

# CONSTITUTION OF THE MILTON ACADEMY SELF-GOVERNING ASSOCIATION

We, the students of the Milton Academy Upper School, under the grant of power given to us by the faculty and administration of this school for the purpose of self-representation, discipline and responsibility, do hereby endorse this constitution of the Self-Governing Association of Milton Academy Upper School students.

## I. NAME

The name of this association shall be the Self-Governing Association (S.G.A.) of Milton Academy Upper School Students.

## II. MEMBERSHIP

1. Upon entrance to Milton Academy Upper School, students shall become members of the S.G.A., and this membership shall be formalized in the Book Signing Ceremony. Membership to S.G.A. shall express an awareness of the individual and collective obligations of all students for upholding the school standards of self-discipline and responsibility. No student is exempt from these responsibilities. The privileges of membership in the S.G.A. shall include the right to cast a single vote for all Council officer elections, as well as the right to attend all meetings of the S.G.A. Council, and also, but not exclusively, the right to representation in any faculty, administration, or trustee committee upon invitation. Membership on the S.G.A. Council is held by those members of S.G.A. elected by their peers as mentioned in Article V of this document.

## III. RIGHTS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT

1. The right of student self-government is granted by the Administration of Milton Academy, provided that the S.G.A. maintains the standards of the Academy.
2. Each member of the Self-Governing Association is entitled to self-representation before a Disciplinary Committee.
3. The conclusions of Discipline Committees will be announced before all members of the S.G.A. in morning assemblies.

## IV. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

The S.G.A. Council shall be a representative body comprised of the officers, mentioned in Article V, elected by the members of the S.G.A. The Council shall be lead by the Co-Head Monitors.

## V. OFFICERS AND DUTIES

The officers listed below are considered members of the S.G.A. Council and are required to attend weekly S.G.A. meetings to represent the interest of their respective constituencies as well as lead their respective elections for the following year.

**Co-Head Monitors:** One girl, one boy, both members of Class I, elected by the members of the S.G.A., shall be the leaders of the Council. They shall call and run meetings of the Council and of the Association, work closely with the Co-Day Monitors, Co-Boarding Monitors and Administration, as well as serve on the Discipline Committee. The Co-Head Monitors shall serve as a liaison between students, faculty and administration and shall attend weekly meetings with the S.G.A. Faculty Advisors and the Dean of Students. At the discretion of the head monitors, a student shall be appointed as Secretary to record the happenings during S.G.A. Council meetings.

**Co-Boarding Monitors:** One girl, one boy, both members of Class I, elected by the boarding student members of the S.G.A., shall call and run meetings of the Boarding Council. Boarding Monitors will sit on Disciplinary Committees pertaining to boarding students and are encouraged to run in the reelection of the Co-Head Monitor position should that position need to be replaced.

**Co-Day Monitors:** One girl, one boy, both members of Class I, elected by the day student members of the S.G.A., shall call and run meetings of the Day Council. Day Monitors will sit on Disciplinary Committees pertaining to day students and are encouraged to run in the reelection of the Co-Head Monitor position should that position need to be replaced.

**Class Councilors/Representatives:** One girl, one boy, shall be elected by each class to run class meetings, work closely with the Class Deans and represent the interest of his/her class to the S.G.A. Council. Class Councilors will sit on Disciplinary Committees. The Councilors of Class I are encouraged to run in the reelection of the Co-Head Monitor position should that position need to be replaced. Two additional representatives, one girl and one boy, can be voted in on a semester basis at the discretion of the Class Councilor and Class Deans.

**Faculty Advisors:** Two members of the faculty, one man and one woman, shall be chosen by the Council, shall guide the Council, shall attend weekly meetings with the Co-head monitors and the Dean of Students and shall oversee spring elections. In addition, the advisors shall represent the best interest of the S.G.A. in school meetings at which Council members are not present.

#### VI. DAY AND BOARDING COUNCILS

**Boarding Council:** The boarding council shall be composed of the Co-Boarding Monitors and each House Monitor. The council will meet at least once every two weeks to discuss issues pertaining to residential life, write and present proposals to the administration and plan events for boarding students. Each dormitory shall have a House Council composed of representatives from each class. House Council Meetings shall be held at least once a month and will be lead by the House Monitor. The House Council shall plan house events, discuss house issues with faculty and respond to student concerns. The House Monitors shall report House Council meetings to the Boarding Council. In the event that a House Monitor loses his/her position or resigns, a replacement shall be elected by a re-election within the respective house.

