

Robert Vernam School P.S./M.S. 42 Q



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)

“THE CLEVER COMPOUND”

Questions concerning the SGA should be directed to:

Dr. Galloway (Educator) at lgalloway@schools.nyc.gov

Head of Staff SGA Committee

General Purpose of the Student Government



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE SGA

- Serve as the official democratic and representative forum of the student body providing students with a secure place to talk about, share personal experiences, and discuss the Multi-cultural and social issues in America.
- Present student-led seminars that develop aspirations for leadership, growth mindset, and college prep.
- Stimulate student interest in specific career benefits and information on entry steps to esteemed NYC high schools.
- The SGA leaders will assist staff committee members in apprising the student body about academic contests, and scholarship opportunities.
- The SGA will work in conjunction with staff committee members to oversee activities for furthering the academic, social and emotional growth of the Elementary and Middle School.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Student Government is open to students of our School for 5-8 grade levels. Any sixth-grade student wishing to participate may run for the office of grade level representative. Any seventh-grade student wishing to participate may run for the office of grade level representative, secretary, or Vice President. Any eighth-grade student wishing to participate may run for the office of grade level representative, secretary, Vice President or President. The student(s) will be given information from the sponsors in late September to begin working on their campaign. Sponsors will host a speechwriting workshop to help students construct their auditorium assembly speeches.

Good attendance policy: SGA officers and class representatives must maintain good attendance in order to remain an active member. Students who miss ten consecutive unexcused full days of school, or who fall below a 92% attendance rate, will be dropped from the SGA.

SGA: Leadership

SGA OFFICERS AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The governing group of the school student body is called The Executive Board. To be on the Executive Board, students must: be elected from their peers; receive a minimum of one staff recommendation; and meet academic and behavior requirements such as maintaining passing grades (C or above) and demonstrating a record of appropriate behavior (no behavior referrals). Students who drop from these standards will be placed on probation.

- Our SGA leadership goal is to provide social support while fostering student development and success through our forum of the student body on College and Career, cultural awareness, leadership, philanthropy, and community service. Each meeting provides students with a safe place to talk about and share personal experiences as well as address and discuss the cultural and social issues surrounding African Americans in our country. The Student-led leadership platform is open to all Middle School students who are interested in learning more about the history, traditions, and customs of African Americans. Some of our activities will include field trips, workshops, voter registration drives, and the February Black History program.

ROLES OF THE SGA OFFICERS

The class officers (President & Vice president), shall:

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In addition we will:

- Work closely with class representatives and staff committee members to organize and oversee class committee meetings and events.

- Inform the SGA of all class activities.
- Present the opinion and ideas of their class to the SGA
- Serve as chair of class committee meetings
- Convene and preside over class committee meetings, to be held a minimum of one week prior to the SGA general assembly meetings.
- Student Government Awards
- Any student meeting the academic eligibility requirement of our school may request placement of his or her name in nomination for student government awards.
- **Yes I Can Awards**: the school will award one recipient per grade level to receive the “Yes I Can” Award during our school’s end of the year SGA awards ceremony. The categories we can choose from are below:
 - • **Academics**- Students write a paragraph describing how the student has made progress/changes that have affected their academic development.
 - • **The Arts**- Students write a paragraph describing how the student created a project and how it has impacted his/her creativity.
 - • **School and Community**- Students write a paragraph sharing how the student has impacted his/her school and community.
 - • **Self-advocacy**- Students write a paragraph describing how the student is using self-advocacy skills to impact his/her education
 - • **Technology**- Share the type of technology the student is now using to influence his/her school day.
- Nominating teachers must submit names to the SGA leaders that will review to form the selected and approved student paragraphs. Final submissions must be made to the SGA Director/Advisor Dr. Galloway . The school will select one student per grade and nominate them to be recognized at the assembly in our school.

SGA: Class Representatives

THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVES (6 class representative second - fourth, grade(s)) shall:

- Serve as a liaison to report the interest of their classes to the class committees
- Inform their classmates of the matters and decisions of the SGA.
- Attend all class committee meetings.

The Class officials shall:

- Work closely with them to organize and oversee class-specific activities and meetings
- Share with the student Government Association all class activities.
- Present the opinions and ideas of their class to SGA.

SGA: Focus areas

During the 2019-2020 school year, the SGA will play a leadership role in developing student aspirations for college. Below is just a snapshot of the kinds of events the SGA will be involved in.

Pathway to College

Assist with local College
Tours and Career day visits from
professionals

Student Government

Association Scholars Awards
Plan and help run SGA Award
Ceremonies that celebrate
students with a range of
achievements.

Robert Vernam Color Guard Flag Squad/Drill Team

Introduce and model school
spirit for this year as well as
perform at pep rallies, events
and assemblies.

Student Council Crisis

Intervention Team

Working closely with
administration, staff, and parents,
SGA officers will create and
participate in school-wide crisis
intervention teams that meet to
discuss student behaviors.

College-Going Culture events

Help promote and celebrate our
goals to learn all aspects of
cultural awareness, leadership,
philanthropy, and community
service. Guidance on the college
entrance process and explore
social issues that affect them as
both new students and residents
of Queens, New York.

And so much more....

Valedictorian /

Salutatorian Once the 8th grade
Valedictorian(s) and
Salutatorian(s) are identified, the
SGA will plan ways to celebrate
their accomplishments.

Application Process

To be considered for a position in the SGA, all students must complete this election application.

I _____ am applying for a position in the PS/MS 42Q Student Government Association (SGA).

I am in the _____ grade.

I'm in Class # _____ and my teacher is _____.

I understand that to be considered for a position in the SGA I must: *(Check if you understand)*

- Complete and sign this application form and have my parent/guardian sign the form giving me their permission to participate.
- Type my position paper and staple it to this application form.
 - Each position paper should:
 - Be at least three paragraphs (about one page typed).
 - Describe why you are seeking an elected SGA office.
 - Explain your strengths and past leadership experience and the contribution you can make to the SGA.
 - Goals you would like to work on for the benefit of your class and the school.
- Put my application packet in the election folder displayed in my classroom.
- Agree to maintain good attendance (a 92% or higher), good grades (C's or above) and good behavior.
- NOT make "campaign promises" I can't keep!
- Work to be respectful and collaborative during the election process because I know that the support of my class and the student body is the important ingredient to "success."

Student Name

Date

Parent Name

Date

Signature

Signature