for any personal reason, including age, race, or religious beliefs. However, limitations on grade or other factors may be imposed upon certain positions as outlined in Article IV.

## Article IV

### Section I: Members

The NSA student council consists of the following members: president, vice president, secretary, special projects coordinator, welcome committee leader, communications director, spiritual life leader, service coordinator, and representatives. The body of representatives shall consist of one each for high school grades, one for middle school, and one for elementary school as defined by NorthStar Academy. All members who are not representatives shall be referenced as “officers.” No student may hold more than one position, and only one student may occupy a position at any time. Exceptions may be made by the StuCo advisors.

### Section II: Eligibility

The office of the president requires a minimum of one year of experience on the student council in any position; previous experience must directly precede the intended term. This requirement may be overlooked in the event that a suitable candidate for the StuCo president cannot be found; see Article VI, Section I.

The positions of president, vice president, secretary, special projects coordinator, and welcome committee leader shall be elected from students fully enrolled in grade nine or above; all officers must be in grades ten through twelve during the entirety of their term.

The service coordinator shall be elected from National Honor Society members; the service coordinator will therefore be in grade eleven or twelve. The service coordinator must remain in good standing with the guidelines of the National Honor Society.

High school representatives shall be elected from their individual grades. The middle school and elementary school representatives may be in any of the grades they represent for the duration of their term.

All grades levels for StuCo purposes may be determined according to the expected graduation year.

## Article V

The StuCo advisors oversee the student council and advocate for the council among the faculty and staff. The StuCo advisors will work closely with the council and function as integral parts of the StuCo administration. Other responsibilities are detailed throughout the governing documents, but the advisors may assign any of their responsibilities to another staff or council member.

# Article VI

## Section I: Elections

Student council elections shall be conducted by the StuCo advisors or their designate(s) in the final quarter of each term. The student council may submit recommendations to the advisors, and all parties must cooperate respectfully, observing the limitations of online elections.

The positions of president, vice president, secretary, special projects coordinator, welcome committee leaders, and representatives are elected positions and shall be decided by the student body. Students must be nominated for these positions by other students, and nominations shall last for approximately one week. The NSA administration reserves the right to decline a nomination for any reason. Students may accept only one nomination or decline all nominations; in the event the student accepts, he/she shall then be entered onto the ballot. All nominees are required to approve their acceptance by attending a meeting with at least one StuCo advisor and at least three current StuCo members; furthermore, all students are required to be certain of their return to NorthStar Academy in the following academic year. If a candidate for president with student council experience cannot be found, the StuCo advisors will appoint a qualified member or members of the student body prior to elections; the candidate(s) will continue through elections as normal. A period of official campaigning shall last for a minimum of one week, after which time the ballots will be opened for an additional week. All students excluding seniors may vote for elected officers; students may only vote for the representative of their class. The nominees with the most votes for their respective positions win, and the results shall be announced via a mass email to the entire school. In the event of a tie, the period of campaigning and voting shall be repeated by the tied position(s) only. If another tie occurs, the StuCo administration will decide among the candidates.

## Section II: Appointed Positions

The positions of communications director and spiritual life leader are to be appointed by the incumbent officer with guidance from the student council and the advisors. The appointed officers may accept recommendations from the council; as with elected officers, the appointee must be in grades ten through twelve during his/her term. Appointed officers may not appoint themselves to the position unless no other replacement can be found and approval is granted by the StuCo administration.

## Section III: Service Coordinator

The service coordinator shall be elected from current members of the National Honor Society at the discretion of the National Honor Society advisor. The election for the service

coordinator will be held concurrent with general StuCo elections, though the electorate shall be limited to National Honor Society members.

## Article VII

### Section I: Calendar

The student council's calendar shall operate according to that of NorthStar Academy. All holidays and weekends are to be observed unless a project demands otherwise. A "term," the time of a council's administration, is defined as August 1 through June 30 of the following year; the first semester is August 1 through December 31, and the second semester is January 1 through June 30. The student council shall remain in operation through the typical summer holiday, utilizing the month of July to transfer administration from one council to the next.

### Section II: Meetings

Bimonthly meetings shall be scheduled at the discretion of the president to review the student council's progress and important business and are mandatory for all members. Any member may call unofficial meetings for any StuCo purpose with one week of notice. If the scheduling of the meetings conflicts with a members' regular schedule, they may discuss alternative requirements with the StuCo president and advisors.

### Section III: Timeliness

Though conflicts of time are inevitable, all members are encouraged to prioritize the student council as necessary to attend meetings and fulfill their responsibilities. All members must remain respectful of time zones and personal schedules, but sacrifice may be necessary. Other guidelines for timeliness are detailed throughout the governing documents.

