



Montebello Christian School Student Council Constitution

Preamble

We, the students of Montebello Christian School, in order to form a more perfect learning environment, believe that:

1. All students (5th-8th) and staff, regardless of gender, religion, color or creed should have the opportunity to be involved in the school's Student Council.
2. All participants in the Student Council should be responsible members of Montebello Christian School.
5. All staff and students should work to create a safe, Christ-like and orderly learning environment.
6. All students shall have certain rights and freedoms as guaranteed to them as students of the school.

Article 1

Name of the Organization

The Montebello Christian School Student Council, shall hereafter be referred to as the MCSSC.

Article 2

Composition of the Student Government

Section 1: The Executive Board is comprised of elected and appointed officers/chairpersons.

Article 3

Powers of the Student Government Association

Section 1: The power of the Student Council is provided by the administration. Within this authority, the MCSSC general assembly and executive board shall have the power to pass legislation in matters concerning the best interests of the student body. All actions of the Student Council are subject to the approval by the principal.

Section 2: The administration, with student input will appoint a faculty advisor to the MCSSC. The advisor's role is to direct and guide the actions of the MCSSC. He/she does not have voting rights. The student government advisor has the responsibility to:

- a) Provide guidance in all MCSSC sponsored activities
- b) Chaperone all MCSSC activities (and secure additional chaperones as needed)
- c) Excuse the absences of students who miss class because of student government activities

Section 3: The General Assembly shall have all legislative powers. All expenditures of the MCSSC over and above thirty percent (30%) of the treasury must be authorized by the general assembly.

Section 4: The administrator shall have all legislative powers save those superseded by the Constitution. The administrator has the responsibility to involve the general assembly in as many actions of the MCSSC as possible, because it is the representatives, therefore the general assembly, which expresses the voice of the total student body.

Article 4

Qualifications and Terms of Office

Section 1: General Qualifications

- a) All officers must maintain a 2.0 grade point average or better. In addition, any student serving on a MCSSC must maintain a 2.0 grade point average.
- b) All officers and representatives shall exhibit exemplary behavior and academic ethics. If reservations about behavior or academic ethics are brought forth by faculty and staff, the administration shall make the final decision concerning the qualification of the candidate in question.

- c) All officers and representatives are expected to attend all general assemblies of the MCSSC.

Section 2: Specific Qualifications

- 1) President- the president shall be in 8th grade for the year of his/her service
- 2) Vice Presidents -shall be in 7th/8th grade for the year of his/her service
- 3) Treasurer- shall be in any grade 5-8 for the year of his/her service
- 4) Secretary- shall be in any grade 5-8 for the year of his/her service

- 1) Representatives are expected to participate in the planning and implementation of at least one MCSSC activity.
- 2) Representatives must report all actions of the MCSSC to his/her constituents and be responsible for reporting to the MCSSC the concerns of his/her constituents.

Section 3: Term of Office

- a) All Fall elected/appointed MCSSC officers shall serve a one year term beginning October until the last day of school in June of the current school year

Article 5 Responsibilities and Duties

Role of the Student Council:

- a) To create in cooperation with the Principal, staff and students, a better school life for the student of our school.
- b) To provide students with opportunities of leadership and to develop in all students a sense of responsibility.
- c) To encourage the students in the school to become more aware of how the school is run and to constructively identify and express their needs.
- d) To contribute to overall school development by being involved in school policy development, and to be a resource in working in partnership with the management of the school.

President:

- a) Shall execute and carry out the Constitution of Montebello Christian School.
- b) Shall preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.
- c) Shall represent the student body of Montebello Christian School when called upon to do so by the principal
- d) Shall appoint, with approval from the Executive Board, any desired chairpersons.
- e) Shall appoint, with the approval of the executive board, ad hoc committees as necessary.
- f) Shall have the authority, with approval from the executive board, to call additional meetings of the MCSSC.
- g) Shall promote interest and participation within the Student Council.

Vice President:

- a) In case of president's absence or inability to carry out his responsibilities, the vice-president will take charge and assume the responsibilities of the president.
- b) Shall assist the president as directed.
- c) Will share MCSSC news with MCS student and Staff at Chapel

Treasurer:

- a) Shall be responsible for the record keeping concerning all student government expenditures and income.
- b) Shall, at Representative Assembly Meetings, submit a report on the financial status of the Student Council.
- c) Shall be responsible for preparing a budget for the Student Council.

