

The Constitution of the Student Government Association

Apopka High School

(5/12/2021)

PREAMBLE

We do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association to serve our students and community while promoting the values, traditions, and spirit, which make us proud to be the Blue Darters of Apopka High School.

Article I – NAME & PURPOSE

Section I: The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Apopka High School (SGA) or the abbreviated SGA of APK.

Section II: The purpose of this organization will be to develop those qualities of citizenship necessary for the preservation of our democratic system by providing students both the responsibilities and privileges of participating in a republican form of democracy within the confines of the school. It shall allow students to voice their ideas in the planning of activities that affect the general welfare of our school and students. Members shall act as ambassadors to our community through service.

Article II – MEMBERSHIP & AUTHORITY

Section I: The SGA shall be composed of elected & appointed voting members.

Section II: The membership of this SGA shall be comprised of seven officers, three sub-officers, and a fluctuating number of senators per grade level, depending on school needs, number of periods, and class sizes.

Section III: The privileges and responsibilities of SGA are delegated to it by the principal of Apopka High School; therefore, the right to Veto any SGA action rests with the principal, or his designated representative, the SGA sponsor and assistant sponsor.

Section IV: Parliamentary procedure shall govern the SGA in all cases to which they are applicable. Only the president or designated chairman can suspend the use of parliamentary procedure.

Article III - DUTIES OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section I: The SGA shall be empowered to carry out numerous activities, traditions, and events on behalf of the administration and the student body. SGA shall make needed expenditures of funds only with sponsor's approval.

Section II: The SGA shall be involved in activities outside the normal school day hours. These may often be mandatory events.

Section III: The SGA will be a voice for AHS student needs & concerns within the organization and with the AHS principal.

Article IV – OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD & SUB OFFICERS

Section I: The purpose of the executive board shall be to participate and coordinate all activities of the SGA. The executive board shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, historian, parliamentarian, and supervisor of elections. The sub-officers include the president of the senate, senate pro tempore, and secretary of the senate.

Section II: The officers of the executive board, president of the senate, senate pro tempore, and secretary of the senate will be the only individuals that may chair a permanent committee. Special committees can be chaired by a member of the senate.

Section III: More is required and expected from executive board officers in comparison to sub-officers and senators.

Section IV: Duties of the president & vice president shall be the following:

- To uphold this constitution and preside over SGA meetings. To effectively carry out all directives from the sponsor.
- Maintain communication with the sponsor regarding all activities done in the name of SGA.
- Represent students at local, district, and state functions as requested.
- Create any committee that is needed or requested by the sponsor. Coordinate all committee activities.
- Hold executive board meetings with the sponsor, officers, and sub-officers as needed.

Section V: Duties of the secretary shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this constitution. To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor.
- To keep the official record, minutes, committee reports, and files of all Student Government Association meetings.
- Maintain a log of SGA member's attendance in class, responsible for meeting minutes and agendas.

Section VI: Duties of the treasurer shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this constitution. To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor.
- Maintain accurate records of all financial transactions of the Student Government Association.
- Supervise all money collecting operations, receipts, and management of the budget.

Section VII: Duties of the historian shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this constitution. To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor.
- Keep an accurate photographic record/folder of all Student Government Association activities.

Section VIII: Duties of the parliamentarian shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this constitution. To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor.
- To ensure that SGA meetings are conducted in an orderly manner according to parliamentary procedure, unless otherwise suspended by the president or designated chairperson.

Section IX: Duties of the Supervisor of Elections shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this Constitution. To effectively carry out directives.
- Serve as Chairperson and coordinator for all Student Government Association elections.
- Supervise polling places and ballots during elections when it is not a conflict of interest.

Article V - THE SENATE

Section I: The freshmen, sophomore, junior, & senior classes at AHS shall be represented in the SGA through a senate.

Section II: The senate of the SGA shall fluctuate in number depending upon the needs of the organization. The SGA Sponsor will select members to act as Sub-Officers.

Section III: Duties of the senator shall be the following:

- Assist all officers & sub-officers, as they require, in the proper functioning of SGA in all events.
- To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor & participate in various committees and fundraising projects.
- Participate in service projects at Apopka and within the community. Participate in projects, events, and school functions

Article VI - HONOR CODE

Section I: All members of SGA will treat each other with courtesy and dignity. Personal conflicts and demeaning behavior have no place within this organization. All members are equal in their ideas, opinions, and values and will be treated with respect.

Section II: The highest level of citizenship and integrity will be the minimum standard of behavior in SGA. Honesty is not a luxury and deceit will not be tolerated. Civility is mandatory. Manners and courtesy are always expected.

Section III: Violation of ANY of the above will result in disciplinary action, drastic grade reduction, or removal from office depending on the seriousness of the transgression. Honor code violations will be reviewed by the sponsor, assistant sponsor, and principal of AHS.

Section IV: Flagrant inappropriate behavior through social media by an SGA member will be grounds for their dismissal.

Article VII - ELIGIBILITY & CANDIDACY FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section I: Officers, sub-officers, & senators must have and maintain a cumulative unweighted 2.65 G.P.A. (except for incoming freshmen). Candidates for President or Vice President must have a cumulative 3.0 unweighted GPA & maintain it.

Section II: All candidates will possess an excellent citizenship and attendance record.

Section III: No officer of the Student Government Association may also be an officer of any class council at the same time (this does not apply to sub-officers). No SGA president or vice president will serve as president of any other organization or club.

