

The Bethany Lutheran School Christian Student Council Constitution

Preamble

We, the students of Bethany Lutheran School, being Christian Citizens, establish this student government. It is our goal to help educate ourselves and become stronger in our faith. We establish this constitution for ourselves and the students who will follow us.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Bethany Lutheran School Christian Student Council, hereinafter referred to as the Student Council.

Article II – Purpose of the Student Council

The student council is established to:

- A. Represent the best interests of the student body.
 - B. Provide a communication link between the student body and the faculty, school board and church congregation
- Decisions are subject to the approval and final authorization of the Student Council Advisor and the School Principal and Day School Board.

Article III – The Executive Council

The Executive Council shall be comprised of the following officers:

- President – 5th Grade
 - Vice-President – 4th/5th Grade
 - Secretary – 4th Grade
 - Treasurer – 5th Grade
 - Recreation Chairperson – 4th /5th Grade
- Any additional officers appointed as described by Article VI.

Article IV – Other Members

Two representatives from each class in grades of one and up.

Article V – Description of Executive Council Duties

Executive Council Members to serve a school year term.

- A. President – The President calls and chairs student council and the executive council meetings. He/she has the power to ask any person who is being disruptive to leave the meeting. The President is a member of all committees of the council. The President is the student liaison with the Principal and the Day School Board.
- B. Vice President – He/she chairs all meetings if the President is absent. The Vice President directs all the Council sponsored fund-raising activities. The Vice President will replace the President if he/she cannot continue his/her duties.
- C. Treasurer – The Treasurer is the advisor in all monetary affairs and must keep records of money collected and spent by the council.
- D. Secretary – The Secretary takes minutes at all Student Council meetings and is responsible for making the agendas and sending out notices of meetings. He/she also keeps records of all Student Council correspondence.
- E. Recreation Chairperson – The Recreation Chairperson chairs recreational activities and helps to establish playground rules under guidance of staff or an adult supervisor.

Article VI – Appointments to the Student Council

A Student Council member may nominate a student to be appointed to an unfilled, elected position subject to approval by a majority of Student Council. Any member may nominate a council-sponsored committee to be started, subject to approval by a simple majority of Student Council.

Article VII – Meetings

- A. All students shall be allowed to attend Student Council meetings and all Council members are expected to attend.
- B. Approximately once each calendar month, a Student Council meeting should be held. All members are expected to attend.
- C. All matters of constitutional amendments and of appointments shall be decided at meetings of the Student Council. The Student Council may, by a two-thirds vote, amend this constitution.

Article VIII – Voting Procedures

For Student Council Meetings

- 1) Any member of the Council may present a motion and call for a vote.
- 2) All the members of the Council shall vote for or against the motion or abstain. Absent members of the Council shall be counted as abstention.
- 3) The motion is passed if a majority of members of the Council vote for the motion.
- 4) The motion is defeated if a majority of members of the council vote against the motion.
- 5) If there is neither a majority for or against the motion, the topic is open for discussion and a possible re-vote.

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Article IX – Amendment Procedures

- A. An amendment to the Constitution may be presented by any member of the Student Council.
- B. A Student Council Meeting must be held to discuss the proposal.
- C. A two-thirds majority of the Student Council is necessary to pass the amendment.

Article X – Elections

- A. Elections for all Executive Council positions shall be held in the Spring of the school year. Students elected shall serve their term the following school year. The following fall, the elections for class representatives will be held and coordinated by the current Executive Council. Class representatives will serve one year terms, beginning the day they are elected through the end of the school year.
- B. For a student to be eligible to run for an office of the Executive Council, he/she must complete the following requirements: 1) the prospective candidate shall obtain a signature from his/her teacher consenting that the prospective candidate is in his/her opinion, eligible to run for the specified office. 2) Once the signatures have been obtained and applications to run have been submitted by all prospective candidates, a committee will gather to assess whether each student is eligible to run, based upon good citizenship and academic effort.
- C. Speeches – Each candidate shall make a speech to be presented to the voting student body.

Article XI – Voting Procedures

For Spring Elections

The outgoing Student Council and the Student Council Advisor are to coordinate the Elections.

- A. Voting should take place the day after the speeches are made.
- B. The ballots, in addition to listing the names of the candidates, must have a space for “Other” for each office.
- C. Students currently in kindergarten and up have one vote.
- D. Candidates must get the majority of the votes to be elected. In the case of a tie, a runoff election will be held within one week.
- E. The faculty and student representatives will count the votes and post the results in writing in a central location.
- F. The New Student Council gains power on the first day of the following school year.

Established under God’s guidance and our hands on April 24, 2002, at Bethany Lutheran School, Vacaville, CA.

Signed by: Rachel Beauchamp, Chris Bertyn, Cody Brock, Brian Johnston, Taylor McAbee, Kylie Narayan, Parker Nelson, Austin Nicodemus, Amber Payne, Spencer Ponce, Kevin Strausbaugh, Micaela Sylvester, Melanie Thompson, Derek Van Bruggen and Conner VanSkiver.

Amendment 1

Grade requirements for the Executive Council are hereby amended to the following:

President – Sixth Grade Vice President – Fourth or Fifth Grade Treasurer – Fifth or Sixth Grade
Secretary – Fifth or Sixth Grade Recreation Chair – Fourth Grade

Amendment 2

Section 1:

If the Student Council President is unable to continue in office, the Vice President (regardless of grade) will take up his/her duties. If the Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary or Recreation Chair is unable to continue in office, he or she will be replaced by a special Student Council Election. All present Student Council Representatives will vote in this election. Student Council Representatives from the following grades are eligible to replace the departing Student Council Officers:

Vice President – Fourth or Fifth Grade Treasurer – Fifth or Sixth Grade Secretary – Fifth or Sixth Grade
Recreation Chair – Fourth Grade

Section 2:

A Student Council Officer who fails to maintain proper citizenship and/or academic standards may be removed from office by the school principal.

Amendment 3

Grade Requirements for the Executive Council are hereby changed to the following:

President – Eighth Grade Vice President – Sixth or Seventh Grade Treasurer – Fifth or Sixth Grade
Secretary – Seventh or Eighth Grade Recreation Chair – Fifth Grade