* The Blessed Sacrament School Student Council

*Preamble*

***We, the students of Blessed Sacrament School, in order to form a more perfect learning environment, believe that:***

1. All 7th and 8th grade students and staff, regardless of gender, religion, color or creed should have the opportunity to be involved in the school’s Student Council.

2. All participants in the Student Council should be responsible members of the Blessed Sacrament School Community.

3. The Student Council should be based on democratic principles.

4. All staff and students should work to create a safe and orderly learning environment.

5. All students shall have certain rights and freedoms as guaranteed to them as students of the

    school.

**Article 1**

**Name of the Organization**

The Blessed Sacrament Student Council, shall hereafter be referred to as the BSSC.

**Article 2**

**Composition of the Student Government**

Section 1: The Executive Board is comprised of elected and appointed officers/chairpersons.

Section 2: The General Assembly is comprised of all 7th and 8th grade students.

**Article 3**

**Powers of the Student Government Association**

Section 1: Within this authority, the BSSC general assembly and executive aboard shall have the power to pass legislation in matters concerning the best interests of the student body. All actions of the Student Council are subject to the approval by the principal.

Section 2: The administration, with student input will appoint an advisor to the BSSC. The advisor’s role is to direct and guide the actions of the BSSC. He/she does not have voting rights. The student government advisor has the responsibility to:

a) Provide guidance in all BSSC sponsored activities

b) Chaperone all BSSC activities (and secure additional chaperones as needed)

c) Excuse the absences of students who miss class because of student government activities

Section 3: The General Assembly shall have all legislative powers. All expenditures of the BSSC over and above thirty percent (30%) of the treasury must be authorized by the general assembly.

Section 4: The Executive Board shall have all legislative powers save those superseded by the Constitution. The Executive Board has the responsibility to involve the general assembly in as many actions of the BSSC as possible, because it is the representatives, therefore the general assembly, which expresses the voice of the total student body.

**Article 4**

**Qualifications and Terms of Office**

Section 1: General Qualifications

a) All officers and representatives must maintain a 80% grade point average or better.

b) All officers and representatives shall exhibit exemplary behavior and academic ethics. If reservations about behavior or academic ethics are brought forth by faculty and staff, the administration shall make the final decision concerning the qualification of the candidate in question.

c) All officers and representatives are expected to attend all general assemblies of the BSSC. Additional meetings are required as specific to the positions listed below.

Section 2: Specific Qualifications

 Officers - Officers will attend committee meetings as assigned.

 1) President- the president shall be in 8th grade for the year of his/her service

 2) Vice Presidents -shall be in 7th grade for the year of his/her service

 3) Treasurer- shall be in any grade for the year of his/her service

 4) Secretary- shall be in any grade for the year of his/her service

Section 3: Term of Office

a) All elected/appointed BSSC officers shall serve a one year term beginning the last day of school in May, until the last day of school in May the following year.

**Article 5**

**Responsibilities and Duties**

Role of the Student Council:

a) To create in cooperation with the Principal, staff and students, a better school life for the

 student of our school.

b) To provide students with opportunities of leadership and to develop in all students a

 sense of responsibility.

c) To encourage the students in the school to become more aware of how the school is run

 and to constructively identify and express their needs.

d) To contribute to overall school development by being involved in school policy

 development and to be a resource in working in partnership with the management of the

 school.

e) To act as liaison where appropriate between the students and the teaching staff and

 management.

President:

a) Shall represent the student body of Blessed Sacrament School when called upon to

  do so by the principal, BSSC advisor, or other administration.

b) Shall appoint, with approval from the Executive Board, any desired chairpersons.

c) Shall appoint, with the approval of the executive board, ad hoc committees as

   necessary.

d) Shall have the authority, with approval from the executive board, to call additional

 meetings of the BSSC.

e) Shall promote interest and participation within the Student Council.

Vice President:

a) In case of president’s absence or inability to carry out his responsibilities, the vice-

 president will take charge and assume the responsibilities of the president.

b) Shall assist the president as directed.

c) Shall meet with grade level resource/team leaders to discuss concerns and issues relevant to the specific grade level.

