

## **Personal Statement to apply for HCCS SGA Officer**

Dear SGA Election Board and fellow students,

My name is Alice Chen, a rising 10th grader in Howard County Chinese School (HCCS). I am writing in pleasure to apply for the Secretary (Public Relations Liaison) officer role in HCCS SGA. Thank you for reviewing my application and considering me for the Howard County Chinese School SGA.

During the past three years, I have been actively participating in SGA activities in HCCS. I felt very grateful to be part of HCCS SGA members, to learn, to help, and to become a dedicated community volunteer.

I would like to start with the outbreak of coronavirus in Wuhan, China. When the pandemic first started, I was afraid - many people were dying and had been impacted by the virus in China and it was also affecting the US. I wanted to help and support them in any way, so when I learned that HCCS was looking for kids' drawings to encourage doctors fighting coronavirus, I felt that I could contribute to it. I drew the pictures with the motivation to cheer them on, thank them for their hard work, and to be strong! My artworks were glued to the boxes of PPE's donated and were later on shipped to China hospitals. Coronavirus then hit the US not long after, and my mom volunteered to raise funds to purchase PPEs to donate and help the frontline workers in Howard County. I helped with participating in the LOGO design for PPE donation from Howard County Chinese American Community and drew paintings again to thank the medical staff, helping my mom pack the donated masks, and helping to make Olson cloth masks in the PTA & SGA mask donation to Howard County Public School teachers and staff. I enjoyed participating in all activities because it helped me grow so much and gain experience to help others. I also participated in the Vegetable Garden Project by helping to plant the first batch of vegetables to support those who are having a difficult time in Howard County. I had spoken in the Education Equity BOE testimony to voice concern about

the mental health of students during the pandemic and urged BOE members to take actions.

Since May of 2021, I have been working in the Howard County Chinese School Public Relations social media admin and youth journalist group. I serve as the vice president in the team, managing Howard County Chinese School's social media accounts. Our vision is to promote more Chinese American influence to the public and bring attention to our culture, our organization, and our Chinese American community. Together with the team, I created brand new social media accounts such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. I receive requests and write news reports to post HCCS events. Later in October 2021, our group received more challenging tasks to write formal news reports in length. We attended the Ivy League Gem Service Award Ceremony to interview six award winners on sites, then we worked together as a team to complete 6 separate articles about the contribution of six award winners and their advice to the HCCS students. Once we completed each draft, we submitted it to the PR committee chair, the board of directors, the respective division leaders, and the award winner for review and approval. Each article took many revisions but once we received approval, we published it to Facebook and Twitter. In May 2022, we planned in advance and attended the Howard County Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Cultural Heritage Festival. I partnered with my teammates and interviewed AAPI organization leaders, Howard County organization representatives, food vendors, performers, and audiences. I had the honor to interview Senator Katie Hester, the festival organizer/Howard County Chief Innovation Officer Angela Cabellon and recorded their inspiring remarks. We successfully published both formal news reports and youtube videos and promoted the significant contribution of the Chinese community in this special in-person multi-cultural event after a 2-year pandemic.

This was a definitely rewarding experience. Through managing Howard County Chinese School's social media, I want to give and maintain a positive image of HCCS to the public, build awareness and credibility, and promote the contribution of Asian/Chinese Americans towards the communities. As of today, our group has published over 81 posts and the HCCS Facebook has steadily increased from 0 to 281 followers and the highest reaches are over 1600

people. While publishing HCCS's achievements to showcase our presence, I hope that more and more people get to know HCCS, our people, and join our community!

I believe I would be well suited for the position as SGA Secretary Public Relations Liaison because of my experience in the HCCS Public Relations and youth journalist group. I want to continue to spread a positive image of our Howard County Chinese School Community and SGA students by connecting with various student organizations and help promote PTA and SGA contributions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope my application is to be considered for the HCCS SGA Officer election!