



## **Victor Valley Desert Christian School**

### **Student Council L.E.A.D.E.R.S. Foundational Constitution November 17th, 2022**

#### **Preamble Purpose**

*We the High School Students of this generation, in order to give our school students a voice, to organize activities for unity in school spirit, hereby establish a student leadership council for the purpose of school betterment by providing opportunities for Leadership Training, School and Community Service, GrassRoots Fundraising, and Godly Legacy.*

#### **ARTICLE I – Name**

##### **“L.E.A.D.E.R.S COUNCIL”**

**LISTEN** to Learn  
**EMPATHIZE** to Empower  
**ADVOCATE** to Advance  
**DELEGATE** to Develop  
**EXPECT** to Exceed  
**RESPOND** Respectfully  
**SURRENDER** to Serve The Lord

#### **ARTICLE II – Membership**

##### **Section 1 – Eligibility**

In order to be eligible for Student Council, the student must be a member of VVDCS in High School Grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. They must be a believer in God’s Word and Surrendered to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, by testifying to our Statement of Faith. They must be a student in “good standing” behaviorally abiding by our Code of Conduct and academically by maintaining a minimum 3.2 Grade Point Average. If running for the office of President or Vice President, the student must be in their Junior or Senior High School year during the year they will serve in that position.

##### **Section 2 – Elections**

Members of the Student Council must be elected into officer positions. Candidates must be

committed to serving in the position for one school year and run for election each additional year they wish to serve. Candidates must win the election with a student body majority vote. Alumni are not eligible to be on the Student Council, nor are they allowed to vote, but they are encouraged to help as campaign managers, club advisors, and donate support to the next generation.

Students must be Nominated to Run for Office by submitting a completed petition. Petitions must have 5 student signatures and 2 teacher signatures endorsing the student for nomination.

Candidates are required to give a speech detailing their campaign goals and platform priorities to be shared in the Assembly of the whole Student Body. Speeches must be submitted and reviewed by the Council Advisor prior to the assembly and must be no longer than ninety seconds. All speech content must be free of mudslinging tactics and honoring to the VVDCS Code of Conduct.

### **Section 3 – Voting Rights**

All VVDCS Students in good standing in 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to vote. Student Body Voters have the right to vote in private and anonymously in annual Officer Elections and on School Ballot Initiatives. Faculty and Alumni are not eligible to vote. On Election Day the ballots will only be given to those students who are listed on the official updated roster of VVDCS Member families. The individuals who wish to participate in the elections must sign the roster stating they received their ballot to be filled out in person at school assembly and must place the completed ballot in the Official Ballot Box.

### **Section 4 – Ballot Tabulation**

Ballots must be counted by a minimum of three VVDCS Advisory Council Members. Tabulators must record themselves during the tabulation process and must not participate in the election itself. The Tabulators may not be family of officers or those who are running in the current elections.

## **ARTICLE III – Office Member Positions**

**HOLDING POWERS** -no member can hold two positions in tandem.

**President**- must be in their Junior or Senior year in the school year they plan to serve. They must endeavor to communicate clearly, uphold the academic and ethical standards of our school and foster professionalism as a representative to the community.

**Vice President** – must be in their Junior or Senior year in the school year they plan to serve. They must be committed to working as a teammate with the President and LEADERS. They are responsible to gather information to present at the LEADERS Council Meetings, be prepared to step in the president's stead in case of the president's absence or a resignation (proxy) and help plan programs and clubs.

**Secretary** – must take notes at LEADERS Council meetings to organize presented information into Meeting Minutes. They are responsible for keeping track of documents, records, managing correspondence and maintaining contact information. They are responsible for preparing the Meeting Agenda before each meeting.

**Treasurer** – must be able to create and maintain accurate financial records for the Student Council. They must give financial reports at Council Meetings and as needed for planning and transactions. They are responsible for payments, receivables, deposits and oversee financial fundraising efforts in this organization and its committees (with the banking help of the Council Advisor).

