



Dan Berg

Youth Ally Award

When some students at Brookings High School expressed interest in getting involved in human rights issues, Dan Berg stepped forward and volunteered to serve as faculty advisor to the new Brookings High School Human Rights Club, which formed in 2015.

“The primary focus of the club is to raise awareness, to understand that each of us is a human being and worthy of respect, dignity, peace, love, and understanding. We as a group create an environment where all are welcomed regardless of one’s skin pigmentation, nation of origin, sexual orientation or identity, and gender; ALL are welcomed” stated Berg.

The club studies, discusses, and shares ideas regarding the universal picture dealing with how discrimination in any form affects the human condition. Guest speakers play an intricate role in providing first-hand information, thoughts and ideas about us as humans. The Jewish Holocaust, the genocide in Darfur, the situation in Syria and so on are but a few areas they have studied. The scope is then narrowed to the local level and how and what we do, even within the halls of the high school, has an impact on the people we come in contact with on a daily basis. The purpose of the course of study and the activities are not geared to necessarily convince anyone of anything. Rather, to be aware of how our actions can have a positive or negative impact. We believe that in order to make the human condition better, it starts with each individual. The future plans for the club are to host a Human Rights Fair and continue collaboration with the Brookings Human Rights Commission and become more involved in whatever capacity they can.

Originally from Alexandria, South Dakota, Dan Berg returned home to South Dakota in 2013 to serve as the CTI Technology Teacher at Brookings High School. Prior to that, Berg taught for 15 years in Louisiana. He has a Bachelor of Arts from Dakota Wesleyan University in Business Administration/Secondary Education and did graduate work at Northwestern State University in Louisiana. Berg is the proud father of three grown sons who all live out of state.