**Day Council:** The day council shall be composed of the Co-Day Monitors and two representatives, one girl and one boy, from each of the classes II-IV. The Council shall meet at least once every two weeks and discuss issues pertaining specifically to the day student community. In the event that a Day Council member loses his/her position or resigns, a replacement shall be elected by a re-election within their respective class.

#### VII. ELECTIONS

##### **Elections:**

All candidates for positions on the Council shall nominate themselves at a designated time in the early spring and shall complete the nomination form. Elections for the Co-Head Monitors shall be held before the entire Upper School and run by the standing Co-Head Monitors. Elections for Co-Boarding Monitors shall be held before the boarding community and run by the standing Co-Boarding Monitors and elections for the Co-Day Monitors shall be held before the day community and run by standing Co-Day Monitors.

##### **Voting:**

1. Voting will consist of assigning numbers of preference to the candidates in descending order (i.e. 1 is your most preferred choice)
2. The ballot will include the following choices:
  - a. the name of each nominated candidate
  - b. an opportunity to abstain from voting in that particular election

#### VIII. MEETINGS

**Meetings of the Association** shall be called by either of the Co-Head Monitors at their discretion. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Association in attendance on any school day.

**Meetings of the Council** shall be called by either Co-Head Monitor and at their discretion the Council may go into executive (closed) session.

**Class Meetings** shall be called on a regularly scheduled basis by the Class Councilors for the purpose of electing new representatives or transacting class business.

#### IX. AMENDMENTS AND DISCIPLINE

**Amendments:** Any member of the Association may submit to the Council a proposal for an amendment to this constitution. If changes to this Constitution are necessary, revision and ratification must ensue. The constitution will be ratified by two-thirds majority vote of the S.G.A. council and a majority vote of the association. With the ratification and enactment of this Constitution, all previous Constitution of the S.G.A. will be rendered null and void.

**Discipline:** Three unexcused absences from S.G.A. Council meetings per semester will result in disciplinary action within the Council. A breach of any school regulation that results in a Discipline Committee or administrative action may result in loss of position. Once a Council member loses his/her position, he/she may not run in the re-election for that position or run in any election which occurs in the following twelve weeks after his discipline committee meeting, in congruence with the Student Handbook. After a Council Member loses his/her position, the re-election shall be run by the following procedure:

1. A Head-Monitor will be replaced by a Class I student of the same gender in an election voted on by the S.G.A.
2. A Boarding Monitor will be replaced by a House Monitor of the same gender in an election voted on by the boarding student body of the S.G.A.
3. A Day Monitor will be replaced by a Class I student of the same gender in an election voted on by the day student body of the S.G.A.

4. A Class Councilor will be replaced by a student of the same gender and Class in an election voted on by that class.

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

**X. PRESENCE OF CONSTITUTION**

The S.G.A constitution shall be available to all students in the school library, shall be printed in the Student Handbook and added to the Milton Academy Website. The appropriate excerpts shall be read at each election for officers and Article II shall be read during the Book Signing Ceremony at the beginning of the school year.

Co-Head Monitors: (Signatures)

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Dean of Students: (Signature)

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

Co-Head Monitors: (Signatures)

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Dean of Students: (Signature)

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

**XI. RATIFICATION**

The Constitution shall be reviewed during the first month of each academic year by the S.G.A. Council, the Faculty Advisors to the Council and the Dean of Students.

**Ratified by the entire Milton Academy Upper School student body:**

Co-Head Monitors: (Signatures)

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Faculty Advisors: (Signatures)

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Dean of Students: (Signature)

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Head of School: (Signature)

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Date of Ratification: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Head Monitors: (Signatures)

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Dean of Students: (Signature)

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

Co-Head Monitors: (Signatures)

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Dean of Students: (Signature)

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

**Reviewed by the S.G.A. council: (Review Yearly)**

Co-Head Monitors: (Signatures)

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Dean of Students: (Signature)

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

Co-Head Monitors: (Signatures)

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Dean of Students: (Signature)

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Co-Head Monitors: (Signatures)

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Dean of Students: (Signature)

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

Co-Head Monitors: (Signatures)

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Dean of Students: (Signature)

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