



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

June 2021 Newsletter

Be Independent, Not Alone

SAVE THE DATE!
Monday 9/27 -
Wednesday 9/29

2021 School Leadership Conference

in person at
Ruttger's Bay Lake
Lodge in Deerwood

Watch this page and
your inbox for more
information coming
soon.

Admissions
Professional
Development Webinar
June 17, 2021
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

The Ride to
Independent Schools

[Read more](#)

MISF STEM
Learning
Community

[Read more](#)

MISF Jobs Board

Member schools can
post job listings for free.

[Read more](#)

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

MISF annual membership renewal begins on July 1. If you are a current member, **THANK YOU**. We hope you will remain a member of a statewide network of 159 schools. If you are not a current member, but have benefitted or engaged in our offerings during this year, [please contact me](#) to discuss membership. MISF sits at the center of a vast ecosystem of private and independent schools - small and large, elementary and high school, urban and rural – and ensures schools can remain independent, but do not have to navigate uncertainty alone. Our promise is that MISF will fight, defend and advocate for the students, staff and leaders in Minnesota's nonpublic schools. Your school community amplifies the voice of all schools.

Thank you to those who have responded to our [Action Alert](#) focused on safe schools and mental health counseling for nonpublic school students. The COVID pandemic has made clear the need for mental health counseling and ensuring all schools are safe places. If you have not completed the [Action Alert](#) take one minute to make sure that Governor Walz & legislators know that you support school counseling & safe schools for non-public students which will make a positive difference in the lives of our students.

Guidance for the second round of Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic School (EANS II) has not been published by the US Department of Education. MISF will keep you apprised of any changes or new program requirements. More information can be found at the [Minnesota Department of Education Federal Relief Funds](#) page. These funds would likely be available late summer/early fall.

The MISF fiscal year ends on June 30. To make a gift to support MISF's mission to connect and strengthen Minnesota's independent schools [click here](#).

We wish you a restful and relaxing summer.

Tim Benz
President



US Webinar

Getting strategic about advancement goals

11am CT

Joe Connolly
Co-founder
Connolly Educational Consulting



Advancement is one of three key areas that fill & fund schools; find out how to collaborate strategically with marketing & admissions teams to reach greater outcomes in ToucanTech's new webinar, [Getting strategic about advancement goals](#). Hosted by advancement specialist [Joe Connolly](#), this is a webinar not to be missed.

[Register here today.](#)



Ed Suchy
MISF Sponsor at ToucanTech.com
ed@toucantech.com

STEM SCOOP

STEM Education Virtual/Online Conference



Tuesday, August 3 2021: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Wednesday, August 4, 2021: 8:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Approved for 6.25 CEUs by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.

Keynote Speaker

Engaging Disengaged Students

Presented by Paul Bernabei, Top 20 Training

This featured session will shine a light on common and frequent experiences students have that cause them to disengage in school and will highlight the essential elements for creating a culture of learning that can activate students' natural desire to try, thus minimizing student disengagement.

Featured Breakout Sessions

Infusing curricular content with computer science (K-12)

Andrea Wilson Vazquez, Code Savvy

In this workshop we will explore equity-focused models, tools, and strategies to integrate computer science with other content areas. Instead of viewing computer science as "one more thing" to fit in, we will highlight ways to use computer science as a tool to empower students to explore content in ways that were not previously possible. You will walk away with strategies and resources that you can incorporate immediately into any existing curricular unit or lesson.

Teaching culturally responsive STEM (3-12)

Desmond Martin, Next Wave STEM

Educating in STEM goes further than understanding science concepts or engaging in problem-solving. When we teach STEM, it is also important to consider the cultural context in which STEM is used. By helping students to explore the specific ways they interact with technology every day, STEM becomes more relatable and relevant.

Esports and STEM: A winning combination (9-12)

Charles Miller, Saint John's Preparatory School

Esports is exploding around the world, with an estimated viewership of over 400 million people in 2021. American high schools and universities are riding this wave, using esports to add the element of high-stakes teamwork often provided by traditional sports to the problem-solving elements necessary for success in STEM fields. This session will describe the trends in scholastic esports, propose some of the benefits esports can offer our STEM programs, and explain how schools can start esports programs of their own.

