

VAYDANT TRIPATHI
Candidate for MASC 2nd VP

My name is Vaydant Tripathi, and I am a 7th-grade student at Urbana Middle School in Frederick County. I am running for MASC 2nd Vice President because I believe middle school students deserve to be heard, represented, and valued at the state level. A strong student association is built on inclusion and student-centered leadership, and I believe that effective policy starts by listening to student's voices at every level. My leadership journey began at Sugarloaf Elementary, where I served as a student ambassador. In that role, I represented my school to the county board, successfully addressing student concerns and outreach efforts. In middle school, I joined my school's Student Government Association (SGA), where I have spent the past two years advocating for students and uplifting their voices. Through SGA, we helped address important issues such as renovating the outdoor classroom and improving the school traffic system. My involvement with MASC began in 2024 when I attended the Fall Leadership Conference. That experience opened my eyes to the importance of student's perspectives and representation at the state level, and it fueled my passion for listening deeply and empowering every voice. Since then, I have attended monthly divisional forums and AIMS meetings, where we discuss student issues such as middle school outreach, representation, and composting. Additionally, we worked together to come up with solutions to these issues. Currently, I serve on the MASC Civic Engagement Committee and am involved with the Maryland General Assembly. In this role, I help ensure that proposed legislation supports Maryland students by talking with my peers and making sure they understand and agree with the policies being discussed. I also recently attended the MASC December Executive Board meeting, which was a valuable learning experience. However, it also showed me that middle school representation within MASC needs to be stronger. I believe that every **VOICE** matters and the student association works best when it has complete student representation (**Visibility**), listens deeply (**Opinions**), empowers every voice (**Involvement**), addresses unique perspectives (**Choice**), and acts freely (**Expression**). As 2nd Vice President, I will lead through my **VOICE** platform:

Visibility – Ensure middle school ideas are visible and well-represented within MASC.

Opinion – Create more opportunities for middle school opinions to be heard.

Involvement – Educate students about MASC and civic processes to increase participation.

Choice – Encourage students to express unique perspectives and make their own choices.

Expression – Entitle every student to express themselves freely.

I am running for MASC 2nd Vice President to ensure middle school students are not just included, but empowered. Together, we can build a student association where every voice truly counts.