



E-News Essentials

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



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

September 2015

In This Issue

[School Leadership Conference](#)

[Scoop on STEM](#)

[Prof Development Workshops Oct 22 & Nov 19](#)

[Field Report](#)

Save the Dates for upcoming events

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

Fully knowing that your back-to-school list is pretty lengthy, I'll only add a few items to it, all of which can be crossed off with a few clicks of your mouse.

We've extended the early registration period for our School Leadership Conference through September 4. With nearly 60 independent/private school leaders registered, we anticipate another rewarding and transformative gathering focused on leadership.

Our member renewal campaign continues during September. In order to fully maximize all the benefits of MISF for the entire year, we highly encourage you to renew as soon as possible. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional assistance on your renewal process.

Events Calendar

2015-16

Admissions/Marketing Workshops

Thur., October 22
Maranatha Christian Academy (Brklyn Park) [Register here](#)

Thur., February 25, 2016
Good Shepherd School (Gldn 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 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)
[Register here](#)

[2015-16 printable calendar](#)

We have an exceptional Admissions/Marketing seminar planned for October 22, featuring national expert Rick Newberry. Take a look at our calendar of events for more information. We hope to see you there for this key offering to kick off the 2015-16 year.

A special thank you to the donors, funders, and sponsors who support the common mission of private and independent education in Minnesota. Without this generous and ongoing support, much of what we deliver to our members is not possible. [To learn more and to support MISF, click here.](#)

On behalf of the MISF board of directors, volunteers and staff we wish you the very best for a safe and successful year ahead. Please let us know how we can help you take full advantage of your membership.

Sincerely,



Tim Benz, CFRE
President



School Leadership Conference

Sixty individuals already registered for the tenth annual conference

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

[Early registration has been extended](#) for the tenth annual School Leadership Conference.

Come kick off the conference at the President's Reception on Monday evening. It's a great opportunity to connect and build your network with other school leaders from across Minnesota.

Welcome New Members

[St. Pascal Baylon Catholic School](#)

[TransformED Academy, Rochester](#)

MISF Now Serves

34,044 Students

=====
This Month's
Featured School

[Cambridge Christian School, Cambridge](#)

Connect with MISF

Like us on **Facebook** 

View our photos on **flickr**

You Tube

 **JOIN OUR MAILING LIST**



misf.org

DONATE

Newcomers are highly encouraged to come and network with other school leaders.

Sessions include:

- HR/Employment Law: Key trends for leaders to know
- Digital Citizenship: What size is your footprint?
- Sustaining Education: A business perspective
- Managing Change: How to conquer the only constant in life and leadership
- Leveraging Social Media: Stop sending postcards
- Leadership Panel: What is leadership?
- Cultural perspectives on teaching

[Early registration is open until Friday, September 4.](#) Sign up as soon as possible to guarantee your savings.

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 at Ruttger's!



The Scoop on STEM

Grants, Activities, and Learning Opportunities for STEM Educators

Nearly 300 Attend 2015 MISF STEM Education Conference



Our thanks to the MISF STEM Program sponsors, 3M Foundation, Xcel Energy Foundation, and the Schott Foundation as well as all who attended the 2015 MISF STEM Education Conference! It was a record breaking year with 292 educators registered, a 32 percent increase over last year. Also in attendance were more than 40 presenters; 17 vendors; the MISF STEM Advisory

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 project 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

Committee; keynote speaker, Dr. Olester Benson, 3M; and special guests. Our gracious member school hosts, Concordia Academy-Roseville, provided a wonderful venue and great support from their dedicated staff, including their football team who hauled tables that were provided by King of Kings Lutheran School.

