

Saint André Bessette Catholic Secondary School
Student Council Criteria
April 25, 2016

Introduction – The Student Council is a very important element in the life of a Catholic secondary school. The activities of this student-driven organization enhance the faith education and formation of all students, provides support and recognition to individuals and groups, supports the mission of the school and makes high school more memorable, engaging and rewarding for a great number of students. It should be noted that accepting a position on student council is one of selfless service and personal enrichment for those who seek to serve. It should be stated however that it is the notion of service to the community that must be the central consideration in presenting oneself as a candidate for Student Council.

Goals of the Saint André Bessette Student Council

- Support all Saint André students in achieving the Catholic Graduate Expectations, The Saint Andre Graduation Diploma, The Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- Support the Faith Formation of students at Saint André Bessette Catholic Secondary School
- Support the academic and co-curricular program of the school
- Provide input and advice to the Principal and administration of the school.
- Act as representatives of the student body in discussion with the Principal and administration, Student Council Advisor, Family of Schools, Student Senate and community agencies
- Promote inclusion, a sense of belonging for all and a spirit of Catholic Christian community at Saint André
- Celebrate the academic and co-curricular achievement of individuals and groups at Saint André
- Develop and promote the unique character of Saint André Bessette Catholic Secondary School in the school, the London District Catholic School Board and the greater community.

Candidate Qualification Criteria

The candidate must:

- be a registered student at Saint André Bessette Catholic Secondary School at the time of candidacy declaration.
- have an academic average in the previous two semesters that is greater than 75% across all courses taken.
- have no record of an unsuccessful (below level 1) attempt at a course in the last two semesters.
- provide two teacher references in support of their candidacy. The supporting teachers may be any current member of the Saint André staff.
- provide the names of ten Saint André students in support of their candidacy
- compose an original, maximum three paragraph candidate profile outlining their reasons for seeking candidacy, their commitment to serve the community and how they will support Saint Andre Bessette Catholic Secondary School.

- follow all nomination and campaign guidelines, criteria and timelines as established.
- agree to enroll in GPP 30, Leadership Course, for the year of their service on Student Council if successfully elected. If the candidate is an incumbent (has already been on Student Council), they must agree to be present as needed during the time of the Student Council class.

The fully completed candidacy form and three paragraph candidate profile must be submitted personally to Mrs. Prince, Guidance Secretary, Saint André Bessette Catholic Secondary School on or before 3:00 pm, Monday, May 2, 2016, . Upon receipt, the form will be date stamped and forwarded to the Principal.

Voting procedures

- Every student at Saint André is entitled to one vote to be cast on the designated election day.
- Voting will be conducted by classroom teachers during a specified period, usually period one, on voting day.
- There are no proxies or post-balloting.
- Advanced polling may be conducted for those students who, due to an activity of the school, are scheduled to be absent from school on voting day. In those cases arrangements will be made between the principal and the supervising teacher to conduct discrete and convenient balloting for members of the affected group. Examples of these activities may be Science Olympics, track and field or student retreats.
- Ballots will be distributed to students, completed, collected and delivered to the main office for tabulation.
- Ballots that are incorrectly marked or have additional notes, symbols or comments other than the required marking, will be considered as spoiled and not counted in tabulation.
- Volunteer staff members will tabulate the ballots under supervision of the school administration
- Ballots will be counted and tabulated in a way that ensures accuracy, transparency, confidentiality and general integrity of process.
- Final election results will be shared with the Principal immediately upon completion and confirmation of tabulation
- Election results will be shared with all candidates prior to presentation to the entire school.
- Election results should be shared with the entire school community prior to the end of the school day on the day of balloting.
- Ballots will be destroyed at the conclusion of tabulation, confirmation and notification.
- A written record of all candidates and the voting totals based on tabulation will be generated by the Office Supervisor and kept as a formal record of the results of the election.

Formation of Student Council

- Based on the tabulation of votes, the ten students who have received the most votes will form a Student Council
- The student who has received the most votes will be given the opportunity to sit as Prime Minister or declare a cabinet selection

- In cabinet selection, the newly formed Student Council will, through a process of consensus, select one member to serve as the Prime Minister.
- The selection of Prime Minister will be conducted under the guidance and supervision of the Student Council Teacher Advisor and the results will be communicated to the Principal.
- If it is the desire of the council, individual members may select portfolios that appeal to individual interests and are consistent with the general responsibilities of Student Council. (Eg. Minister of Faith and Culture, Minister of Finance, Minister of Communication)

Terms of Office

- Student Council members will serve a one year term that begins from the time of election to the conclusion of their year of service.
- Students may seek office for more than one term.

Removal from Student Council

- In the event that a student resigns or is removed from Student Council and at the direction of the Principal, the candidate who had the most votes of the remaining candidates will be asked to join Student Council.
- Reasons for removal from Student Council – In very rare circumstances, it may be necessary to remove a student from the Student Council. Some possible examples of reasons for removal are listed below.
 - Poor academic performance that challenges credit acquisition and overall academic success
 - Persistent absence from school that is making it difficult for the student to serve on council and maintain academic success
 - Persistent resistance or opposition to the objectives of Student Council or the school
 - Suspension or expulsion