

Middle School Student Government  
**Constitution**

**October 2012**

**The Louis Armstrong Middle School**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION

### Louis Armstrong Middle School

We the scholars of the Louis Armstrong Middle School in order to create understanding and development of representation, equality, leadership, and organization of the Louis Armstrong Middle School, hereby establish this Student Organization Middle School Government Constitution.

#### Article I—Purposes

##### Paragraph A—The Middle School Student Council

- (1) To be in charge of education about the honor code
- (2) To help the School Student Council coordinate student activities
- (3) To serve as the liaison between the student body and the teachers and administration of the Middle School Grade Officers
- (1) To Organize class activities
- (2) To raise money for the S.O. treasury
- (3) To encourage and support class spirit
- (4) To serve as the liaison between the class members and the teachers and administration of the Middle School.
- (5) To raise money for community projects and charities.

#### Article II—Membership

##### Paragraph A—Middle School Student Council

- (1) One President from the 8th grade
- (2) Vice President from the 8th grade
- (3) Vice President from the 7th grade
- (4) Vice President from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- (5) Vice President from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- (6) One Representative from each homeroom class ( 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>)
- (7) One Alternate Representative from each homeroom class (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>)

##### Paragraph B—Officers

- (1) One Presidents
- (2) Four Vice Presidents

#### Article III—Requirements

Paragraph A—Candidates must have a 80% Scholastic Average for the first semester to run in the fall semester elections or a 80 % Scholastic Average for the second semester

Paragraph B—80 % Scholastic Average must be maintained each quarter while the student is in office.

Paragraph C—Sixth graders running in the fall elections will be cautioned concerning the 80 % Scholastic Average requirement which must be maintained while they are in office.

Paragraph D—Any student who does not maintain tile 80 % Scholastic Average

- in each quarter grading period will be put on probation.
- Paragraph E—Any student on probation who does not return his or her Scholastic Average of 80 % by the end of the next quarter will be removed from office.
- Paragraph F—All students running in the Spring elections must have attended ESA for one year.
- Paragraph G —New students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades may run for grade officer positions in the fall elections. New students will be cautioned concerning the 80 % Scholastic Average
- Paragraph H—A member of student government may be removed from office for an honor or discipline offense by the administration.
- Paragraph I – The Student Council is the leadership extension of the Student Organization. Students running for positions on the Student Council must be members of the Student Organization.

#### Article IV—Elections

- Paragraph A—Students wishing to run for Student Council positions must file with the council sponsor who must confirm the student's eligibility before the student can run for the office.
- Paragraph B—Students wishing to run for Grade Officer/Representative positions must file with the grade team leader who must confirm the student's eligibility before the student can be elected as class officer/representative.
- Paragraph C—Members of the Student Council will be elected during Student Council Week in November and will assume their positions at the beginning immediately thereafter.
- Paragraph D—All 6th grade positions and class officers will be elected early in the fall semester.
- Paragraph E—During October candidates for executive positions will give speeches before the entire Middle School student body. Candidates for representative and honor representative positions will give speeches during Auditorium Presentations.
- Paragraph F—A majority vote of 51% of the voters determines the winner in each race.
- Paragraph G – Class Homeroom Representatives shall be elected by the homeroom during the month of October.
- Paragraph H—Oath of Office: "I swear upon my duty as an elected official of the Louis Armstrong Middle School Student Government to uphold the constitution, the school's honor code, and the school community to the best of my ability."

#### Article V—Election Campaigns

- Paragraph A—Candidates for office may put up twenty five homemade posters. Computer created items may be put on the posters. No commercially made banners or posters are allowed. Posters may be put up on Middle School classroom buildings with tape, push pins or tacks, but staples may not be used.
- Paragraph B—Students may hand out personally made stickers, but they may not be put on painted surfaces like lockers or furniture.

- Paragraph C—Students may not put up magnets, or hand out fliers, candy, buttons, pens or the like.
- Paragraph D— Students should prepare a carefully written speech which should be seen as the principle venue in which the student can persuade voters to support them. The morning of the speech a written copy of the speech must be given to the Student Activities Coordinator or Assistant Principal. No speech may attack an opponent.
- Paragraph E— Students failing to abide by these rules will immediately removed from the election.

