

Mount Vernon Student Congress

(Updated: 7/29/2020)

Description: Students in our community will serve as representatives and senators in our Mount Vernon Student Congress to help keep neighbors informed about community programs and events and to review/propose community building initiatives to decide which ones should receive micro-grants from the Community Entrepreneurship Fund.



Who's this For: Fort Hunt students grades 5th – 12th

What will they learn/do: Students will engage in reviewing, drafting, gathering support, and voting on proposals to strengthen the community, including allocating micro-grants to fund community initiatives. Students will practice and develop skills in the following areas:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication – written and verbal• Discussion/Debate• Economics• Community organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media Relations• Negotiation• Problem Solving/Conflict Resolution
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Time Commitment: Discussion and voting occur during a time window so students can participate asynchronously but we will also have a regular “session” on Mondays where delegates can meet live (online). Students who take on leadership roles may have additional responsibilities/commitments.

Costs: There is a \$25 registration fee which may be waived if the student’s neighborhood is sponsored by a local business or if the fee would present a financial hardship. Registration fees are added to the Community Entrepreneurship Fund.

Schedule/Activities:

- 1) Mondays (Time TBD) – Online Session for Discussing/Voting on Proposals
- 2) Reviewing submitted citizen proposals – ongoing
- 3) Developing and gathering support for official proposals
- 4) Friday – Deadline for submitting Official Proposals for Monday Consideration

Technology: The students will interact with the Student Congress platform to:

- 1) Review submitted citizen proposals (neighbors and citizens can submit proposals/requests for funds online)
- 2) Adopt/modify/sponsor official proposals
- 3) Provide support/propose amendments to proposals
- 4) Review Official Proposals and provide arguments/discussion for and against
- 5) Vote to support or oppose proposals

Leadership Roles (these are Interim roles until we convene our official Constitutional Convention later in the year to propose and adopt an ongoing set of rules):

- 1) Senators – 2 from each Neighborhood (approx. 16)
- 2) Representative – 1 from each block (approx. 30 per neighborhood)
- 3) Speaker of the House – chosen by the Representatives
- 4) President of the Senate – chosen by the Senators
- 5) Committee Heads
- 6) Delegates – students from the neighborhood who are not serving as Representative or Senator who would like to participate in the Convention
- 7) Executive Officers:
 - a. President/Chief Executive (Mr. O’Leary will serve as Acting President until the eventual Coup)
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Parliamentarian
 - d. Historian
 - e. Additional Executive officers selected by the President

If your student is interested in participating, please email Frazier@FortHuntParent.com to let me know your student’s name, grade, and neighborhood/block and I will add him/her to the interest list.

You can also visit <http://www.FortHuntUniversity.com/StudentCongress> for more info.

We will have periodic online Info sessions during the month of August as we open up; all details will be available at the web site above.