

So you want to be a student trustee? Make your voice count – student trustee fact sheet

Student trustees serve an important role for the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. They represent the voice of students in decisions regarding education in our school communities, and they help to inform students about important decisions that affect them.

What are the responsibilities?

Being a student trustee is a big commitment. The main duties include:

- Attending all public board meetings and standing committee meetings, approximately one meeting a week.
- Representing students' in board discussions about education issues.
- Chair the Student Senate; a council that consists of several student senators; two to four from each of the SMCDSB high schools. The Senate shares, creates and enacts initiatives that bring positive change for students.
- Attend provincial and national conferences such as those held by the Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO).

What are the benefits?

- The opportunity to represent the student voice and improve Catholic education
- Monetary honorarium
- Great experience for your resumé
- Opportunity to attend various conferences and events
- Use of a laptop computer for the duration of your term
- Mentoring by a Board trustee and an in-school mentor.

Deadline to apply is April 17, 2024

Am I eligible to run?

To apply as a candidate for student trustee, you must:

- Be a full-time student, with good academic standing and must be in (Grade 11) by September 1st of the subsequent school year.
- Maintain regular school attendance.
- Provide confirmation of support from the school principal.
- Provide confirmation of support and acknowledgment of the student trustee's responsibilities from the parent/guardian.
- Be willing to commit the necessary time to attend meetings and perform the duties and responsibilities of a student trustee.
- Demonstrate a history of leadership interest as exhibited through work on student council, social justice groups, parish youth organizations, or community youth organizations.

Are student trustees paid?

Student trustees receive a monetary honorarium and are also reimbursed for reasonable expenses they incur in their role as student trustee.

Election process for student trustee

- When an eligible student determines that they wish to stand for election, they will indicate so by completing an application form.
- All interested students will report to the regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting in May and declare their candidacy. They will have an opportunity to address the Student Senate.
- The Student Senate will conduct an indirect vote and will elect, by secret ballot, the student who will be the Student Trustee for the following school year.

Where do I sign up?

To express your interest in running for the position of student trustee, visit [Criteria for Becoming Student Trustee](#). Here you will find a link to the online application form or ask your principal for a hard copy package. **Deadline to apply is April 17, 2024.**

Deadline to apply is April 17, 2024

A word from our current student trustees...

Hi Everyone!

My name is Kate Sontag and I am a current Grade 12 student at Patrick Fogarty who is serving as a Student Trustee at the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board for the 2022-2024 term. Being a Student Trustee is one of the most unique, rewarding and impactful experiences.

Being a student trustee is a wonderful way to create tangible and positive change within our community, learn how board meetings work, and learn leadership skills. On top of all this you get to work with amazing individuals on the Student Senate. Being a student trustee means that you get to provide input to the board on important issues being discussed that impact SMCDSB students, and work with other student trustees across Ontario!

I highly recommend running to become a student trustee, if you are a grade 10 student who is interested in leadership, policy and how decisions are made and love collaborating with others. The staff at SMCDSB are very supportive and will help you to step and grow into your role. If you have any questions about becoming a student trustee or what it's like to be one, do not hesitate to reach out at ksontag@smcdsb.on.ca!

Kate Sontag

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board Student Trustee, 2022-2024

Deadline to apply is April 17, 2024

Dear fellow students,

I am Mirari Ubani, a dedicated grade 11 student at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, currently serving as the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board Student Trustee for the 2023-2025 term. My journey as a student trustee has been a profound experience of continuous learning and personal growth. Collaborating with board representatives, I have embraced the role of being a voice for our student body, advocating for their concerns and aspirations.

Being a student trustee presents an opportunity to advocate for the needs of our peers directly to the board. Beyond the development of leadership skills, this role provides valuable insights into the workings of our school board. Additionally, engagement with the Student Senate fosters connections with fellow students who share a passion for enhancing our school community.

To my fellow SMCDSB students in grade 10, I strongly encourage you all to seize this opportunity. If you aspire to be a voice for those whose voices often go unheard, and are eager to make an impact, I urge you to consider applying for the role of student trustee. You will find yourself surrounded by a supportive community of SMCDSB students and staff who will guide and inspire you every step of the way. I recall the individuals surrounding me who helped ease me into my role, providing mentorship and guidance.

If the idea of serving as a student trustee interests you in any way, I encourage you to take the leap and apply. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at mubani@smcdsb.on.ca.

Let us embark on this journey of advocacy and leadership together, shaping a brighter future for our school community.

Warm regards,

Mirari Ubani

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board Student Trustee, 2023-2025

Deadline to apply is April 17, 2024