



**NLA** NORTH LAKES  
ACADEMY  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
**STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

**Adopted:** 2010

**Revised:** October 2016

**Reviewed:** August 2016

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the assembled Student Council Representatives of North Lakes Academy, set forth this Constitution to establish a new Student Body Government hereafter known as the North Lakes Academy Student Council. This body of students, appointed to the position Student Council Representatives, shall be a governing body over the North Lakes Academy Student Body in conjunction with the North Lakes Academy School Board, administrators, staff advisors, and teaching staff. Elected Representatives must always be mindful of their constituents in the Student Body and always represent their ideas, interests, and voices as active and participating members of North Lakes Academy.

This Constitution shall be the governing rules of the Student Council Representatives and Officers. This Constitution is a living document made up of articles and sections that can be amended to best serve the interests of the Student Body.

### **ARTICLE I: PLEDGE OF SERVICE**

As the North Lakes Academy Student Council, we make the following pledge to the student body: We shall fulfill our mission statement by ensuring that the voices of students are respectfully heard and acted upon, and see that the students' best interests are properly served. We shall uphold the rights of all students, serving as the liaison between the students and the NLA community. We shall constantly strive toward improving the quality of life of all students. These are the responsibilities that we undertake wholeheartedly and of our own volition.

### **ARTICLE II: EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

**Section 1.** Any elected member of Student Council shall be considered a Student Council Representative. The maximum number of Representatives will be four (4) seniors, two (2) juniors, two (2) sophomores, and two (2) freshmen.

**Section 2.** Student Council Representatives must sign this document annually as receipt of their acknowledgment of the definitions, processes, requirements, and expectations outlined herein.

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**Section 3.** Student Council Representatives must remain in good academic standing by maintaining at least a 2.5 GPA average for all classes.

**Section 4.** Student Council Representatives must attend all required meetings and activities unless excused by the Student Council President. If concerns arise regarding the attendance and/or engagement of Representatives at meetings or events, the President in concert with staff advisors will determine if recourse should be taken.

**Section 5.** Student Council Representatives that do not abide by the NLA Code of Conduct, the NLA Student Council Mission Statement, and these constitutional principles can be removed by a two--thirds vote by Student Council members.

**Section 6.** Student Council Representatives that attend all meetings and all events - in accordance with Section II.3 above - and serve as a coordinator of a Leadership Committee team for a Student Council event as described in Article V, will be eligible to receive an activity letter for Student Council.

### **ARTICLE III: STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ELECTIONS**

**Section 1.** All students seeking candidacy for a Student Council Representative position must submit an application to be reviewed by Student Council staff advisor(s) during second semester of the prior school year. Incoming freshmen students seeking to be an elected Representative will submit their applications in the fall semester of their ninth grade year no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Section 2.** Student Council Representatives are elected to Student Council by the student body, current Student Council Representatives, and North Lakes Academy staff members in a public balloting process conducted each spring.

**Section 3:** Student Council Representatives from the incoming freshman class will be elected by the members of their class and newly elected Student Council Representatives in the fall semester of each school year no earlier than October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Section 4:** Students who are not currently on the Student Council will vote only for Representatives from their grade level. Student Council members may not cast multiple votes as both a Student Council Representative and a member of the student body.

**Section 5:** Ballots cast in both phases of the election process, as described by Section 2 and Section 3 above, within this election will be weighted with the following structure: current Student Council members (40%), staff advisors, administrators, other staff members (30%), student body at large (30%).



#### **ARTICLE IV: STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The Student Council will be led by Officers, who are elected by the Student Council Representatives in the first meeting following spring elections. Officer responsibilities will commence immediately after the Student Council Officer election.

**Section 2.** Three Officer positions - President, Vice President, and Secretary - are to be filled by Student Council Representatives. The Student Council can add or remove Officer positions as they see fit with a majority vote of the Student Council and approval by staff advisors.

**Section 3.** The duties of the established Officer positions are as follows:

- a. President:** The President must be a representative from the senior class and maintain the general order and direction of Student Council, lead meetings and calls for votes, approve Leadership Committee members, coordinate agenda and meeting times with staff advisors and the administration.
- b. Vice President:** The Vice President fulfills the duties of the President and/or Secretary if he/she is unable to do so and acts as advisor to the President. They will also work with staff advisors to track the financial health of Student Council and assist in making responsible financial decisions.
- c. Secretary:** The Secretary records meeting and event minutes for submission to the Student Council website, holds Student Council records, tallies votes and creates agendas in cooperation with the President.

