

Hello Howard County Chinese School, my name is Lily Peng and I am running for President of the Chinese School Student Government Association. I want to help improve the school with my skills and ideas, so that our Howard County Chinese School can be the best environment possible. As your president, I would use my prior experiences both in and outside of SGA to bring positive changes to our school, including branching out to local charities, increasing sales to support our school and other charities, initiating a SGA newsletter, and incorporating the entire student voice at HCCS into our SGA plans.

I have been a member of the SGA at HCCS for the past two years and participated in the majority of PTA and SGA related events. For example, during this school year (2019-2020), I have volunteered for almost 70 hours with HCCS. As the Secretary, I have worked with the current President, Erin, to coordinate and plan the sales that the SGA held this year. I have also attended almost all of the sales and other PTA-initiated events this year. As the Secretary, after working with the President, I know what key aspects and responsibilities there are to be President, and I can utilize that knowledge when I am elected.

Outside of the SGA, I have also had several leadership experiences. I am the President of the Middle School Toastmasters Club at HCCS, where we have 15 members and meet biweekly. As the President, I have learned how to be a leader. I help organize special events and training for our members, including having guest speakers come in and give us a workshop! I am also organizing plans for member recruitment and an Open House along with my fellow officers. Our club has grown substantially, and everyone has now improved their public speaking skills drastically. My experiences, such as how to organize events and how to communicate with my club members, from being President of the Middle School Toastmasters Club will surely translate over if I am elected President of the SGA.

I also have started my own debate class, where I donate a portion of the profits to WHO's COVID-19 Response Fund to help fund vaccines and PPE for healthcare workers. Through this, I have learned many critical skills, such as how to manage sign-up sheets for when we have sales, how to keep track of members of a group, how to figure out logistics and plan events for more fun times at HCCS, and how to write concise emails to get the word out efficiently to everyone. As a president, being able to write clear emails is crucial, since that is the main form of communication used. I can also use my experience from planning events to organize more new and exciting events for the SGA and all the students at HCCS to participate in, including sales, charities, etc.

I also have been participating in debate since the 4th grade. Since then, I have earned several notable awards, including winning first place at the 46th Annual Harvard Debate Tournament, first place at the University of Kentucky Tournament, first place at both the Georgetown Fall Tournament and the Georgetown Spring Tournament, first place at the Michigan Tournament, and several others. At many of the places listed above, I was also the 1st place speaker nationwide. Through my debate experience, I have learned how to communicate with people, as a big part of debate is communicating with your partner and judge. I can utilize

those communication skills to convey details to the SGA and the rest of the school. I am also a leader on my debate team, organizing spreadsheets and team folders. Since I have experience with organizing those logistics, when I am President, I will keep everything in order.

At my day school, I am also a delegate for our grade in our SGA. That means I meet with the SGA executive board at my day school to plan out things such as our school charter, and our Spring Event/Celebration, which was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19. I can use my experiences from being a leader in my day school's SGA to apply it to the Chinese school SGA as well.

At my day school, I was also appointed by our Science Olympiad teacher as the only Student Leader of our Science Olympiad team which had about 100 members. As the Student Leader, I worked with our teacher/adult sponsor to start up the team again after Science Olympiad was cancelled last year in our school. With the teacher/adult sponsor, I was in charge of making team t-shirts, making student groups/teams, providing resources, and organizing events. With this leadership experience, I can apply all of those to do things such as organizing student groups and events at HCCS as well.

With my prior leadership skills and experiences, I make the perfect candidate for President. On top of my qualifications, I also bring new ideas to the table. I strive to increase the SGA's outreach for their charities and diversify the non-profits we work with. In the past, the SGA mainly has worked with OCEF, which is a great cause that the SGA will definitely continue to work with, but it is important to do community service to local charities as well. As the President, I will strive to expand the SGA charities to local charities including the Ulman Foundation for Cancer in Young Adults, the Vietnam Veterans of America Donations Fund, local Grassroots, and any other local charities. To enable the SGA to be able to donate to more charities, I will increase the number of sales we have, and what sales we have every year. For example, instead of just a coat drive, we could diversify to having drives for other types of clothing to donate to the Vietnam Veterans of America Donations Fund. That way, not only are the students of HCCS given more opportunity to participate in community service and volunteer work, but we are also making an impact on our community.

I would also try to connect the two HCCS campuses more, the Saturday and Sunday Campuses. To achieve this, I would work very closely with the Vice Presidents of both the Sunday and Saturday campuses to ensure that both locations are on the same page. One way to do that would be to hold monthly or biweekly officer meetings where the officers come together to discuss sales and upcoming events. I would also make an effort to go to sales from both campuses to supervise. Connecting the two campuses is critical, as then the two campuses can work together to reap the best possible outcomes.

Lastly, as your President of the SGA I would initiate a SGA newsletter. Though I am aware that HCCS already has a newsletter, a newsletter specifically tailored to the sales, events, donations, etc. of the SGA would still help to garner more student participation in SGA events. Since I co-founded the Comet Newsletter at Clarksville Middle School two years ago, I already

know how to start up and run a successful newsletter. In this newsletter, we would send out monthly reports on SGA sales or donations to inform the student body. We could also send out any surveys or announcements through this newsletter. Ultimately, the newsletter would be used as a form of communication from the SGA to the rest of the student body to increase the student participation, input, and voice in the SGA.

As your President, I would use my leadership, organization, and communication skills to better our school. I would work closely with PTA to initiate new sales, reach out to more local charities, connect the two campuses, and increase student voice through a newsletter. To make a positive impact on our Chinese School, please vote for me, Lily Peng, for President. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lily Peng.