## Article VI –Duties

### Paragraph A – Middle School Student Council

- (1) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade President shall preside over meetings, serve as ex-officio members on all committees; and lead all Student Council activities.
- (2) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Executive Representative shall provide a voice for the eight grade in executive council meetings and report eight grade concerns to the executive council.
- (3) 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Executive Representative shall provide a voice for the seventh grade in executive council meetings and report sixth grade concerns to the executive council.
- (4) 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Executive Representative shall provide a voice for the sixth grade in executive council meetings and report sixth grade concerns to the executive council.
- (5) 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Executive Representative shall provide a voice for the fifth grade in executive council meetings and report fifth grade concerns to the executive council.
- (6) Homeroom Representatives and Alternates shall convey Student Council news to their classes, work on committees and in Student Council activities, and bring class concerns to the council.
- (7) Executive Council sets the agenda for each meeting prior to it and annually establishes a committee to review the Constitution concerning needed amendment. The Executive Council leads the Student Council.
- (8) Student Activities Coordinator serves as Parliamentarian and Sergeant-at-Arms, teaches the members concerning the Student Council, meets with the Executive Council to plan agendas, attends all meetings, and serves as liaison to the administration and other faculty members.
- (9) Homeroom Representatives and Alternates will attend weekly meetings, take notes and keep their class informed about the activities of the Student Organization and the Student Council.

### Paragraph B-Class Officers. (Picked from President and Vice Presidents)

- (1) Presidents run class meetings, lead class activities, organize committees for class fundraisers, and are the leaders of their class.
- (2) Secretary takes notes during class meetings, organizes class

activities, and reports news about up-coming events.

(3) Treasurer organizes class fundraisers and keeps track of the class account-both debits and credits.

(4) Spirit Leader(s) organizes pep rallies and directs the creation of posters and skits.

(5) Historian takes pictures of events of the class during the school year and arranges the pictures in a scrapbook/notebook/poster at the end of the year.

(6) Student Activities Coordinator serves as Parliamentarian and Sergeant-at-Arms, teaches the members concerning their responsibilities, meets with the Class Officers to plan agendas, attends all meetings, and serves as liaison to the administration and other faculty members.

#### Article VII— Vacancies

Paragraph A—Should a position become vacant in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters, a special election will be held by the Student Council if the vacancy is in the Executive Council, and by the class if it is in any other student government position.

Paragraph B —No campaigns will be held in the special elections other than a speech given to the appropriate group.

Paragraph C—If no one chooses to run, members will be asked to assume the duties and responsibilities of the vacant office.

Paragraph D—Students new to the school at the beginning of the year in any grade may run for a vacant position (in their grade) in a 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, no longer being considered a new student.

#### Article VIII- Meetings and Committees

Paragraph A—Meetings will be held on a regular schedule, but special meetings may be called by the Student Activities Coordinator.

Paragraph B—The Grade President and Vice Presidents must be present at all meetings of the Student Council .

Paragraph C – The Homeroom Representatives and Alternates must be present at all meetings of the Student Council.

Paragraph D—Quorum is required to conduct meetings. Quorum shall be considered to be two-thirds of the members.

Paragraph E—Committees may meet without a sponsor present, but the sponsor must know the agenda of the meeting and when and where they are meeting.

Paragraph F— The presidents shall be an ex-officio members of all committees.

Paragraph G -Students not a part of the council or class may be asked to serve on committees in order to give of their special talents.

#### Article IX—Parliamentary Authority

Paragraph A —*Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the student government meetings.

#### Article X—Ratification and Amendments

Paragraph A—This constitution and all amendments shall be ratified by two-thirds of the Middle School student body's vote and with the approval of the Middle School

Principal or Assistant Principal.

Paragraph B— Amendments

- (1) Must be presented in writing to the Student Council sponsor.
- (2) The Amendment Committee, comprised of Executive Council members and Class Officers, must approve with a majority vote in order for the proposed amendment to be sent on to the Middle School student body.
- (3) The Amendment Committee must act within one month.
- (4) All amendments will become effective immediately after the vote.

Ratification of Student Organization Constitution - Revised October 2012

Name (printed)	Signature
_____ (7 <sup>th</sup> Grade VP-2011-2012)	_____
_____ (6 <sup>th</sup> Grade VP-2011-2012)	_____
_____ (5 <sup>th</sup> Grade VP-2011-2012)	_____
_____ (COSA)	_____
_____ (Asst. Principal)	_____