

E-News Essentials

Strengthening Minnesota's K-12 independent schools
through advocacy and advancement.



August 2015

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Dear MISF Member Schools, Staff, Colleagues and Friends of Independent Schools:

We hope the initial E-News Essentials for 2015-16 finds you enjoying the remaining days of summer vacation. The coming weeks will usher in a brisk pace as each school prepares to welcome students and faculty back to campus. We extend our best wishes and thoughts for a rewarding and successful year.

The annual membership renewal and new member enrollment continues. A sincere thank you to schools renewing their membership, and a warm welcome to our newest schools. Please let us know how we can help you maximize your member benefits.

Donning a new name, and new location, registration continues for the tenth annual MISF School Leadership Conference. This member-only benefit is a tremendous opportunity to learn innovative and relevant practices while connecting and networking with fellow school leaders from across Minnesota. This conference consistently ranks among our highest rated offerings each year. A special thank you to our committee, led

Events Calendar

2015-16

Admissions/Marketing Workshops

Thur., October 22
Maranatha Christian Academy (Brklyn Park)

Thur., February 25, 2016
Good Shepherd School (Golden Valley)

Development Workshops

Thur., November 19
Maternity of Mary-St. Andrew (St. Paul)

Thur., June 16, 2016
Location: TBD

Technology Workshops

Thur., January 14, 2016
St. Croix Lutheran Schools (West St. Paul)

Thur., April 14, 2016
Location TBD

2015 STEM Education Conference

(formerly STEM Teacher Seminar)
Thur., August 13, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Concordia Academy (Roseville)
[Register here](#)

2015 School Leadership Conference

(formerly School Head Retreat)
Tue-Wed, Sep. 29-30, 2015
8:00 a.m. Tue - 12:00 p.m. Wed.
Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge (Deerwood)

[2015-16 printable calendar](#)

by conference dean, Donna Harris (President, Minnehaha Academy).

Our calendar of events for 2015-16 is taking shape. We are working on a strong lineup of offerings for this school year. Stay tuned for further details, but mark your calendar for our October 22 Admissions/Marketing workshop - we are confident this is one workshop you won't want to miss.

MISF extends our thanks to Dr. Bob Tift, who completed his term on the MISF board of directors on June 30. Bob has been an ardent and tireless advocate for MISF and our continued work on behalf of Minnesota's independent/private schools. We welcome incoming board members, Dr. Tim Berner, Phyllis Karasov, Teri McCloughan, and Kari Staples, who will join the MISF board during the coming year.

Please let us know how we can help you take full advantage of your membership.

Sincerely,



Tim Benz, CFRE
President



School Leadership Conference

Tenth annual conference brings new name and location

Tues/Wed, September 29 - 30, 2015
Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge
Deerwood, MN

[Registration is open](#) for the tenth annual School Leadership Conference.

The theme for the year, "We're in this Together," stresses the vital connections and commonality of our work as independent/private school leaders and communities. MISF serves as the hub of our connection to each other.

Welcome New Members

[Morning Son Christian School, Fergus Falls](#)

[Sacred Heart Catholic School, Robbinsdale](#)

[Shakopee Area Catholic School, Shakopee](#)

[White Bear Montessori School, White Bear Lake](#)

[Zion Lutheran School, Alexandria](#)

MISF Now Serves
33,877 Students

This Month's
Featured School

[Calvin Christian School, Blaine, Edina, Fridley](#)

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The new name, **School Leadership Conference**, emphasizes the importance of overall leadership in our schools. This highly rated annual gathering is a member-only benefit.

New this year is the "President's Reception." A relaxed, informal gathering for those arriving Monday evening. It's a great way to ease into the conference. Newcomers are highly encouraged to come and network with other school leaders.

Sessions include:

- Enrollment Management: How to achieve an optimal balance
- Digital Citizenship: "What size is your footprint?"
- Recognizing cultural and diversity biases: Cultural perspectives on teaching
- Leveraging Social Media: "Stop using post cards"
- Leadership Panel: "What is Leadership?"
- HR & Employment

[Early registration is open until Friday, August 28.](#) Sign up as soon as possible to guarantee your registration.