Special thanks to the following MISF member school teachers and administrators who shared their STEM Grant experiences:

- Monica Notch, Saint Boniface Catholic School (Cold Spring)
- David Jewison, Cotter Schools and Winona Area Catholic Schools (Winona)
- Marti Stewart, City of Lakes Waldorf School (Minneapolis)
- Scott Revoir, Miriam Shuros, and Robert Waedekin, Gethsemane Lutheran School (Maplewood)

MISF values the feedback received from those who completed the attendee survey. Here are a few comments from the survey:

"This is a great conference. I loved the timing of it. As I'm getting ready for the upcoming school year, I'm so inspired and encouraged for my math and science lesson planning. I've also made some contacts with vendors in the state that will be helping and supporting my school."

"This was a time where our minds were tickled - inspired to try new things"

"Great opportunity - inspiring presentations that were great as we start a new school year."

"Good conference - excellent facilities - pleasant/helpful people. Keep up the great work!"

"This has been the best conference I've attended because I feel there were more relevant options as a social studies teacher - great emphasis on integration of all areas of study and how to use in multiple disciplines!"

=====

FREE GIS Workshop, October 7, Duluth: The Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium invite all K-12 nonpublic teachers and administrators to an **Educators Day** at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, 350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN. This event will be held Wednesday, October 7,

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 & Jobs](#).

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

[Cotter Schools president, Sr Judith Schaefer, travels to Mexico with Governor Dayton Trade Mission](#)

[Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School](#) (New Ulm) is upgrading the sound and lighting systems in the school's gymnasium. If any MISF schools have recently completed such a task and are able to recommend names of contractors, please email principal, Tim Plath at tplath@mvlhs.org.

[West Lutheran High School seniors, Maria and Maggie, featured in Plymouth Magazine](#)

2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Teachers and administrators attending will learn about ArcGIS and ArcGIS Online mapping resource tools that are available FREE to all schools. This event will include lunch and a luncheon speaker, former educator turned GIS professional. CEUs will be available for teachers and administrators.

Discover the basics of using ArcGIS Online in your classroom. If you are a GIS user already then you may be interested in advanced techniques through spatial analysis or learning how to create Story Maps. What is ArcGIS Collector and how can my students use it to collect and map data? There will be sessions presented by teachers and professionals for both beginning and advanced ArcGIS Online users and specific sessions for science and social studies. The schedule provides opportunities to collaborate with other teachers and GIS professionals (EdCamp style) on projects for the classroom. Here is your chance to learn about ArcGIS Online, collaborate with other teachers, both public and nonpublic, mingle and develop mentor opportunities with GIS professionals that could last years..

Please refer questions to [Scott Freburg](#) (scott.freburg@state.mn.us), (651) 582-8789. Additional information, including the agenda and registration for this event, may be found on the [Minnesota Department of Education K-12 webpage](#), or you can [register immediately](#).

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.

The Field Report

Advocacy/Legislative Highlights Affecting K-12
Independent Schools

Title II Funds are available to private/independent schools

through the public school district in which the nonpublic school resides and/or from the Title II funds the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) offers for staff development to supplement the identified needs of the nonpublic staff. Nonpublic school staff are welcome to participate in the workshops offered by the state. To find out what is being offered, visit the [MDE website](#) and access two recent MDE publications: 2015 Workshops Teacher Development and Evaluation and Q Comp / 2015-16 Teacher Development and Evaluation Networking Sessions. These documents are also posted on the [Resources section of the MISF website](#).

The MDE recently released the [2015-16 Area District List for Districts and Charter Schools](#). The list includes contact information related to Title I and II funding ---- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) application process. The document is also available on the [Resources section of the MISF website](#).

MISF strongly encourages all private and independent schools to **complete the MDE Nonpublic Fall Report**, which is found on the MISF website or [MDE website](#), by the end of October (official due date is November 16, 2015). The information is used by the MDE to calculate nonpublic pupil aid dollars available to independent schools.

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 readjust 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.

[Back to top](#)

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!

[DONATE](#)



Minnesota Independent School Forum | 445 Minnesota Street | Suite 505 | St. Paul | MN | 55101-5000