Treasurer:

a) Shall be responsible for the record keeping concerning all student government expenditures and income.

b) Shall, at School Assembly Meetings, submit a report on the financial status of

 the Student Council.

c) Shall be responsible for preparing a budget for the Student Council.

Secretary:

a) Shall be responsible for recording all minutes of the Student Council meetings.

b) Shall be responsible for copying and distributing all records of the Student Council to

 the Representative Assembly.

c) Shall maintain all Student Government Association Records.

d) Shall be responsible for all secretarial and clerical duties of the Student Council

e) Shall be responsible for all approved correspondence.

**Article 6**

**Elections and Appointments**

Section 1: Election/appointments of the Executive Board shall take place in April/May the spring before the year of service, unless a special election needs be held in August/September.

Section 2: Specific election guidelines will be reviewed in February and submitted to administration for approval. Candidates shall receive a copy of all election guidelines.

Section 3: All elections will be voted on by the entire 7th and 8th grade class.  Every student has the right to vote once per election cycle.

Section 4: Any candidate receiving the most votes cast (popular vote) will win the election (all positions)

**Article 7**

**Meetings**

Section 1: The executive board shall meet monthly OR as determined by BSSC advisor and/or school administration.

**Article 8**

**Impeachment and Succession**

Section 1: Impeachment

a) All officers (elected/appointed) and representatives shall be subject to impeachment for behavior deemed inappropriate by the administration.

b) Out of School Suspension or expulsion from school requires automatic impeachment from any BSSC position.

c) A report card with lower than a 2.7 grade point average requires automatic impeachment from any BSSC position.

d) Missing 3 or more meetings, unexcused, shall be subject to impeachment proceedings.

e) Any officers or representative who fails to carry out his/her duty in a responsible manner may have impeachment charges brought against him/her.

f) Impeachment proceedings are defined in the bylaws.

Section 2: Succession

a) In case of the president’s permanent inability to serve, the BSSC Vice President will assume all responsibilities of the office of president. The Vice President will be replaced following clause (b) below.

b) In case of all other elected/appointed officer’s inability to serve, the president shall appoint from general applications or previous candidates, with approval from the executive board, a person to complete the term. The principal must confirm the appointment.

c) When Representative vacancies occur, they will be filled by special election in the homeroom/or grade class where the vacancies exist.

**Article 9**

**Amendments**

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) of the legislative body.

**Article 10**

**Ratification**

This Constitution shall be in effect when it is approved by the administration, then receives two-thirds (2/3) vote of the student body.

**Article 11**

**Finance and Fundraising**

An account will be opened in the name of the Student Council with a local bank.  The Student Council Treasurer will keep an up-to-date and accurate account of all money raised by the council and will provide a report to the council at the last council meeting of the year.

Bylaws to the Constitution

**Article 1**

**Impeachment**

Section 1: From Article 9, Section 1 in the Constitution, these are the proceedings to be implemented when charges are brought before an elected/appoint JRBSC officer/chairman/representative.

 a) Charges should be submitted in writing to the BSSC advisor and principal.

 b) The BSSC advisor will inform the Executive Board and a committee of students,

 faculty, and administration shall be convened to discuss the charges.

 c) If the advisor and principal finds the charges to be credible, the **BS**SC member

     charge with the impeachment shall present his or her defense to the executive

 members, advisor and principal (impeachment committee).

 d) The committee shall vote by secret ballot to determine the outcome. The principal

 must confirm the outcome. If the principal overturns the result, he/she must submit in

 writing, within five school days, to the committee his/her reasons for reversing the

 decision. The decision of the principal may be appealed following grievance procedures

**Article 2**

**Adoption and Amendments**

Section 1: This document shall take effect upon its approval by the administration and two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.

Section 2: These bylaws may be amended upon approval by the administration and 3/4 vote of the executive board.

**Article 3**

**Jurisdiction**

Section 1: This document shall be appended to the Constitution for the duration of its authorization, but shall be superseded by the Constitution in any conflicts.

**STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER’S CONTRACT**

I   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   am willing to undertake the duties as laid forth within the Blessed Sacrament Student Council Constitution.  I have read and fully accept all duties, criteria, and consequences that come with the position that I have been elected into.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_