**Section 4.** All elected Officers are expected to work with staff advisors and the administration to ensure that a positive online and social media presence is maintained, and information distributed publicly is accurate.

#### **ARTICLE V: STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICER ELECTIONS**

**Section 1.** Student Body Officers must be an elected Student Council Representative, and must give notice of their intent to run at a Student Council meeting no later than two weeks before the election. Candidates must state their qualifications, goals, and beliefs about why they should hold the position.

**Section 2.** Staff advisors and other employees of North Lakes Academy shall not give their endorsement or support, or take any actions that may favor or disfavor a student candidate that is running for an Officer position.

**Section 3.** Student Council Representatives who are nominated by a peer can either accept or decline the nomination prior to votes being cast in the election.



**Section 4.** Student Council Representatives will vote once for each Officer position during the first meeting following the Student Council spring elections.

**Section 5.** Officer positions will be elected in the following order to allow for multiple candidacies by Representatives: President, Vice President, and Secretary, followed by any additional Officer positions created by the Student Council.

**Section 6.** The votes shall be tallied by the Student Council staff advisors for each Officer position, and those successful in their bid will be announced before the next round of ballots are cast.

**Section 7.** If a Student Council Representative running for an Office is unopposed, they must still fulfill the election requirements set forth by the Student Council.

#### **ARTICLE VI: STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** A Leadership Committee, composed of students from all grade levels that do not serve as a Student Council Representative, shall be formed by the Student Council in concert with the administration and staff advisors in the spring semester of each year following the Student Council Representative elections.

**Section 2:** Members of this Leadership Committee will be formed into teams with a designated specific purpose or task relating to events that the Student Council supports or plans throughout the academic year.

**Section 3.** An acting Student Council Representative must serve as the leader and point of contact for each of these specific Leadership Committee teams related to the event in question. They will be responsible for delegating the needs of the Student Council to the members of this Leadership Committee team members for execution.

**Section 4.** After a Leadership Committee team is formed with a specific purpose, they must present their work and progress before the Student Council as often as is requested by the President or staff advisors.

#### **ARTICLE VII: AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1.** If an amendment to this document is deemed necessary by Student Council members, they must present a reform proposal to the Student Council only during a scheduled Student Council meeting, and can only be voted and decided upon during said meetings.



**Section 2.** Amendments must pass with at least a two-thirds vote of the Student Council and approved by staff advisors in order to be ratified as an Amendment to the Constitution of the North Lakes Academy Student Council. Amendments made can be repealed or amended further through the same process.

**Section 3:** For this Constitution to be annulled, it must be brought up for a vote by the President and pass with a two--thirds vote. A new Constitution must be submitted, edited, and approved for a vote at the same time.

**ARTICLE VIII: ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The Undersigned does hereby certify:

- a. That he/she is the duly elected and acting Representative of the North Lakes Academy Charter School Student Council; and
- b. That the foregoing Preamble and Articles I-VIII, comprising five (5) pages including this page, compose the Constitution of the Student Council, as duly adopted on the preceding date, and signed at a meeting of the Student Council on the following date.
- c. I have signed my name below, as witness and agreement to the requirements herein.

Representative Full Name	Representative Signature	Date of Signature
Sr. <u>HA Crisol Paul Marchi</u>	<u>HARRISON, MARCHI</u>	<u>10/7/16</u>
Sr. <u>Crystal Stafford</u>	<u>Crystal Stafford</u>	<u>10/7/16</u>
Sr. <u>Braxton Brown</u>	<u>Braxton Brown</u>	<u>7 OCT 2016</u>
Sr. <u>Heather Quarstrom</u>	<u>Heather Quarstrom</u>	<u>10/7/16</u>
Jr. <u>Michael Zobe</u>	<u>Michael Zobe</u>	<u>10/7/16</u>
Jr. <u>Alyssa Blank</u>	<u>Alyssa Blank</u>	<u>10-7-16</u>
So. <u>Lauren Welsch</u>	<u>Lauren Welsch</u>	<u>10/7/16</u>
So. <u>Annalise Schoaf</u>	<u>Annalise Schoaf</u>	<u>10/7/16</u>
Fr. _____	_____	_____
Fr. _____	_____	_____

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