COST:

- MISF member early bird rate through June 20: \$35 (*Register early and save!*)
- MISF member regular rate June 21 - July 31: \$50
- Nonmember rate: \$125

[Click here](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF
Check with your LEA about using title funds for registration

**Click here to
REGISTER**

Self-Paced Online Course from Science from Scientists
STEM Professional Development Opportunity

Getting Ready for the New Minnesota Science Standards

In this self-paced online course, you'll engage with the Science & Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts – central to MN's new science standards and the Next Generation Science Standards – and explore how they transform science teaching and learning. This course is designed for classroom educators as well as school leaders who support their work.

This course opens on June 15. Register anytime and complete at your own pace by August 15, 2021. Upon completion, you'll receive a certificate for 6 clock hours of professional development. This course is also approved for continuing education credits by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.

As part of MISF's partnership with [Science from Scientists](#), MISF is offering member schools a special rate for the course.

Regular Price: \$75

MISF member price: \$50

[Click here](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF
Check with your LEA about using title funds for registration

Click here to
REGISTER

To receive the MISF member discount, use coupon code MISF50 to pay using PayPal, or INVOICE50 for an invoice to be sent to your school.

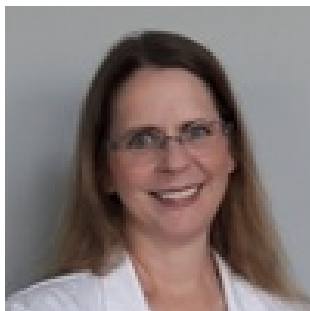
Presenters:



Beth Murphy, PhD, STEM Program Manager

Beth is a STEM education consultant with expertise in teacher professional development, program evaluation, and project management. As STEM Program Manager for MISF, Beth is responsible for the STEM Grant program, MISF's annual STEM Education Conference, and STEM-related community partnerships. Beth holds a PhD in experimental physics and has experience working in K-12, college-level, and out-of-school educational settings. In addition to working with MISF and other clients,

Beth is the field editor for *Connected Science Learning*, an online journal of the National Science Teaching Association. She currently serves as a director on the boards of both Science from Scientists and SciMathMN.



Renee Nesnidal, PhD., Science from Scientists

Renee is a lead Scientist-Teacher Partnership instructor for Science from Scientists. She has had over 20 years of experience working in science education both in K-12 and at the college level. Prior to joining Science from Scientists, she worked as a consultant with several Minnesota schools to incorporate more hands-on experiences in STEM curricula, led science workshops for students and educators, and taught summer STEM

campus and in-school STEM enrichment programs for students of all ages. She holds a PhD in atomic physics, specializing in laser & optical engineering.

Questions? Contact Lisa Vosbeek, 651-308-6454, lvosbeek@misf.org

What is Social Justice Teaching in the Science Classroom? NSTA Virtual Miniseries: June 5, 12, 19, 26

Join NSTA for this special four-part, interactive, virtual miniseries, which is jointly hosted by the Association for Multicultural Science Education (AMSE) and NSTA's Committee on Multicultural / Equity in Science Education. Scheduled throughout the month of March, this miniseries is your source for resources and strategies for motivating and enhancing the participation of traditionally underrepresented students in science through the lens of equity and social justice. All sessions are Saturdays 10:30 – 1:00 Central Time. Information, [What IS Social Justice Teaching in the Science Classroom? | NSTA](#)

- June 5: Designing for Rightful Presence in K-12 Science Teaching and Learning
- June 12: Critical Affinity Spaces for Science Educators
- June 19: Toward Field-Based Science Education that Contributes to Just, Sustainable and Culturally Thriving Worlds
- June 26: Defining Social Justice in our Science Classroom

Three-Dimensional Instruction Workshops

These free workshops are provided by Activate Learning, a curriculum publisher, for Minnesota educators. Three-Dimensional Learning to Promote Student Engagement, June 16, 8 – 10 AM, online. Led by Joe Krachik, Framework writer and IQUST curriculum author. A Framework for K–12 Science Education provides a new vision for science teaching and learning that focuses science teaching on helping students figure out phenomena and design solutions to problems. Classrooms incorporating three-dimensional learning will have students build models, design investigations, share ideas, develop explanations, and argue using evidence. Teachers will develop a deeper understanding of three-dimensional learning and the value of figuring out phenomena.

