**THE CONSTITUTION**

**OF THE**

**RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL**

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

**AMENDED 2024 – 2025**

**Advisors: Mrs. Nunez (C143) & Mr. Creel (Choir 157)**

# ARTICLE I Name

The name of the organization shall be the Ridgeland High School Student Government Association.

# ARTICLE II Purpose

The main purpose of this organization shall be to provide direct channels of communication between the student body and school administration. All other purposes shall be the following:

* To plan, coordinate and promote student activities
* To promote communication between the students, faculty, and the administration.
* To develop school spirit, pride and morale.
* To develop character and other positive personal qualities among young people.
* To maintain high moral conduct during school hours and at any school activity
* To teach intelligent respect for law and order.
* To work with the faculty on school problems and projects.
* To provide service for the community.

# ARTICLE III Membership

Student Government Executive Officers shall be the following:

* President(s) shall be a senior in the year they serve, have served on Executive the previous year, and shall not be the president or co-president of more than two school organizations, including Student Government Association. **If no senior serves as an executive officer during his/her junior year then the next eligible candidate will have the choice to become executive president.**
* Vice-President must have served on SGA prior to the year of service as an executive officer.
* Secretary must have served on SGA prior to the year of service as an executive officer.
* Treasurer must have served on SGA prior to the year of service as an executive officer.
* Public Relations must have served on SGA prior to the year of service as an executive officer.

**All Executive Officers must have served the previous year of office/membership prior to election. All officers and representatives must maintain an overall “80” grade point average with no failing term grades for current school year in each of their classes. They should also have discipline clearance from the SGA advisors and administration.**

Class officers for grades 9-12 shall be the following: **You will be moved down to the representative position if you miss two meetings in a row the other officers will be moved up that have attended these meetings.**

* President –Senior class president must have at least one (1) year experience on SGA **prior to year of service**
* Vice-President
* Secretary
* Treasurer
* Representatives (no more than 10 (ten) representatives elected at large and no more than 3 (three) nominated by teachers)

**ARTICLE IV Elections**

Elections shall be carried out according to the following guidelines:

* Teacher evaluations are required from all candidates’ teachers. On a scale from one to five the average must be at least a **3 (three)** with the exception of the highest and lowest evaluations, which will be dropped.
* Candidates running for Executive Office are expected to give a 1 (one) to 3 (three) minute speech in front of the student body, which will be likely be. In video format posted on Class Canvas Pages. Speeches must be positive in nature and focus on the candidate themselves, not another candidate. Speeches are not required if running unopposed.
* Elections for student body officers shall take place one week before class day, if time permits.
* Elections for freshmen officers shall take place at the beginning of the school year in which they are to serve.
* Balloting shall be done fairly and by secret vote. Voting will be done anonomoulsy on Canvas. Votes will be counted electronically on Canvas.
* A candidate may choose to run for one office as well as run for a representative, where the candidate shall take the office to which he is elected. In the event that the candidate is elected to both positions, he will be allowed to choose which position to accept, and the person receiving the next highest number of votes would be considered the “winner” of the position that was declined. A candidate may not run for more than 2 (two) positions if running for class office. If running for executive, 3 (three) positions.
* Grade Point Average (GPA) information from Article III.
* Candidates running for any office who have committed a major infraction or more than one minor infraction will be unable to run for office. See Article VIII for explanations and a few examples of major and minor infractions. Final decisions on eligibility to run will be made by Student Government Sponsors and administration.
* Any legal actions taken against you outside of school, during school hours, or during any school activity disqualify you from holding office and running for office. The member’s office will be terminated.
* Campaign Rules: Candidates are allowed to make flyers and posters to post around the school building. All materials must be positive and must be about the candidate themselves. Materials will not be about any other candidates. There will be no bribery. If a candidate chooses to distribute food items, those items must be individually wrapped.

# ARTICLE V Meetings

* Student Government meetings shall be held the first Friday of every month at 8:00 a.m. Doors will be closed at that time. The first meeting of the month will consist of all members of SGA. The second meeting of the month will consist of the executive officers and class presidents. If the class president cannot attend they are responsible for having the class vice president attend.
* **Rolls will be taken up at 8:00 a.m.** Any student who has not signed the roll by this time will be counted as absent.
* Special meetings may be requested by Advisors, Executive Committee, and Class President or at the request of 10 members. The special meetings must be limited to items in the call.
* A majority of the membership present constitutes a quorum.
* All meetings are open to the student body. Any student may speak at a meeting provided that a written request has been submitted and approved by the Executive Committee. Such students shall have a maximum of 5(five) minutes to make an oral presentation.
* **All members are required to attend all meetings**. If you miss more than **4** meetings (excused or unexcused) excluding school related absences, you will be dismissed from the Student Government Association. An acceptable legitimate excuse shall consist of a written note that may be submitted to the advisor no later than one week after a missed meeting. The note must explain why the member was absent, be dated, and signed by the appropriate adult. For school related absences; you must see an advisor prior to the meeting date with signed note from sponsor/coach.
* Officers for each class will have a monthly meeting.
* Each class will have a class meeting each term.

