

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



Letter from the President

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

As you may have read, the reauthorization of the ESEA/ESSA was approved by the US House of Representatives last week. It will now move to the US Senate for approval. Our national organization the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) has been very involved in the process, to ensure the voice of private/independent education was present in the dialogue. There are provisions in the new legislation that are very favorable for private schools. [For more information click here.](#)

We wish you the very best during this holiday season and a prosperous 2016.

Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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Every gift really does matter

When you make a gift to MISF, you join many individuals, corporations, foundations, friends, and staff who support the MISF Honor Fund each year. All of those gifts add up in a big way. **MISF is asking for your support** so that we may continue to offer valuable services to our members and provide a public voice for all independent schools.

We hope you will consider your gift today! [Click here to donate.](#) Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and generous response.

STEM Scoop

MISF STEM Grant Program

MISF has opened its annual STEM Grant opportunity for MISF member schools. Since the inception of the STEM Grant program MISF has awarded 127 grants totaling \$666,579 to schools across the state from Hibbing to Egerton, Winona to Fergus Falls, and throughout the Twin Cities



metropolitan area. These grants have supported the development of an integrated, three-year middle school STEM curriculum team taught by three teachers, a trebuchet and catapult design/build program culminating in an all-school (grades K-6) punkin chunkin event, and a high school forensics science course, along with many others. STEM Grant guidelines and application forms along with additional information about the MISF STEM Program is available at www.misf.org. **Letters of Interest must be received by 12:00 midnight, Friday, January 15th.**

Our thanks goes out to the 3M Foundation, Schott Foundation and Xcel Energy Foundation for their ongoing support of the MISF STEM Program.

For questions, please contact Michelle Ponsolle, MISF Director of Development & Programs, 651-297-6716 or mponsolle@misf.org; or Margo Berg, MISF STEM Program Manager, 612-720-2857 or mberg@misf.org.

MISF Technology Seminar

Join us on Thursday, January 14th, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM for "8 Steps to Social Media Success for Schools" at St. Croix Lutheran School in West St. Paul. Registration is open through Friday, January 8th.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

News from the Office of Non-Public Education

The US Department of Education is accepting applications for the 2016-17 [Teaching](#) and [Principal Ambassador Fellowship](#) Programs through December 14th. Click on the links to learn more, and head to the [ONPE web page](#) for even more information.

Computer Science Education Week: December 7-13, 2015

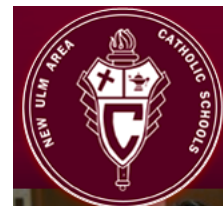
"Computer Science is a liberal art: it's something that everybody should be exposed to and everyone should have a mastery of to some extent."
- Steve Jobs

Computer Science
Education Week

Computer Science Education Week recognizes the transformative role of computing and the need to bolster computer science at all educational levels. [For more information and resources, and to try an Hour of Code, click here.](#)

Member School Spotlight

The December spotlight shines on New Ulm Area Catholic Schools, a Legacy member of MISF. [Click here](#) to read more about the two schools that make up NUACS, and the 500+ students they serve.



Free information about FAFSA

Minnesota College Goal is a statewide volunteer program that provides free information and assistance to students and families completing the FAFSA. If you are assisting people with completing their FAFSA or providing them with a FAFSA completion presentation, please consider aligning your events with Minnesota College Goal. You can register your sites with their organization and participants at your sites may be eligible for entry into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship. They also provide site coordinator planning support, FAFSA training support, and resources for advertising your events. Visit their website at <http://minnesotacollegegoal.org/>



Support MISF as you shop

Amazon's 2015 Holiday Toy List is a curated list of more than a thousand of the hottest products for kids of all ages and interests, hand-picked by Amazon's toy experts. You can donate to MISF by buying the items on Amazon's Holiday Toy List at AmazonSmile.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), designate the Minnesota Independent School Forum to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to MISF.



MISF | 651-297-6716 | info@misf.org | www.misf.org

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