Registration options and more information are on [MISF's website](#). Be sure to check with your school district about using 2015-16 Title IIA funds for registration fees.

See you in September!



The Scoop on STEM

Grants, Activities, and Learning Opportunities for STEM Educators

2015 MISF STEM Education Conference (4 days left to register!)

[Registration is open](#) to all Nonpublic school educators in Minnesota. You do not need to be a member of MISF to register for this conference.

Conference Date: Thursday, August 13, 2015

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Host School: Concordia Academy-Roseville. The school is located at 2400 North Dale Street in Roseville, easily accessible from Hwy 36 with plenty of free parking.

MISF will be offering **breakout sessions in each of three**

STEM Community Professional Development, Student Opportunities, and Competitions

Minnesota Zoo: Enhancing the field trip experience with iPADS

K-12 educators, get your students acting like zookeepers, conservationist, exhibit designers, and zoo projects managers by using the same skills these STEM professionals use every day at the zoo. In this hands-on iPad workshop, you will use and explore great iPad applications for building scientific skills within a zoo context.

Date: Sat., Sep. 19, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$25/person

Clock Hours: 4 CEUs available

Go to the [Minnesota Zoo website](#) for more information or to register, or contact Kristi Berg at 952.431.9243 or KristiBerg@state.mn.us.

Resources for Schools, Students and Families

Service Project for Schools

Hats & Mittens collects hats and mittens and distributes them to homeless children and children in need throughout the Twin Cities and Duluth. This is a perfect community service project for a

grade ranges: K-4, 5-8 and 9-12. There will be three or four breakouts to choose from in each time slot. [Go to the MISF website](#) to see the list of breakout sessions.

New this year is a STEM Grant Track that will include, sessions on integrating all aspects of STEM into a grant project, a chance to talk with the STEM Advisory Committee and brainstorm ideas for STEM Grant projects, and presentations by teachers who have received STEM Grants in the past. These sessions will be geared to administrators, teachers, and any STEM grant writers. If your school is considering applying for a STEM grant next year you won't want to miss this opportunity to hear from MISF's STEM Advisory Committee.

Sponsor exhibitors will be available to showcase the products and services they offer the STEM education community.

Registration Fees:

Member Teacher - \$50
Nonmember Teacher - \$150

- Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, afternoon refreshments, and free parking.
- Registration fees are nonrefundable; however, registrations are transferable.
- Payments (Check, Visa or Master Card) must be received by Friday, August 7th.

Let MISF know when you register if you will be using 2015-16 Title funds for the registration fee, so the staff can work with you on the payment due date.

Join MISF for an informative day of hands-on learning and receive 6 clock hours of continuing ed credits!

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The Educator Edition: 2015 National Survey on STEM Education reports on thoughts and perspectives of more than 5,000 science and STEM educators from across the United States. The report includes information about state science curriculum standards; STEM programs, courses, and initiatives; science/STEM courses; challenges facing STEM education in the U.S.; instructional tools and resources for science/STEM education; and teacher professional development. The study was written by IESD, Inc, an independent market research firm, and sponsored by Vernier Software & Technology. Thanks to Vernier, the *Educator Edition* of the report is available to teachers, administrators, and educators at no cost. [Download the report here.](#)

school. [Learn more here, and get your whole school involved.](#)

MISF provides several online resources to help keep schools, staff, students, and families aware of the many opportunities available in the educational community. To view a list of these resources, please visit MISF's website (www.misf.org) and click on the tab, [Resources & News.](#)

MISF does not endorse or promote the vendors, services, companies, or organizations represented. It is up to each school and/or individual to research the offerings provided when making decisions.

