



# Bella Naspinski

**Social media**

Instagram: @bellanaspinski

**Grade**

Junior

**School**

South Mecklenburg High School

**ES/MS**

I attended McAlpine Elementary and South Charlotte Middle.

**Favorite place in  
Charlotte**

My favorite place in Charlotte is the South County regional library. I go there almost daily to study and work on homework, and the atmosphere is so serene. I get the most work done when I'm there and have started to develop a lovely relationship with the staff because I am there so often. I have been going to the library since my freshman year and I was terribly sad when it closed for renovation over quarantine. Now that it's open again though, I go there whenever I need designated "study time" and I'm very thankful to have found this place to be such a calm and focused atmosphere.

**When not at  
school, am**

When I am not at school, I am constantly managing my time in order to balance my school work and extracurriculars. I am the president of Club Feminism at my school which takes up a good amount of time because I am constantly planning for our next meetings and finding ways to become an activist in the community. I often participate in rallies and have an ongoing menstrual product drive that I run as well. I also volunteer for clubs like NHS, UNICEF, and Beta Club outside of school and I have specifically been a volunteer for the organization "Servants with a Heart" for the past four years. Other than this, I recently joined the Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council. I also write as a hobby and have entered a few essay competitions this year. Overall, my main interests outside of school are activism and writing. My two most prominent activism-related interests are in feminism and politics which is why I run

	<p>the feminism club and have been a member of the Young Democrats club for a few years now. Participating in both politically and feminist-related rallies have been my favorite ways of standing up for my beliefs over the past two years, and I hope to further my interests in activism through the Student Advisor role.</p>
<p><b>Leadership experience</b></p>	<p>My main civic leadership experience comes from my involvement as the Club Feminism president and member of the Young Democrats club, where I have participated in rallies, encouraged voter registration among my peers, and worked to provide knowledge and incentives for students to become feminists.</p>
<p><b>Why I want to serve</b></p>	<p>I want the chance to step out of my comfort zone and experience a new level of leadership. I want to become very well versed on not just the issues in CMS that impact me personally, but the issues that impact all different groups of students. I would love to advocate on students' behalf.</p>
<p><b>#1 thing to achieve CMS vision and mission</b></p>	<p>The one thing CMS leadership needs to do to is create better communication with their students. While CMS offers so many valuable opportunities such as CPCC dual enrollment classes, AP and IB courses, etc., I feel the benefits of these opportunities have not been shared in a widespread manner.</p>
<p><b>K-12 opportunity for success</b></p>	<p>I don't believe that this has been achieved due to racial disparities in graduation rates, SES impacting graduation rates, and lack of knowledge of opportunities (AP classes, MYEP, etc.) CMS provides. We can start solving this by increasing communication and teaching benefits of CMS opportunities.</p>
<p><b>What does CMS do well? What could CMS do better?</b></p>	<p>I believe that CMS does a wonderful job at providing students with opportunities for success (AP, IB, MYEP, etc.). I think CMS could improve mental health resources at schools. Hiring more full-time therapists to support students struggling with mental health needs to be made a priority.</p>
<p><b>CMS success I will help lift up</b></p>	<p>One CMS success that does not get enough attention is the Mayor's Youth Employment Program. I will push for this program to be emphasized in schools by encouraging CMS to accentuate the academic benefits of the program through social media and through announcements at all CMS schools.</p>
<p><b>CMS issue I will help solve</b></p>	<p>One issue that does not get enough attention is the lack of mental health resources in the school system. I propose either a CMS-based out-of</p>

	school club or an organized group of students at every school that could be a resource for students struggling with mental health and a confidante.
<b>Other info</b>	I am passionate about all of the things I've mentioned already, but I'm especially passionate about expanding my knowledge. I want to learn as much as I possibly can and aid in every way possible to leave the CMS school system in better shape than when I found it.