### Section IV: Absences

Both planned and unplanned absences are unavoidable, but consistent or lengthy absences may be detrimental to the council's performance. An absence is defined as any length of time greater than one during which a member does not actively participate in discussion or activities within the student council. One may remain active socially but be considered absent from the student council. Warning and penalties may be administered according to the following policy:

- One to three week absence with notification: no penalty.
- One to three week absence without notification: speak with president and advisors; relinquishment of StuCo credit for eligible members.
- Continued absence(s) beyond three weeks: removal.

# Article VIII

## Section I: Reasons for Removal

Any student council member, with the exception of advisors, may be considered for removal with appropriate justification within one of the following categories.

1. Failure to fulfill responsibilities and expectations as outlined in the student council's governing documents.
2. Behavior that violates the governing documents, NSA handbook, or the Bible.
3. Absences according to Article VII, Section IV.
4. Inability to maintain a minimum "C" average in all classes.

## Section II: Process of Removal

If any member finds cause to believe that the removal of another member should be considered, the prosecuting member must send a detailed description of the defendant's violations to the StuCo administration. The president shall then send an email to the defendant detailing the charges and requesting justification or action. The defendant may at that point resign or reply to the administration defending or explaining his/her actions. The StuCo advisors may at their own discretion (a) warn the defendant not to repeat such behavior, (b) remove the defendant from the StuCo, (c) temporarily relieve the defendant of all responsibilities for further investigation, or (d) pronounce the defendant innocent of behavior warranting removal. A decision being made, the advisors will notify all parties involved, including the parent(s) or supervisor(s) of the defendant. If the defendant is removed, the council will be notified, and he/she will be replaced according to Article VIII, Section IV. If the defendant is temporarily relieved of his/her position, the president will communicate with members and other students if necessary to fulfill the neglected responsibilities, but a member may not have a forced absence greater than four weeks.

## Section III: Process of Resignation

If a student council member becomes unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities or cannot otherwise remain active in the council, he/she should notify the StuCo administration with an email outlining their motivations for resignation. If the advisors deem the reasons legitimate, the administration accepts the resignation of the StuCo member. Replacement of the resigned member will take place as outlined in Article VIII, Section IV.

## Section IV: Aftermath of Removal or Resignation

In the event of the removal or resignation of an elected member, a public election for the position will be initiated by the StuCo administration following the same guidelines as

annual elections. In the event of the removal or resignation of an appointed member, the StuCo administration will collectively appoint a new member to the position. The student council advisors reserve the right to reject the newly elected member or appoint an eligible student to the position with proper justification. All positions must be occupied at all times or the responsibilities fulfilled by other members for no longer than four weeks.

## Article IX

### Section I: Appeals

Ideas, conflicts, and other issues may be appealed to the president if a resolution or consecutive action can be decided in the student council folder; the appeal must be fully described in an email to the president. He/she may immediately close the issue with a decision or present it to the student council for a vote as described in Article IX, Section II. If the president is incapable of action or is involved in the conflict, the appeal may be taken directly to the advisors.

### Section II: Votes

Any member may request a student council vote; when a vote becomes necessary, both the positive and the negative must be clearly expressed in an email to the student council folder. Discussion will remain open for a minimum of one week. At the decision of the initiator, voting may occur publicly in the folder or privately through an online voting system. Voting will be open for one week or as long as necessary to obtain a majority vote. The initiator will then take action according to the majority vote; if a majority vote is not decided, discussion and voting will repeat as necessary.

After the discussion period, voting may also be conducted in a meeting if no more than four members are absent.

### Section III: Amendments

Any member may propose amendments to this constitution by sending an email detailing the amendment to the student council folder and the president. Discussion shall remain open for a minimum of one week and shall not exceed four weeks. When the amendment has been adequately discussed, the president will request a vote as outlined in Article IX, Section II, including any variations or additional amendments presented during discussion. The amendment passes when approved by nine members. The president may then veto the amendment or present it to the advisors. If vetoed by the president, the amendment may once again be presented according to the guidelines in Article IX, Section IV. The advisors may approve or veto the amendment. If the amendment is vetoed, no further action will be taken; if approved, it may be inserted into this constitution.

## Section IV: Vetoes

The president and advisors are permitted to veto any vote, amendment, or project with appropriate justification presented in an email to the student council or the necessary member(s). However, the president's veto may be overruled by a unanimous vote from the remainder of the council, at which point action will be taken or the amendment taken to the advisors. The advisors' veto is final.

# Amendments

## I. Student Council Projects

A student council project constitutes any ongoing or annual event, activity, or pursuit in the interest of the student body that seeks to directly fulfill the mission statements of both NorthStar Academy and the student council. All student council projects fall under the immediate jurisdiction of a StuCo officer or a representative as delegated by the StuCo administration or the governing documents of the student council. Delegates responsible for these projects are accountable either directly or indirectly to the StuCo and NorthStar Academy administrations; a delegate's failure to fulfill the written expectations of either administrative party may result in their removal from the project or another consequence as determined by the StuCo administration. StuCo projects shall be recorded in the StuCo offices document; new projects require the express written approval of the StuCo administration in an email and shall be recorded in the StuCo offices document upon completion.

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