

## The Student Council Constitution of Cherokee High School

Created November 28, 1995;  
revised February 6, 2013 ; revised April 2017

- Article I: The name of this organization shall be the Cherokee High School Student Council.
- Article II: The purpose of this Council shall be to represent the student body as the student government, to promote cooperation between the students and the faculty, and to create and maintain respect towards fellow students and property.
- Article III: The Student Council shall consist of two parts: the Executive Board and Student Council Representatives. Student Council Representatives can be unlimited and those persons will participate in various Student Council activities. All members will have specific requirements to maintain membership. Executive Officers shall control the meetings and events, as well as enforce the rules and requirements set by the Council and this Constitution.

Elections for the Student Council Committee (President, North Vice President, South Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) will be held in the spring each year. The remaining positions will be appointed by the incoming Executive Board in the spring of each year.

Recognized clubs of Cherokee High School may request to send representatives to General Assembly meetings. These representatives have no vote.

Any student shall have a chance to obtain a Council position as long as they meet the requirements below.

- The student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.000 or greater, and maintain this average throughout their term.
- The student can have no greater than one in-school suspension during the year of their term, and no out-of-school suspensions.
- Presidential candidates must currently hold a position on the Executive Board to run for presidency. The following elected candidates, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, must have served at least one year on the Executive Board to run.
- The President must be a senior for his/her term. In the interest of equal representative between the grades, the Executive Board must make every attempt to have at least one rising sophomore and one rising junior. If one rising sophomore or junior is not elected, then the new Council must attempt to place one as an appointed position.

- Article IV: The Student Council has the power to:
- decide upon activities and committees in the interest of students.
  - control Student Council funds as best see fit.
  - represent students and assist with student-to-faculty relationships.
  - be granted an appointment with the principal when arranged and needed.

- Article V: The Executive Board acts in control of all Council meetings and events and is designated to run in the interest of the students. The President must prepare an agenda for all meetings with the General Assembly, discuss matters, and prepare them for the presentation to the General Assembly.

Executive Officers must make every attempt to attend all meetings. An email must be sent to a Student Council advisor when an Executive Officer cannot attend a meeting. The President presides at all meetings, acts as a chairperson of the Executive Office, and acts as a spokesperson for the Student Council. She/he will attend all NJASC conventions during their term.

The North Vice President presides at all meetings when the President is absent or not present. She/he will attend all NJASC conventions during their term.

The South Vice President is responsible for maintaining photographs and details of events hosted by Cherokee clubs and sports. Advisors and Executive Board members are required to have access to this presentation upon request.

The Secretary records the minutes and attendance of members at meetings and events. He/she maintains an electronic copy of the attendance throughout the year that all Executive Board members and advisors have access to.

The Treasurer reports all money raised by each Student Council Activity and is responsible for counting money raised at events with one advisor. He/she is also responsible for maintaining the Student Council Website.

Article VI: Student Council Representatives are given the power to vote at Council meetings, as well as work within and speak for a committee or themselves.

Student Council Representative requirements are listed below.

- work 1 dance shift
- participate in 3 student council run activities (dance does not count)
- attend 4 General Assembly meetings
- spread information by word of mouth to peers and faculty in a positive manner.

Article VII: All legislative powers will be vested in the Student Council. All General Assembly meetings will be conducted according to the agenda made by the President and approved by the advisor prior to the meeting.

Article VIII: Meetings are scheduled when necessary as seen fit by the Executive Board. However, there is a minimum of at least one General Assembly meeting per marking period. Meetings commence with the President calling the meeting to order. Before any new business may begin, the Secretary must give roll call and read the minutes of the previous meeting within that year, and the Treasurer must read the treasury report. At least one advisor must be present at the General Assembly meeting. Only the President can begin and adjourn a meeting. In the absence of the President, the North Vice President can begin and adjourn a meeting.

Article IX: Only Student Council members are allowed to vote, with one vote for each Student Council Representative and Executive Board member. The person must be present to give a vote. The President can make the deciding vote in instances of a tie, although he/she cannot vote in General Session. Advisors have no vote.

Article X: Elections for an executive position are done by popular vote by all students in grades 9, 10, and 11, with the person receiving the greater votes becoming elected.

For an executive position, no more than five people may run for any position unless equal or near-equal numbers of candidates are running in the other positions. If more than five candidates apply for an office, the applicants must have filled their applications before the deadline. The deadline is final. Each candidate's application will be reviewed by the Executive Board and slated for a position. Next the candidates running for executive office will be interviewed in a private session with the newly elected President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and at least one advisor. Candidates will be selected upon their involvement in school activities as well as their involvement in other clubs and organizations,

whether inside or outside of school. No decision can be made about the ballot before the interview process, and even candidates who are not selected can run for another position. Each candidate will be required to meet with at least one Advisor, as well as either President or North Vice President, to discuss the duties and responsibilities of the office he/she is seeking before the election.

Any potential candidate who has not fulfilled all of the responsibilities of the office/position they currently hold in Student Council will not be slated as a candidate for an executive board position. Candidates will be informed of ineligibility by the outgoing president and/or an advisor during the private interviewing session.

Any student found cheating in the election will be disqualified from his/her title, and loses all rights guaranteed to him/her under this Article. If the candidate is found cheating after being elected, a re-vote will occur of only that position, with the faulty candidate disqualified of their title. Any student who is running for an office cannot collect ballots, count votes, or help in any way with the election process. Disciplinary action may also be sought against a cheating candidate. Each candidate for an executive position is given the right to a speech, a position on the ballot, and the use of posters and other forms of advertisement that fall within the school's rules.

Each candidate can have maximum of 8 posters placed within the school grounds. No advertising may appear in the election area. No libel can appear on any advertisement. If a libelous poster is found it will be taken down immediately. The advisors and Executive board will meet to discuss disqualification of the libelous candidate. The advisors are given final authority on the decision.

The results of the election will be emailed the same day to the candidates, advisors and current executive board. The results shall be announced to the school the day after the election during lunch. In case of a tie, a run-off election between the two candidates will take place within three school days of the original election. The decision of the voters is final in all cases of the election, whether at executive or legislative level.

Article XI: The Student Council Constitution can be amended with a 2/3 vote by the executive officers. Each officer can give one vote. The vote will be silent and counted by an advisor.

Article XII: The dismissal of any Student Executive Officer can occur with a 3/4 vote by the Executive Board. If the Executive Officers choose to bring dismissal charges for discussion, the officer in question must be given 10 days notice before the Executive Officers make a decision to allow the officer time to explain his/her case. At the end of the probation period, the Executive Officers will vote on the question of recalling the officer. A replacement will then be chosen from the Executive Board. All Executive Board members and advisors have one vote.

Any Student Council member who receives two or more in-school suspensions or one or more out-of-school suspensions during year they hold office must tender their resignation. Any member whose cumulative GPA falls below a 2.000 will be put on probation until the average is brought above a 2.000. If this does not occur within one marking period, he/she must tender his/her resignation.

If an Executive Officer cannot maintain the requirements set forth in the Constitution, the following will occur: if the President, he/she will be preplaced by the North Vice President, with an immediate election occurring for the North Vice President. If any other elected officer, an immediate election will take place. If an appointed officer, a new person will be appointed by the President and North Vice President.