

The Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce and its business members are aware that the teenagers of today are tomorrow's employees or business owners. Through a program such as the Student Chamber of Commerce, this would be an opportunity for students of the junior and senior age level to participate in activities that would provide insight into what it means to be a businessperson in today's business climate.

As with other programs, the Chamber will cooperate closely with the Bismarck and Mandan public and private school systems to select qualified candidates. Working with Superintendents, Principals, Business teachers and Counselors, students will be chosen in the Spring of the year to begin participation in the Fall of the year.

The students will meet one evening a month, most likely on a Monday. The program will include six board meetings in addition to an opening and closing event. Students will sit in on one of the Chamber's Board of Directors meeting in order to see how this type of meeting unfolds. Students will help take part in the Ethics Day program to help develop the day's agenda. Students will have an opportunity to influence issues that may affect their future.

The application process is fairly simple. If you are interested in applying to be on the board, please out an application form, which includes an essay of 300 words or less. The applications will then be given to a committee of the Chamber's Business Education Partnership Committee for final decision. Students are encouraged to apply regardless of grades. If you are interested in your community and have an interest in civic activities, please apply.

While the agenda is always open to new ideas and development, we include student tours to different businesses that may be of interest or presentations from area business consultants.

Students on this board will be recognized as complimentary guests at the Chamber's annual dinner. Students will have a photo in the Chamber's newsletter, the Chamber Connection, along with an article. This program would be an honor activity for students to list on college applications and job resumes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Sally Paulson
Program Director
701.223.5660

What is the Student Chamber of Commerce?

- It is an educational program designed to nurture and enhance the skills of students from our community who wish to become involved in impacting the future.
- It is a program of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce and is endorsed by our area high schools: Bismarck High, Century High, Dakota Adventist Academy, Mandan High, Mandan High, Shiloh Christian, and St. Mary's Central.
- It is designed for high school juniors and seniors to acquaint students with the community, develop and enhance leadership skills, provide opportunities to network with business and community leaders, and encourage young people to remain in or return to the community.

The goals of the Student Chamber are:

- To foster students' interest in community and voluntary activities
- Provide opportunities for students from different schools to get to know one another and develop a level of mutual trust and respect
- Allow interaction with community leaders and decision makers
- Foster leadership development as a stepping stone to being a community leader or a leader in the student's school or community

What are the Benefits of the Student Chamber?

For the Student

- Development of new leadership skills
- Recognition among peers
- Understanding of the local community and his/her place in it
- Realization of common ground despite diverse student backgrounds
- Increased self-esteem
- Personal contributions to community service

For the School

- Increased pool of student leaders
- Enhanced school climate
- Opportunities for community collaborations with student involvement
- Positive local media coverage

For the Community

- Opportunities for participation of community volunteers, community leaders, and business and civic organizations
- Partnership involvement with public and private high schools within the community
- Increased pool of informed, committed, young emerging leaders

Bismarck-Mandan Student Chamber of Commerce Application

Applicant Name: _____ **School :** _____
Grade 2009-2010: _____ **Home Address:** _____
Phone Number (home and cell): _____ **Email:** _____
Principal, Counselor or Business Teacher Signature _____
Deadline: July 24, 2009

I. Application must be signed by high school principal, counselor or teacher.

II. Extracurricular School Activities-List clubs, sports, band, etc.
Show years of involvement and any offices held.

III. Honors, Awards, Community Service and Other Activities-

IV. Essay-Please attach an essay explaining in 200 words or less, why you want to be a member of the Bismarck-Mandan Student Chamber of Commerce (use additional sheet of paper, if necessary).