News about MISF Member Schools

[Bethlehem Academy \(Faribault\) participates in 3-day SMART Challenge Ride to raise funds for need-based tuition aid.](#)

[Legacy Christian Academy student selected winner of the Minnesota National Park Service's "Mighty Mississippi" Art contest.](#)

Find out what's going on in MISF's member schools. To view a list of current and past news stories, visit MISF's website (www.misf.org) and click on the tab, [Member School News.](#)

Does your school have a recent news story to share? [Email the MISF office.](#)



Professional Development Opportunities

Join independent school colleagues at MISF workshops

Admissions

Thursday,

October 22, 2015

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: [Maranatha Christian Academy \(Brooklyn Park\)](#)

MISF WELCOMES NATIONAL SPEAKER

[Rick Newberry, Ph.D., President, Enrollment Catalyst](#)

Rick has over 25 years of educational leadership experience in higher education and K-12 levels. With his expertise in enrollment management, marketing, and branding, Rick has helped many independent, private, and faith-based schools throughout the nation achieve their strategic marketing and enrollment goals.

Workshop details coming soon.

[Register Now!](#)

Development

Thursday, November 19, 2015

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: [Maternity of Mary-St. Andrew School \(St. Paul\)](#)

Workshop details available soon.

Free Binders for MISF Members

MISF has hundreds of 1-1/2" binders to donate on a first-come, first-serve basis. Inventory includes more than 100 new black binders, and a limited number of used white and blue.

Member schools or associate members may contact the MISF office at 651.297.6716 or info@misf.org, if interested.

The Field Report

Advocacy/Legislative Highlights Affecting K-12 Independent Schools

Nonpublic Pupil Aids - Eligibility for Standardized Tests.

The April 9 memorandum from Greg Sogaard, MDE education finance specialist, states, "The commissioner of education has determined that the ACT college entrance examination meets the definition of a standardized test under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.41, Subdivision 2, making the purchase of the ACT an eligible expense within the textbook/standardized test/individualized instructional materials component of the nonpublic pupil aid program." MISF received notification that the MDE has approved continued use of Nonpublic Pupil Aids to pay for the ACT in 2016. Usage of these funds for the ACT beyond 2016 are not yet known. MISF will provide information once available.

Nonpublic Pupil Aids Fiscal Year 2016 Rates of

Entitlement. Minnesota K-12 nonpublic schools are eligible to be reimbursed through their district for expenditures incurred in providing certain instructional materials and pupil support services. The MDE has published [current Fiscal Year 2016 rates of entitlement here](#). The MDE may readjusted these rates on or about October 15 when actual appropriation and program participation figures are known. It is important that all Minnesota K-12 nonpublic schools submit the appropriate forms so that accurate rates are calculated and provided. [More information along with required forms and deadlines are found on the MDE website.](#)

Member schools are welcome to call or email MISF with specific questions regarding legislative/advocacy issues.

The staff will research these questions and provide counsel to assist the school or contact information for the individual with whom the school may correspond for more precise answers.

Become a Member of the MISF Network

SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP

MISF is pleased to offer membership to the state's entire community of K-12 private and independent schools. Every nonpublic school in Minnesota deserves to benefit from MISF's work. Membership is open to both accredited and nonaccredited K-12 private and independent schools in Minnesota.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

MISF also offers an Associate Membership. This membership is available to individuals affiliated with Private and/or Independent (nonpublic) School Associations.

Learn more by viewing the online information below:

> [Would You or Your School Benefit from MISF Membership?](#)

> [Testimonials](#)

> [Annual membership Investment](#)

> [Apply Today](#)

To discuss membership options and benefits, [email Brenda Kappel](#), Director of Membership and Networking, or call 651.297.6716.

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To strengthen Minnesota's K-12 independent schools through advocacy and advancement.

MISF directly serves Minnesota's K-12 independent school community, and informs lawmakers, policy makers, and the general public about the contributions that independent education makes to the state and society. Tens of thousands of students are enrolled in K-12 independent schools in Minnesota. MISF believes each student deserves to benefit from its programs, services, education, research, and public policy support.

Your generous donation of any size will help support MISF's programs, initiatives, and Minnesota's kids. Thank you!

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