

At eleven years old, I believed that there was no place for a middle schooler in the larger conversations. The thought of going to meetings or events beyond the familiar bubble of my school's council felt daunting and intimidating. As a younger student engulfed in an environment of students who appeared far more experienced and confident, I convinced myself that none of my ideas would be taken seriously.

However, experiencing MASC's charm proved my fears wrong. No matter who you are, where you came from, or your background, MASC created a haven for my peers and me—a place where anyone may feel comfortable expressing themselves, which is exactly what I stand for. From the moment I sat with my first new friend at lunch at Convention four years ago, to planning, coordinating, and organizing workshops at this year's Legislative Session, MASC has become a second family to me. I knew, from the very first event I attended as a middle school delegate, that MASC is the place where my voice is heard and my leadership succeeds. I have made unforgettable memories, met the best of friends, and learned skills I would never have learned otherwise. This experience is one I aspire to revive for all attendees at MASC's events, whether it's their first conference or a bittersweet final meeting before graduation.

My name is Siya Jain, and I am elated to be a candidate to become your next MASC President. As a determined student leader, I am committed to ensuring every student feels like their voices truly matter, that they belong. I know MASC is the place where any student in Maryland can become a changemaker, because that's what this organization has done for me. I am ready to continue my efforts to uplift and represent the eager student leaders of this organization.

Over the last four years, my experience working in teams of passionate students has brought me closer to impacting leaders. Within MASC, my time as 2nd Vice President was spent amplifying middle school voices, leading AIMS, a committee of representatives from around Maryland to promote new resources, and serving on the officer team as the sole middle school voice. As a Student Workshop Coordinator for two years, I have worked alongside a team of co-chairs to extensively train and cultivate a group of over 300 total MASC certified workshop presenters. Through these roles, I have met eager students who are as inspired as me to foster change in their communities and education, and I have been honored to work with them to build connections and further projects. I am proud of what we have accomplished and have yet to do.

In the Chesapeake Association of Student Councils (CRASC), my elected position as the Middle School Coordinator entailed managing a team of vice-chairs and being the representative middle school student to the officer board. As an Outreach Coordinator, I worked with the outreach department to brainstorm innovative ideas to boost connections between CRASC and students around the county. Currently, as Chief of Staff, I serve as the contact point for all members of the appointed staff and am tasked with the management and conflict resolution of the team of over 30 members, for which I established an attendance and communication tracking sheet. Additionally, my team efforts are apparent in my roles as the Severn Run Class of 2028 president and a committee chair on the AACPS SMOB Advisory Council. Working at the regional level has allowed me to reach my student peers from across my own community, and I was able to observe firsthand the changes reflected by my teams' collaborations.

Teamwork extends beyond my leadership efforts, as it is a skill that allows me to prosper daily, granting me perspectives I alone could not have experienced, empowering me to craft solutions and memorable events for all. Now, I hope to accelerate MASC's opportunities for you to excel, because I know how we will bloom when we work together to formulate new ideas, combine diverse viewpoints, and flourish as a **TEAM**.