

# Staples World

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## New CEO class

*The new CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) class recently toured National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) and heard about the services offered there. In front, from left, are Paul Drange, Director of Regional Programs at NJPA; Ryan Gerard, Staples-Motley High School; Katie Johnson, Verndale High School; Amber Moen and Caitlin Savage, both of Wadena-Deer Creek High School. In back, from left, are Matthew Fisher, Staples-Motley High School; Mitchel Haman and Alex Burckhard both of Wadena-Deer Creek Hig*

## Students Begin Journey With CEO Program

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While most high school students are thinking about school supplies, classes and extracurriculars, students of Central Minnesota CEO are thinking about what it looks like to start and run their own personal businesses.

The CEO program year began Sept. 6, the first in a series of steps to help cultivate real life skills in students and to enter the community into a national network of high caliber, young leaders. Central Minnesota CEO is a collaboration of students from Wadena-Deer Creek, Staples-Motley and Verndale school districts.

“CEO” stands for Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities. It is a year-long, experientially learning based course, designed to use partnerships to provide an overview of business processes and development.

Throughout the program year, students will visit local businesses, learn from guest speakers, participate in operating a class business, write a business plan, and, from concept to reality, build their own legal, functioning entity.

This program seeks to develop and invest in the next generation. Being faced with real-life challenges has proven results of developing young people who are leaders and problem solvers. It is with this knowledge that they can see, with refreshed perspective, the opportunity that their community holds.

Along with the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship, Central Minnesota CEO firmly believes that twenty-first century skills like problem-solving, teamwork, self-motivation, responsibility, higher-order thinking, communication and inquiry should be at the heart of each student's development throughout this program.

This program's dedication to that mission, paired the community's engagement, will provide each CEO student with the opportunity to develop such skills, setting them up for future successes, and allowing them, along the way, to participate in the experience of a lifetime.

Want to get involved? CEO classes are open to the community. Simply visit [www.centralmnceo.com](http://www.centralmnceo.com) to contact the facilitator.

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