

Candidate Name: **Mark Li** (For President)

Grade in 2024-2025 Chinese School Year: **10th**

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### **Personal Statement:**

My name is Mark Li and I am a rising 10th grade student at the Howard County Chinese School. I am running to be the next president of the HCCS SGA for the 2024-2025 school year. I first enrolled into the Howard County Chinese School 10 years ago, and with a thorough understanding of the school culture, as well as experience in the SGA as both a member and the vice president, I know my passion for leadership, community service, and experience will facilitate my serving as an effective and innovative president.

I want to serve as the next president of the HCCS SGA because I feel as if it is my responsibility to carry on the hard work and impact that the graduating officers have demonstrated through and through. The SGA's mission is to serve, to support, and to lead, and it is important to realize that its success is measured by not only its activities, but also by its availability to every single student in the Chinese School community. It isn't an officer team, but rather a team where everyone's role and participation is needed and invaluable. During my term as the SGA Vice President this past 2023-2024 school year, I participated in and led every single meeting along with the president, developing the ability to run meetings, discussions, and planning sessions with the objective of maximizing their productivity. I have also represented the Howard County Chinese School in countless settings at the county, state, and national level, expanding the school's capabilities along with my own. Whether it is with the SGA or another the AAPI Youth Ambassadors Program of which I am a founding student member and leader, the activities I have placed myself in have all come to foster values that I hold to be fundamental to success in initiating a positive impact: relationships and communication.

Throughout my time at the Howard County Chinese School, as a member and officer of the SGA, to name a few, I have consistently participated in and led many important school events including various sales (costumes, books, clothes, school supplies, food, teacher appreciation flowers), seminars (environment, college, etc), and SGA member recruitment activities. Having been the Vice President of the SGA this past school year, I've found that only through my participation, can I really gain the sense of leadership and involvement we all need to expand our ideas, visions, and goals. I've also had the opportunity to be an active leader in the AAPI YAP, within the separate subgroups I participate in. I have had the opportunity to make an impact in so many different aspects of our community, and I couldn't be more grateful. The work I have done so far with my fellow students include giving numerous testimonies at the Howard County Board of Education and Maryland General Assembly concerning AAPI representation and development, as well as leading various environmental protection initiatives under the Environment Group. I have spearheaded many discussions of key issues regarding AAPI representation and community development with elected officials, while collaborating with organizations such as APIAVote to embrace and make the change our community needs in order to be better inside and out. I truly believe that the nature of my involvement and work in the many diverse groups within the Howard County Chinese School has allowed for the complementation of those activities, and most significantly, it has facilitated the pride I hold in being able to apply the things I have learned to leading and bettering the SGA.

Throughout all of my work ranging from environmental protection to political advocacy, it has been the Chinese School that has provided me with the experience and sense of community. I am lucky to be surrounded by a diversity that is rich in perspectives and experiences, through which I have extensive practice in developing common ground. There is no better place to apply my experience and dedication for leadership than the SGA in a place that has given me more than I could possibly return. When it comes to the SGA, I believe that there is nothing more important than to transform the organization into one where every member is eager, captivated, and inspired. Although the environment of the SGA is already phenomenal, there is still much work left to be done in order for the SGA to realize its true potential. Through team bonding, development, and persistence in participation and engagement, I would have my focus on fostering a vigorous and ambitious culture.

As the President, my main objectives will be to:

1. Establish a tight and robust SGA, to maximize and obtain resources to expand SGA influence and recognition; Build up stronger collaboration with PTA, BOD, and EC, AAPI YAP, BranchOut, Youth Journalists, Maryland Youth Speaker's Club, H4C, and other programs.
2. Introduce new fundraisers and activities to acquire adequate funding.
3. Hold and organize exciting/fun events to motivate and recruit new members.
4. Reinforce and extend collaborations with local non-profit organizations and charities to expand school efforts toward community development/building.
5. Continue and establish further social media documentations of SGA activities and initiatives to promote and enhance school visibility and publicity.
6. Enlarge the advocacy of school events and volunteering opportunities with the goal of widening the scale of the school's significance in the community at the county, state, and national level.
7. Focus on continuing to expand the Chinese School's name to a broader audience.

Through my time that is nearing its end at the Howard County Chinese School, I've come to gain an appreciation for the big picture: communities and systems need people to take initiative for things to work. I am most proud of the enthusiasm that is characteristic of those of us in advocacy and volunteering; I truly believe in our work. I hope to bring my passion, values, and experience to the position of the President as I seek the opportunity to further the contributions of the SGA while striving to make the Howard County Chinese School a place where students can continue to understand the importance of their contributions to the school and what we call can do to build our school's value and sense of community.

Candidate: **Mark Li**



Parent: **Yan Sui**