Secretary:

- a) Shall be responsible for recording all minutes of the Student Council meetings.
- b) Shall be responsible for copying and distributing all records of the Student Council to the Representative Assembly.
- c) Shall maintain all Student Government Association Records.
- d) Shall be responsible for all secretarial and clerical duties of the Student Council
- e) Shall be responsible for all approved correspondence.

School Spirit Leader:

- a) Shall be responsible for creating themes for spirit week
- b) Shall be responsible with coming up with ideas to celebrate certain holidays throughout the year, such as 100 days of school, read across America week, etc.
- c) Shall be responsible of posters and publicity to promote projects initiated by the student council.

5-8th Grade Homeroom Representatives:

- a) Shall be responsible for representing their classmates in meetings.
- b) Shall be responsible for relaying minutes to homeroom classroom.

**Article 6
Elections and Appointments**

Section 1: Election/appointments of the Executive Board shall take place in September for the current school year.

Section 2: Specific election guidelines will be reviewed in September and submitted to administration for approval. Candidates shall receive a copy of all election guidelines.

Section 3: All election will be voted on by the whole of the student body. Every student has the right to vote once per election cycle.

Section 4: Any candidate receiving the most votes cast (popular vote) will win the election (all positions)

**Article 7
Meetings**

Section 1: All meetings, as deemed appropriate by the President and Principal.

Section 2: The MCSSC shall meet a minimum of 1 time per month during the school year.

**Article 8
Impeachment and Succession**

Section 1: Impeachment

- a) All officers (elected/appointed) and representatives shall be subject to impeachment for behavior deemed inappropriate by the administration.
- b) Out of School Suspension or expulsion from school requires automatic impeachment from any MCSSC position.
- c) A report card with lower than a 2.0 grade point average requires automatic impeachment from any MCSSC position.
- d) Missing 3 or more meetings, unexcused, shall be subject to impeachment proceedings.
- e) Any representative who fails to carry out his/her duty in a responsible manner may have impeachment charges brought against him/her.
- f) Impeachment proceedings are defined in the bylaws.

Section 2: Succession

- a) In case of the president's permanent inability to serve, the MCSSC Vice President will assume all responsibilities of the office of president. The Vice President will be replaced following clause (b) below.
- b) In case of all other elected/appointed officer's inability to serve, the president shall appoint from general applications or previous candidates, with approval from the executive board, a person to complete the term. The principal must confirm the appointment.
- c) When Representative vacancies occur, they will be filled by special election in the homeroom/or grade class where the vacancies exist.

**Article 9
Amendments**

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) of the legislative body.

**Article 10
Ratification**

This Constitution shall be in effect when it is approved by the administration, then receives two-thirds (2/3) vote of the student body.

**Article 11
Finance and Fundraising**

An account has been opened in the name of the Student Council with the local bank. The Student Council Treasurer will keep an up-to-date and accurate account of all money raised by the council and will provide a report to the council at the last council meeting of the year.

Bylaws to the Constitution

**Article 1
Impeachment**

Section 1: From Article 9, Section 1 in the Constitution, these are the proceedings to be implemented when charges are brought before an elected/appoint MCSC officer/chairman/representative.

- a) Charges should be submitted in writing to the MCSSC advisor and principal.
- b) The MCSSC advisor will inform the Executive Board and a committee of students, faculty, and administration shall be convened to discuss the charges.
- c) If the advisor and principal find the charges to be credible, the MCSSC member charge with the impeachment shall present his or her defense to the executive members, advisor and principal (impeachment committee).
- d) The committee shall vote by secret ballot to determine the outcome. The principal must confirm the outcome. If the principal overturns the result, he/she must submit in writing, within five school days, to the committee his/her reasons for reversing the decision. The decision of the principal may be appealed following grievance procedures

**Article 2
Adoption and Amendments**

Section 1: This document shall take effect upon its approval by the administration and two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.

Section 2: These bylaws may be amended upon approval by the administration and 3/4 vote of the executive board.

**Article 3
Jurisdiction**

Section 1: This document shall be appended to the Constitution for the duration of its authorization, but shall be superseded by the Constitution in any conflicts.