

Draft

Constitution of the Hill Country Elementary

Student Council

2018- 2019

Preamble

We the representatives of the student body of Hill Country Elementary, in order to form a unified organization to lead the students, establish communication with faculty and administration, and to create a more unified school do ordain this constitution of the Hill Country Elementary Student Council.

Article I

Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be Hill Country Elementary Student Council.

Article II

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of this organization will be to:

- Support staff and students of Hill Country Elementary
- Promote learning, student welfare, and a positive environment
- Make HCE a better place

Article III

Membership

Membership will be determined by teacher nomination:

- During the month of May, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade teachers will be asked to consider all students in their class and make nominations for the following year, based on Student

Draft

Council expectations (defined in Article V) and overall character traits, including but not limited to:

- Responsibility
 - Respect
 - Safety
 - Leadership
 - Dependability
 - Positive Behaviors
 - Helpfulness
- 3rd grade members are set at 15 or less.
 - No minimum or maximum number of members is set for 4th and 5th graders.
 - Members will vote when decisions need to be made during general meetings.
 - Teachers will consider their own classes, but will meet to discuss as a grade level all students considered for nominations. The decision of nominated students will be made as a group at this meeting and will be given to the Student Council sponsor in written or electronic form.
 - Nominees will be notified in person and in writing before the end of the school year by a Student Council sponsors. Nominees and parents can choose to accept or deny the nomination.

Article IV

Officer Elections

Elections will be held in the first 6 weeks of the school year:

- 5th grade members may run for a specific officer position.
- 4th grade members may run for junior officer board. (5 spots available)
 - The 5 students with the most votes will be the junior officers board.
- Interested 4th and 5th grade members will complete the Officer Application, which will be reviewed by a Student Council sponsor or administrator. Applications must be turned in two weeks prior to Election Day.
- “Election Day” will be held in the firsts 6 weeks and will consist of speeches given by the approved candidates. Voting which will take place electronically or on paper.
- Officer applicants will be notified by a Student Council sponsor at least one week prior to Election Day.

Draft

- The candidates will write and submit speeches for approval to the Student Council sponsor two days prior to Election Day.
 - Speeches can be up to two minutes long.
 - Props for speeches are allowed, but not required.
 - Nothing may be handed out to students. No pencils, stickers, notes, etc.
 - No negative statements about other candidates will be allowed.
 - Candidates should avoid “false promises.”
 - Candidates can campaign for office by creating up to four posters to be placed in school hallways. Candidates are responsible for creating posters outside of school, and the placing of posters will be at his/her own discretion and by his/her own means.
- 5th grade candidates will run for one of five positions. Positions and descriptions of responsibilities are listed below.
 - President:
 - Attend Officer meetings, set agenda with sponsors
 - Attend General meetings
 - Call General meetings to order and preside over meetings
 - Lead discussions
 - Lead voting
 - Vote only if votes result in a tie
 - Vice-President:
 - Attend Officer meetings
 - Attend General meetings
 - Fill in for the President if he/she is absent
 - Assist the President with activities, duties, and responsibilities
 - Secretary:
 - Attend Officer meetings
 - Attend General meetings
 - Take neat, careful notes during each meeting
 - Treasurer:
 - Attend Officer meetings
 - Attend General meetings
 - Keep a written record of Student Council money; notebook for records will be provided
 - Read current Student Council balance and any deposits/expenditures
 - Historian:
 - Attend Officer meetings
 - Attend General meetings

Draft

- Keep abreast of ongoing events around the school, and whenever possible, check out the school/office camera to document with photographs
- Keep the Student Council bulletin board by the front office updated
- Junior officer board
 - attend the officer and general meetings
 - observe the different officer positions.

Election Day Process/Format:

- The Student Council sponsor will prepare ballots ahead of time and distribute them to teachers on the morning of Election Day.
- Candidates will give speeches on Election Day in the Cafeteria to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes.
- Following the speeches, students will return to their classes, where they will vote.
- Students will privately and individually select a nominee for each 5th grade position.
- Students will privately and individually select their top 5 choices for 4th grade Junior Officer.
- Ballots will be submitted by the classroom teachers and sent to the Student Council sponsors.
- Votes will be counted and recorded by an administrator and the Student Council sponsors.
- The Student Council sponsors will personally contact the winning candidates.

Article V

Member Expectations

Students are required to meet the following criteria:

- Maintain 80 or above in all subjects each six weeks.
 - Students that qualify for Special Education or 504 services that receive modifications for daily work or tests are exempt from this requirement. No minimum grade is required for Special Education or 504 students.
- Earn a grade of Satisfactory or Excellent in Conduct each six weeks.
- Maintain school attendance that meets the required 90% rule as defined in the student handbook. (Extenuating circumstances may be reviewed.)
- Attend of monthly Student Council meetings (to be held the first Wednesday of each month, unless school is not in session); officers required to also attend officer meetings (to be held the Tuesday before General meetings unless school is not in session).

Draft

- Attend activities and fulfill expectations at designated Student Council activities, whether in school or outside of school.
- Display and promote the high standard of excellence at HCE by not being assigned ISS or OSS.

It is the responsibility of the Student Council sponsor to access report cards and behavior records to ensure that expectations are met. These will be reviewed by 6 weeks.

Probation

Students will be placed on one (1) six-week probation in the event of the following:

- A grade of 79 or below in any subject on the report card for one six-week grading period
- An Unsatisfactory or Needs Improvement in Conduct on the report card for one six-weeks grading period
- Placement in ISS (In School Suspension)
- Suspension from school (OSS) Out of School
- School attendance that results in falling below the 90% rule at any time
- Two missed meetings (including officer meetings for officers) without a written excuse
- Failing to attend Student Council activities and/or failure to fulfill expectation at Student Council activities
- Failure to display and/or promote the high standard of excellence at HCE

Following the six-weeks period of probation, students will be reinstated as a member.

Dismissal:

In the event that a Student Council member previously or currently placed on probation fails to meet the defined expectations for a 2nd time, the member will be dismissed from the organization.

Field Trip:

Student council will go on at least one field trip before the end of the year. Any student who has been dismissed may not attend the field trip.

Draft

Article VI

Use of Funds

Any proposed use of funds will be presented to the General meeting for discussion and debate. Funds will not be approved until a majority vote by the members is attained.