**ARTICLE VI Duties**

* The Executive President shall preside at and run all meetings. The president must see an advisor the day prior to a meeting to receive the minutes for the meeting.
* The Executive Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President at all meetings. The Vice-President shall also assume the duties of Student Government Parliamentarian. The Executive President shall preside as the Parliamentarian in the absence of the Executive Vice-President.
* The Executive Secretary shall record and keep up minutes of all general meetings, handle correspondence of the Student Government, keep attendance records of the members, and keep records of the demerits of member at least once a month.
* The Executive Treasurer shall record and keep an accurate account of Student Government funds and make financial reports at regular intervals, and be in charge of preparing a budget along with the President for the approval by the Student Government Association.
* The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for public relations with the school newspaper and community newspapers, as well as events held by the Student Government Association. They shall be responsible for communicating to the student body the business and activities of Student Government. This includes, but is not limited to updating the Student Government Association board, flyers for various events, and announcements.
* The Representatives shall represent the students of their class and perform duties as assigned by the Advisors.
* All officers may be called on by the advisors to perform any other duties to ensure the smooth operation of the Student Government Association.
* **Homecoming:** SGA officers and representatives will be responsible for selecting the overall homecoming theme and each respective grade’s class theme. All SGA members that do not have another responsibility during homecoming parade and game night (ie. band and court members) will have assigned duties both evenings. All SGA members including band and homecoming court will be responsible for decorating for the dance in the cafeteria following the parade using items from their respective class float.
* **Prom:** All junior members are required to serve as the student members of the prom committee. The prom committee will consist of student members and faculty members. This committee will function just as any other Student Government Association committee, with each member’s vote counting equally, and with the appointed chairperson casting a tie-breaking vote if necessary. The prom committee will be in charge of planning and decorating for the prom. These are required events. Junior members, along with a selected faculty member, will be in charge of the prom skit. All junior members must participate in and recruit other juniors to participate in the prom skit, help with decorations the day of and any other scheduled days, and any other duties that may be scheduled.
* Elected officers and Representatives will be required to participate in various activities specified by Student Government Association advisors and executive officers. This includes, but is not limited to, the SATP Party, Homecoming (including float, parade, gym and dance decorations), and Make-A-Wish ($50.00, raffle tickets, etc.).

# ARTICLE VII Chain of Command

The chain of command is as follows:

Advisor

Class

Officers

Administration

Representatives

Executive Committee

If there are any problems, follow the chain of command.

# ARTICLE VIII Demerit System

You will receive demerits for the following cases:

Not attending a meeting 1 demerit each meeting

Class average below 80/B 1 demerit per class

Failure to complete event assignments 1 demerit

Failure to return notices requiring signature 1 demerit

Discipline referral (minor infractions) 1 demerit

Discipline referral (major infractions) dismissal

Complaints from teachers/staff/administration 1 demerit

Failure to act appropriately & responsibly to advisors 1 demerit each incident

(lying, disrespectful, being out of class without permission, etc.)

Negative community behavior (ex. Social Media) 1st offense-1 demerit

2nd offense- dismissal

* **If you have more than seven demerits, then you will be dismissed from the Student Government Association.**
* If you are dismissed, then you will not be eligible to run for an office at a later date and the next eligible candidate will assume your position.
* The Executive Committee based on a majority vote shall decide variations from this rule. The Executive Committee must be present.
* Any member of Student Government Association who has questions about demerits must report it to the Executive Secretary by the last Friday of each month.
* Officers or members who are suspended from school for any reason will be dismissed from the Student Government and will not be eligible to run for an office at a later date.
* The advisors will determine if an officer or representative will receive a demerit. The advisors will also make the decision regarding minor and major infractions and any other actions leading to dismissal. The advisors and school administration can make a decision to dismiss a member for any reason not listed above. **The advisors will make all final decisions regarding dismissals.**
* **You will be dismissed for missing three meetings in a row.**

# ARTICLE IX Amendments

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds of those present, provided it shall have been presented in writing at a previous meeting or by an unanimous vote at the meeting it is presented or may be amended by the executive president, vice president, advisor(s), and principal.

# ARTICLE X Implementation

* This constitution of the Ridgeland High School Student Government Association shall, if ratified, take effect fall semester of the year 2014. It shall serve as the supreme law of the Ridgeland High School Student Government Association thereafter until it is amended or replaced by actions in accordance with Article IX.
* At the first meeting of the newly elected officers, each member will receive a copy of the SGA Constitution. Each member will be required to sign a form agreeing to abide by this Constitution.

**Please sign recognizing that it is your obligation to abide by the laws stated in this constitution or you shall be removed from office.**

**Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Office Held:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**