

Sutter Middle School

Youth Empowerment Council

Sutter Middle School has worked towards Student Voice through doing the I Know My Class survey, Leadership elective and through other school wide activities where students can take on the leadership role and have their opinions heard. Sitting and looking over our school survey, we realized that there were areas in which we needed more feedback from the students. We have amazing students who are very involved in our leadership elective but we wanted a way to hear from the whole school. We decided to create a Youth Empowerment Council (Y.E.C) where there will be two students in every advisory/homeroom class who will gather feedback from their class and bring the suggestions, feedback and/or concerns to a roundtable of representatives of teachers, support staff and admin.

Because this is very structured and involves students working with other students. We plan to have student workshops on Public Speaking, Voice vs Noise, Note Taking, and Effective communication for students who choose to volunteer for this role. We will provide field trips to City Council meetings and other Town Meetings to show students how to respectfully advocate for their ideas. Topic of discussion will be announced to the students a couple weeks in advance. The students will be given some questions to take back to their class. Students can then also add additional questions to ask their classmates. Students will have their discussions in their Homeroom classes. On a scheduled day once a month, Y.E.C. representatives from each class will meet in a specified location where students and adults will meet and have a discussion of all feedback. The meeting will be videotaped and live streamed on a streaming channel. This allows all classes to stream the discussion through their class. This opportunity allows all students to hear their voices heard.

With remote learning, our plan is to schedule Zoom meetings with students to hear their thoughts, questions and concerns about the current virtual learning, coming back to school and what students needs are to feel safe. We will be communicating this plan to start the Youth Empowerment Council through Schoology and will be holding informational sessions for students interested. Next year, we will begin the school year with putting together dates for informational sessions for promoting the Council, setting up workshops for training and begin our first Council Meeting before the end of the first semester.

Aspirations Team Members are:

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