

Application Process:

Students will be given a brief overview of the program and offered an application.

The application will require the student to answer several questions about their past efforts and skills they will bring to the STMJB.

Students are encouraged to think carefully about their commitment to the program before returning the application. Applicants must be in good standing with their school coursework.

Due to the limited number of seats on the Board, sibling participation within the same school year will be limited.

Although we encourage students to discuss participation with their parents, the decision should come from the student.

Applications returned to homeroom teachers for review by the coordinators.



Junior Board History:

The Junior Board program was started at Visitation Catholic School by Steve O'Neill and Don Lueke and this September will mark the 8th year of successful service to the community. Steve and Don clearly saw a void in students' understanding of the "why" and "how" of service commitments. JB was conceived to provide these students a different set of analytical tools that ultimately provides more meaningful experiences in their volunteer endeavors.

"What you have done will stay with you the rest of your lives"

Secret Santa to VJB, December 2009

"I am very impressed with the analysis and effort you put into the process of selecting a worthy cause for a donation. The experience should prove valuable to you as you take your future place as concerned citizens interested in the cause of social justice."

*Fr. John Wandless
Urban Ranger Corps*

"..we are greatly appreciative of the \$1,200 donation received today. Your efforts in showing how individuals of all ages can become involved in bettering the Kansas City community are admirable."

*Shelley McThomas Bryant
Niles Home for Children*

"(Please accept our) sincere appreciation for your grant of \$974.00. It is especially meaningful to us that young people took the time to visit our program to see first-hand how our organization is making a difference in the lives of children in Kansas City."

*Jean Harty, Executive Director
Reach Out and Read Kansas City*

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Visitation Website:

visitationjuniorboard.shutterfly.com

St. Thomas More Junior Board 2010-2011

THE BUSINESS OF PHILANTHROPY



What is STM Junior Board?

The St. Thomas More Junior Board (STMJB) is a student driven foundation dedicated to providing assistance to local, non profit organizations while enhancing their knowledge about the “business” of successful philanthropy and stewardship.

Program Goals:

1. Provide hands on experience in the identification of agencies in need. Students will be required to conduct an in depth review of each organization to understand the services provided, financial structure, staffing, facility needs, primary sources of existing funding, etc.
2. Students will learn the proper balance between compassion and business savvy to provide the best possible outcome for the chosen agency.
3. Although no fundraising is required of the students, one component of the curriculum is to learn the most effective method in preparing and presenting a proposal to a possible funding source.
4. STMJB will give the students ample opportunity to sharpen their presentation skills through interactive exercises with their peers and special guests.
5. The students will develop the confidence to take a leadership role in future philanthropic endeavors and challenges.
6. Students will decide the direction and structure of the program including the selection of officers, online presence, communication, scheduling, etc. The JB will ultimately decide on what agencies receive funding at the end of the year.
7. Students will be encouraged to identify agencies from south Kansas City with a comprehensive look at organizations that have been started by children or young adults.
8. STMJB members will have the opportunity to meet people in our community that commit themselves to worthy causes on a daily basis.

STMJB Support and Structure:

1. A fund has been established to initiate the STMJB program for the 2010/2011 school year. All allotted funds will be distributed at the end of the year as there are no administrative costs of the program. Also, there is no fundraising required of students members.
2. Commitment is to provide funding for at least three agencies and as many as six.
3. Dan Cosgrove will coordinate the STM program with assistance from Paul Jokerst, Steve O’Neill and Don Lueke.
4. Recommend 20 students for the inaugural year (10 each from the 7th & 8th Grades)
5. Students will meet approximately once every two weeks at 7am (day to be determined). In addition, the students will be expected to attend several after school site visits. Schedule flexibility is encouraged.
6. Students will be divided into sub groups for the duration of the year. For the first several months the group will meet as one group.
7. Parents are always welcome to attend especially if they bring treats.
8. A STM staff representative is recommended. This person will act as a liaison to assist with communication, recommend sub group matches, collecting applications, etc.
9. Guest speakers have agreed to participate to share knowledge in areas such as successful grant writing, presentation etiquette, etc.
10. Develop a cooperative learning arrangement between Visitation JB & St. Thomas More JB.

Schedule (very tentative as students will decide much of the direction):

Week of 8/30 - Applications distributed to interested students
9/7 - Applications due
9/17 - Students are contacted
Week of 9/20 First full board Meeting

Subsequent schedule recommendation is every other week with at least two after school site visits for each sub-group.
October - Work on structure, agency identification, guest lecturers
November - Refine initial agency selections, preliminary presentations to peer group. Possible site visits
December - Individual group sessions that will not require participation of all students at each meeting. Each group will evaluate initial selections and refocus efforts where needed
January - Refine and solidify agency selections, resume site visits
February - site visits and individual group meetings. Only one full member meeting.
March/April - March will be minimal due to spring and Easter breaks. Finish site visits, refine research data and presentations. Peer review of agencies
May - Final Presentation to peers and guest panel to award.