

2017 STUDENT COUNCIL CAMPAIGNING GUIDELINES

*You are not a candidate for office until all your credentials have been checked and you are declared a candidate by the elections committee. Applications are due to Mr. Gatlin (Mod 4-01) no later than the mandatory Candidates Meeting at SMART Lunch "A" on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. Students can only run for one specific Student Council office. Failure to abide by the following rules will disqualify you from seeking office.

*There will be a mandatory Candidates Meeting of all persons running for office on Tuesday, October 3 in Mr. Gatlin's room Mod 4-01 during the first half "A" of SMART lunch. Please see Mr. Gatlin (Mod 4-01) by Monday, October 2 if you will not be able to attend. If you do not attend the meeting, you may not be allowed to run for office!

*Campaigning for offices begins on Wednesday, October 4, and ends Friday, October 6! Elections will be held *Monday, October 9; Tuesday, October 10; and Wednesday, October 11* during SMART lunch in the Gym Courtyard. The rain location will be announced. You are urged to campaign in the designated space.

*Candidates should meet in Mr. Gatlin's room (Mod 4-01) at 7:05 a.m. on Thursday, October 12 to hear the results of the initial elections. Run-off candidates should meet in Mr. Gatlin's room (Mod4-01) at 7:05 a.m. on Monday, October 16 to hear final results.

*Run-offs will be held for any position in which a candidate does not win with at least fifty percent +1 of the votes. If this occurs, students will vote again on the two candidates with the most original votes. The candidate with at least fifty percent +1 of the votes after the run-off will be the winner of the position. Run-offs will take place on Friday, October 13 during SMART lunch in the Gym Courtyard. The rain location will be announced.

*Students who are elected to be on Student Council must attend the General Student Council meetings. Please watch the scrolling announcements and check your Twitter/email for the next meeting.

RULES FOR CAMPAIGNING

***Anyone not abiding by these rules may be disqualified from the election.**

1. You may display only ONE poster to promote your campaign. No posters may be larger than a sheet of poster board. We suggest that you use lightweight paper rather than heavy poster board because Panther Creek does not allow the use of heavy-duty tapes such as duct or plastic tape. Use only paper tape to mount your posters. Tape should go diagonally across the corners of your posters or in an "L" shape in photo corner style. You must get all posters approved by a Student Council Advisor with their signature and date before hanging them. Posters cannot have any references to social media outlets (facebook, twitter, etc) nor emails.

2. You may only hang your poster in the designated Student Council elections areas: Gym Lobby and Commons.

3. You are responsible for removing your campaign poster when the election is over.

4. You will create ONE PowerPoint slide that will be added to the TV announcements to run during SMART Lunch. Your slide must include your name; grade level; position you are running for; photo of yourself; and campaign slogan. Slides must be emailed to Ms. Petersohn (epetersohn@wcpss.net) no later than the end of day on Tuesday, October 3rd.

5. You may **NOT** give any favors to your fellow students during the campaign. Absolutely no favors (money, candy, gum, etc.) are allowed. Campaign stickers, flyers, brochures, and pamphlets are also prohibited. You may, however, give your fellow students badges or buttons. Candidate t-shirts must be worn to school and not distributed at school as promises for voting.

6. You must campaign in a positive, fair spirit. Negative campaigning is prohibited! Any personal references about your opponent, any derogatory remarks about school or any group, all types of profanity, and any inappropriate language or messages (e.g., references to drugs or alcohol) are examples of negative campaigning and are strictly forbidden.

7. Ballots will be counted by an elections committee and the Student Council Advisors.

8. Elections are student elections; therefore, every aspect of the campaign must be student-centered. Parents are not permitted to participate in any part of the on-campus campaigning, including the displaying of any campaign posters, signs, or materials.