#### **ARTICLE IV – Council Cabinet**

Students who run for an elected position, but are not elected, may serve as a Student Council Cabinet Member. Cabinet Members must meet the requirements of the elected Officers and be committed to working with the LEADERS Council as teammates. They can help elected officers with their tasks and can vote by proxy when assigned to do so. If an Elected Officer Position becomes vacant before the term ends, a Cabinet Member may fill the vacancy with the unanimous agreement of the current LEADERS Council and the Advisor.

#### **ARTICLE V – Council Powers**

The LEADERS shall have the right to raise and spend money after consulting the Council Advisor, the right to plan and pass an annual budget, and the ability to establish and set meeting dates. LEADERS shall have the right to vote on initiatives with a 2/3rds quorum and present them to the Student Body for passing any new legislation.

#### **ARTICLE VI – Club Leaders**

Students who are in Grade 6 and above may be Club Leaders, responsible for organizing a group activity. Club Leaders are expected to/may attend Student Council Meetings to present and request information as needed.

#### **ARTICLE VII – Student Council LEADERS Meetings**

LEADERS Meetings are required to be opened in prayer first and will be held monthly with a majority of the elected council members in attendance or voting cabinet members present by proxy with the supervision of the Advisor. Meetings should strive to be run in accordance with Parliamentary Procedure. Meetings have to be scheduled in advance to be publicized to the whole school for participation.

Legislation and amendments may be presented during a LEADERS meeting if more than half of the current members are present but may only vote if a quorum is present or by proxy. The proposition must be reviewed by the Advisor before it can be added to the next Meeting Agenda by the Secretary.

Notice of the loss of a member in an elected officer position must be publicized to the Student Body including the replacement officer. Notice of the opening of a seat must be publicized to the Student Body if the vacancy can not be filled by the LEADERS Cabinet and therefore an election will be required.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – Process for Amendments**

An amendment or legislative proposal may be presented by any member of the Student Body, Cabinet or LEADERS Council during the monthly council meeting. The proposal must then be addressed and voted on anonymously if the Article V requirements are met. The VVDCS Advisory Council must review and approve it and only then can the Advisor make the changes to the Constitution to ensure the integrity of the document. Once approved, the new revised edition would be published on the school site and or in the Newsletter.

## ARTICLE IX – Executive Veto

### Section 1–LEADERS Advisor

The LEADERS Council Advisor shall have the authority to veto any Council actions that go against the Biblical philosophies and purpose of our school mission as stated in our VVDCS Registration Info Packet (further known as The VVDCS Handbook). The Council Advisor will be present at all LEADERS Council Meetings and serve as the voice of reason under the authority of God and serve when necessary as a vote on tie-breakers.

### Section 2–Impeachment

If at any point a LEADERS Council or Cabinet Member acting in an elected office fails to fulfill the requirements or perform in their elected position properly, they may be removed from the Student Council for a time to be determined by the severity of the infraction. In order to begin the impeachment process, the majority of the Council Cabinet members must present sufficient respectful evidence to support their allegations. Should the Council Advisor find the reasons sufficient to agree that the member in question is failing to represent the Student Council LEADERS according to the Code of Conduct, the member will be subject to a LEADERS Council Vote at the next monthly meeting where the quorum shall hold a unanimous vote for the impeachment of the member in question. Should the vote fall in favor of impeachment, he or she would then be given the reasons for their impeachment and be informed that they would not be allowed to join the LEADERS for a time to be determined by the Advisory Council. If the reasons for impeachment which were presented should not prove valid, the Council Advisor shall dismiss or determine any further action.

## ARTICLE X – Ratification

*We the students of Victor Valley Desert Christian School Government and Civics Club of 2022 do hereby declare this Student LEADERS Council Constitution to be established with the approval and supervision of the Club Advisor and VVDCS Advisory Council on November 17th, 2022 by affixing our names below.*

Carly McKay  
Christina S. Cowden  
Alison Ash  
Divine Puyce  
Vicki Seambelgen  
Jordan McKay

Quintin McKay  
Victoria Joyce  
Zogor Cowden

Family Paquette  
Cailyn Belte  
Lindsay Paquette

Hannah Lockwood