Registration, [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Science Update June 2021

Read the MDE Science Update for June 2021 [here](#).

Admissions Professional Development Webinar The Ride to Independent Schools June 17, 2021 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

The process for families of choosing an independent school is a journey. It involves much consideration, a great deal of investigation and ultimately critical decision-making. This session will share insights from The Enrollment Management Association's special report The Ride to Independent Schools 2020-2021 featuring insights, data, and recommendations based on a survey of nearly 3,000 families during the summer of 2020. The more that schools can appreciate and understand what parents are thinking and how they are feeling at each stage of that ride, the better they will be at meeting parents' needs and concerns. Empowered by the insights of parents, schools can create a process that is meaningful and satisfying, which in turn will help with schools' enrollment.

Dave Taibl, Director of Business Development at The Enrollment Management Association, has truly "done it all" at independent schools. Since he joined our team in 2012, his nearly two decades' experience in schools has strengthened his work with – and on behalf of – schools. Starting in 1993, Dave worked as dorm parent, coach, English teacher,



director of admission, dean of students, and assistant head of school (responsible for enrollment management and fund-raising) at Christchurch School, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, and Stuart Hall, all in Virginia.

He has also used his experience in community-building and education in serving as general manager of an adaptive reuse, commercial real estate development project in Staunton, Virginia; in that role, he oversaw the renovation and marketing to promote and align the company's objectives with broader community goals for the city's original high school building.

Dave holds a bachelor's degree in English literature from Washington College and a master's of education from the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education.

Click here to REGISTER

MDE Federal/Title Programs Update

Unspent Title I, Title II, Title III, and/or Title IVA funds are carried into the school next year when a Local Educational Agency (LEA) does not spend the full



nonpublic equitable share in a given year. These unspent funds will remain reserved for services to the original nonpublic school to use until they expire (after 27 months) or unless the nonpublic school declines the use of the funds. LEAs are encouraged to consult with nonpublic school officials to create a plan for using funds in a timely way. If a nonpublic school is not on track to use the services funded by the equitable share, then the LEA may request the nonpublic school consider releasing funds to be used for services at other nonpublic schools within the LEA boundaries.

Nonpublic school officials are strongly encouraged to consider their needs and, if they will not use all of the services, release funds to be used elsewhere in order to avoid having funds returned to the federal government.

For additional information, contact Alicia Waeffler, ESEA/ESSA Nonpublic Ombudsman, Alicia.waeffler@state.mn.us.

New Member Benefit THE VAULT

MISF is proud to announce a partnership with **CARE Counseling** to bring member schools invaluable resources to **teach social and emotional learning (SEL) as well as practice self resiliency.**



The VAULT is a customized online portal uniquely created for MISF member schools. Think of this as an **“on-demand”** library of videos to support your vocation as a leader, educator, or school staff. **This is a NEW member benefit that we hope you will find helpful.**

SEL provides a foundation for safe and positive learning, and enhances students' ability to succeed in school, careers, and life as well as provides additional support to **LEADERS, EDUCATORS, AND STAFF.**

- The Vault is a **FREE RESOURCE** for MISF member schools
- Each individual user will create their own username and password so they can work through the modules at their own pace
- Videos are divided by topic
- New content will be added monthly

- On-demand, self-paced video resources
- Earn CEUs - certificates will be generated upon completion of each module

[Click here to read more about this new member benefit.](#)

Join the MISF Member School Network

We would like to invite MISF members to join us on the MISF Member School Network, a private, personalized MISF Group, in partnership with ChangeMakers for Impact.

Participation in this collaborative network is a NEW member benefit that we believe will be of high value as we continue to navigate an ambiguous educational environment. There has never been a greater need for leaders to have a place online where they can connect and be resourced that is accessible anytime.

This NEW member benefit will provide member schools with FREE access to our private group - MISF Member School Network and the larger **[ChangeMaker for Impact Network](#)**.

[Click here for more information on this member benefit.](#)

Important Dates to Remember

- Thursday, June 17: Admissions Professional Development Workshop
- Tuesday August 3 - Wednesday, August 4: STEM Education Conference
- Monday, September 27- Wednesday, September 29: School Leadership Conference