Section IV: A candidate must turn in their candidacy petition, submit recommendations, & receive the sponsor's endorsement before the deadline to be placed on the SGA ballot. The sponsor can waive these requirements if deemed necessary.

Section V: Any student wishing to run for an officer position **MUST** have one-year prior SGA experience and the sponsor's endorsement **BEFORE** the Declaration of Candidacy is submitted. The endorsement will be based on a student's SGA performance and proven ability, their citizenship, work ethic, ability to work with others, and academic record.

Section VI: Only a student who will be a senior during their term may run for the office of president or vice president. A student may only run for one SGA office at a time.

Article VIII - ELECTIONS

Section I: The executive board and senate will be elected/appointed in the spring.

Section II: New officers, sub-officers, and senators will assume their official responsibilities the day after graduation. An officer-elect, sub-officer-appointed/elect, or senator-elect may act or represent the school in lieu of an existing member if approved by the sponsor. Positions not filled by the election will be filled (appointed) by the sponsor.

Section III: Election rules, declaration of candidacy, and a teacher recommendations apparatus will be provided by the sponsor prior to the election. A candidate's failure to follow the rules will result in disqualification. It is the candidate's responsibility to review this constitution **PRIOR** to running for office (ask the sponsor for a copy or check the SGA website).

Article IX - ELECTION OF SPECIAL SGA AMBASSADORS

Section I: Special Ambassadors to the Student Government Association shall be elected each year. These ambassadors will be nominated by current seniors in the fall. There will be eight senior female members and eight senior male members. These members will represent SGA at various functions throughout that school year when needed.

Section 2: These special ambassadors will make up the membership of the AHS homecoming court. The student body will then elect one member of each court as homecoming king & queen.

Section 3: Requirements to be a special ambassador and member of the homecoming court are as follows: A student must have a cumulative 2.65 unweighted G.P.A. and possess an excellent citizenship, behavior, and attendance record at Apopka High School. Furthermore, the student has not received a Level 3 or 4 referral during their high school years. Must also be a senior.

Article X - FINANCES

Section I: All matters pertaining to finances shall be subject to the approval of the principal of Apopka High School. All financial expenses pertaining to the work of the SGA must either be authorized by a majority vote of the executive board, sub-officers, and senate with final approval from the sponsor or solely authorized by the sponsor as needed.

Article XI - COMMITTEES

Section I: The sponsor will determine the number of general committees at the beginning of the school year. Thereafter, special committees within the SGA may only be formed by the president or sponsor.

Article XII - TERM OF OFFICE

Section I: All elected and appointed members of the SGA shall serve a term of one school year (No term limits).

Article XIII - VACANCIES

Section I: The sponsor shall appoint vacancies in the executive board, including sub-officers & senate that occur during the school year. Selected candidates must meet all requirements and recommendations for office that are needed.

Section II: If the president shall not be able to complete his/her term of office, the vice president shall assume the presidency.

Article XIV - REMOVAL FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section I: Any member of SGA can be removed if they fail to execute their duties in a responsible fashion. Each case shall be reviewed by the sponsor & assistant sponsor, and if deemed necessary, presented to the principal for a final judgment.

Section II: Grounds for dismissal from the Student Government Association may include:

- Repeated failure to fulfill the responsibilities set forth in this constitution.
- Failure to maintain a cumulative 2.65 unweighted G.P.A. for most officers, sub-officers, and senators. The only exception to this is for both the president and vice president who need a cumulative 3.0 unweighted GPA.
- Administrative suspension, multiple detentions, or repeated infractions of established sponsor or school rules.
- Failure to have an acceptable attendance, citizenship, and academic record.
- ANY behavior or action that would compromise the high standard of the SGA or the reputation of AHS (Social Media).
- Failure to report to the SGA sponsor any referral, suspension, dress code violation or detention in a timely manner.
- Violations of the SGA honor code and established rules.

Article XV – ELIGIBILITY FOR SGA "EXECUTIVE BOARD" GRADUATION MEDALS

Section I: SGA member must be a senior, have a 3.25 unweighted cumulative GPA, earned 40 Community Service Hours at AHS (Grade 9 through Grade 12), No more than 10 UNEXCUSED absences their senior year, and 20 Excellence Stars by May 1st.

Section II: Final approval of graduation medals for the Executive Board officers will be determined by the SGA sponsor.

Article XVI – ELIGIBILITY FOR SGA REELECTION

Section I: 15 Excellence Stars need to be earned each year of SGA membership. Excellence Stars will be awarded & tracked for ANY & ALL SGA functions which include events outside school hours, mascotting, set-ups, cleanups, community events, fundraisers, and special duties (20 Excellence Stars need to be earned if you wish to run for president or vice president).

Section II: Single DEMERITS will be issued for the following: Not showing up for events, failing to follow instructions from an officer, not wearing blue & white on Friday unless excused, not representing SGA as a role model at school or in the community, failure to follow school rules, dress code violations, tardiness to class, events, meetings, failure to keep up with classes academically, not checking email or REMIND regularly). **THREE DEMERITS = ONE EXCELLENCE STAR WILL BE REVOKED.**

Article XVII - RATIFICATION

Section I: This Constitution, including future revisions as necessary, shall become effective on June 2, 2021 after ratification by the sponsor, assistant sponsor, president, & vice president of the Student Government Association.

Wednesday May 12, 2021

Ms. Olivia Siemoneit
SGA President 2021-2022

Mr. Paul Peters
Student Government Sponsor

Ms. Leah Khalaf
SGA Vice-President 2021-2022

Mr. Mike Mellon
Assistant SGA Sponsor