

Rhinebeck High School
Student Council
Constitution

Article I: The name of this organization is Rhinebeck High School Student Council

Article II: Purpose of the RHS Student Council:

- a. Provide a democratic form in which students can address those school related issues that affect their lives.
- b. Maintain a continuous communication channel from students to faculty members and administrators as well as among the students within the school.
- c. Offer a yearlong program of social functions and community involvement projects for students.

Article III: Membership (and duties of each)

Section 1: All students of Rhinebeck High School are members of the student council and have the right to run for an office.

Section 2: Voting members of the SC

- Council Officers and optional supplemental offices (i.e. Historian, Videographer)
- Class officers
- Classroom representatives
- Team captains
- Club presidents or designated officers

Section 3: Officer Duties for SC and Class officers:

President:

- Must preside over all SC/class meetings and prepare the agenda with the advisor and officers prior to each meeting.
- Is responsible to meet with administration when it is necessary to seek their approval for student activities, OR assign appropriate chairperson to meet with administration and follow up on that meeting with designated person.
- Oversees all SC /class activities
- Shall make sure that all members of the SC fulfill their duties as prescribed to him/her by the SC collectively
- Ability to call emergency or extra meetings
- Class presidents must attend SC meetings. In the event that the president can't attend a meeting, they shall delegate the VP to attend and follow up with SC advisor and VP.

Vice President:

- Shall carry out the administration of a referendum or initiative should one be called for
- Performs all duties in the absence of the president
- It shall be further the duty of the VP to perform those duties delegated by the SC President

Secretary:

- Keep attendance records for all events and meetings
- Keep notes (minutes) for every meeting. Type them into the agenda post meeting and be sure there are copies sent to advisor and principal, as well as recorded in SC records.

- It shall be further duty of the Secretary to perform those duties delegated by the SC President

Treasurer:

- To receive and keep a record of all funds held by the SC, as he/she is responsible for SC funds and their documentation.
- Shall also be an important member in setting up any group fund-raisers

Classroom representatives:

- To be present at all SC meetings
- To report to classes regarding any imperative information from a meeting during 3rd period (or whatever class has the extra few minutes)
- Shall conduct surveys or collect input from student body when necessary
- Offer input on affairs that affect the student body

Sports team captains and club and class presidents

- Will attend or send team /club representative to every student council meeting during active and inactive seasons.
- Collect input from team/club and share that input at SC meetings
- Report all functions, fundraisers and activities for the SC calendar, and support

Article IV: Terms for all SC and class officers

All officers shall serve from the time they are elected until the election the following year, unless they are suspended or relieved of their duty.

An individual may not serve as a class officer and a SC officer in the same year.

All officers must be present at 75% of all meetings. If a meeting is missed due to sports practices or games, the officer must follow up with the advisor. Upon absences falling below 75%, the officer must attend the next meeting, or face removal from office. The officer is then required to petition to the SC for reinstatement. A SC officer along with the advisor and the principal will review the officer's active participation in SC and will determine suggested consequence of permanent removal from office.

Article V: Qualifications of SC and Class officers

- Must be a RHS student body member
- Must be passing all courses
- President Must be an upperclassman and preferably has served on SC before
- Must comply with all school rules and regulations

Article VI: Time and process for elections

Section 1: Election process

- Elections should take place in May of the incoming year
- All candidates must fulfill the officer requirements and fill out the appropriate paperwork BY the deadline to be considered; late paperwork will disqualify the candidate.
- Candidates must submit a campaign speech to the advisor and administration to be considered for use in a school wide election week assembly/ debate.
- Student body will be given the opportunity to submit questions
- All voting will be done by a determined date, preferably electronically

Section 2: Vacancy of office:

- If presidential position is vacant, Vice President(s) will move into the president position. Everyone else will stay in original elected positions.
- A nomination can be declared for someone from the SC to take vacant position followed by a vote by the student council
- Must be an active member to fill vacant seat

Article VII: Earning student council graduation sash:

- Member must be in good standing
- Member must have served a minimum of two consecutive years in office
- Must have been actively involved in more than 75% of all initiatives while a member

Article VIII: Advisor:

- Appointed by the principal and acts as a designee of the principal.
- Manages council activities
- Oversees council budget
- Provides leadership training

Article IX: Meetings- once a week after school at a designated room and time

Article X: Quorum

- At least 2 officers, including the president or vice president and 5 voting members must be present to conduct a meeting

Article XI: Legislation

- Student issues or initiatives and club ideas can be brought up to advisor and officers during school so that time can be scheduled for presentation and discussion at weekly meeting.