

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:

The 2016-17 membership renewal and recruitment process is underway. If your school has not yet completed the brief renewal survey, [you may click here to access it](#).

Thanks to a generous grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, we have an amazing incentive program for schools interested in joining MISF. [Click on the article below for more details](#).

A special thank you to the 139 schools who completed the 2015 SCOPE survey. Our partner, Wilder Research, is now compiling the data and we anticipate the final report in October, 2016. Schools that completed the survey and all MISF members will receive a free copy of the final report. Thank you again to the Katherine B. Andersen Fund for their generous support of this extensive project.

As you know, the 2016 legislative session came to a fairly rocky ending on May 23rd. Please take a moment to [read the synopsis on the session](#) and the amazing progress we made to advance the interests of independent and private school students and families. Our thanks to those who reached out or passed along messages to their elected officials to support these legislative priorities.

As promised, Lori Jacobwith delivered an exceptional development seminar on May 26. We know the timing may have been a challenge for some, and we have talked to Lori about coming back for another seminar in 2016-17. You can find the materials from the seminar in the members-only section of our website. If you need help with your username and/or password, contact Michele Skare at mskare@misf.org.

Make sure you have the 2016 STEM Education Conference (August 11) and the School Leadership Conference (September 26-28) on your calendar. These are two highly anticipated offerings to kick off the new school year.

We wish you a restful summer. Thank you for your support of MISF!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Benz".

Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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New Member Incentive Announced

[Want to join a robust cohort of 155 member schools?](#)

Have you thought about becoming an MISF member, but haven't made your final decision?

Now is the time!

Thanks to a very generous grant from the **Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation**, a special new member incentive program has been developed. Any independent or private school interested in becoming members of MISF can join for a reduced rate for the first year. Want to learn more about this opportunity, including how it benefits your school, educators, students and leaders? Contact Tim Benz (tbenz@misf.org) or Michelle Ponsolle (mponsolle@misf.org) or call 651-297-6716, or [click here](#) to complete a new member application

STEM SCOOP

MISF's Ninth Annual STEM Education Conference



- Thursday, August 11, 2016
- 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Host School: Concordia Academy ~ Roseville, MN

Open to all Nonpublic School Educators in Minnesota.

There are more than 40 breakout sessions tailored to grades K-4, 5-8 and 9-12. [Click here](#) to view a list and descriptions of the breakout sessions. Space is limited, so you'll want to register early to ensure that you are able to attend the breakout sessions of your choice.

We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker for the 2016 STEM Education Conference.

Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper



Stefanyshyn-Piper is a retired American Naval officer and a former NASA astronaut. A veteran of two space flights, STS-115 in 2006, and STS-126 in 2008, Stefanyshyn-Piper has logged over 27 days in space, and 33 hours and 42 minutes of EVA in 5 space walks. She was born in St. Paul, MN in 1963 and graduated from then-Derham Hall High School in 1980.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Free ArcGIS Online Software & Training Workshops

GIS Introductory K-12 training workshops are available this summer at five locations around the state.

All workshops cover the same introductory GIS material with hands-on exercises. Four CEU credits will be provided to each teacher that attends. These are totally FREE workshops, teachers just need to bring a laptop.

Workshops will be held in

- Minnetonka
- Brooklyn Park
- New Ulm
- Owatonna

[Check out their webpage](#) for more information on GIS for K-12, and [click here for more workshop information and registration](#).

Advocacy Update

2016 Session Report

While the 2016 legislative session officially ended on May 23, it appears a special session is likely. As we entered this session, through our OAK (Opportunity for All Kids, www.oakmn.org) education coalition, we identified two priorities for families and students of independent and private schools. These included 1) expand the education tax credit and include tuition paid as an eligible tax credit and 2) a tax credit for donations to scholarship (tuition assistance) granting organizations. The good news is that both of these were included in a bill right up to the final moment. However, both proposals failed to make the final cut. While we were disappointed, we were not discouraged.

We developed support for these proposals in both the House and the Senate and made significant progress in elevating the profile of parental choice among the general public. Indeed, with growing public support and the commitment of several legislators to continue working with us on this issue next year, we feel very good about our likelihood of success going forward. The tremendous progress of OAK and our coordinated work in just one year's time is due to the significant grassroots efforts of advocates who took the initiative to understand the proposals and contact legislators. Again, thank you for your efforts, and we trust that our mutual disappointment will now become mutual resolve as we look forward with anticipation to the 2017 legislative session.

CAPE (Council for American Private Education)

The latest issue of the CAPE Outlook covers the National Center for Education Statistics' 2016 Condition of Education Report. NCES reports an increase in overall private school enrollment, as well as providing data on performance and enrollment by location. [June's CAPE Outlook is available for download here](#).

ESEA Reminder

A reminder for all nonpublic schools: make sure you have conducted the annual consultation with your LEA in preparation for 2016-17. For more information and to access MDE's Federal Title Programs (ESEA) page click on the link below:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/ESEA/index.html>

MDE Update

Title I Committee of Practitioners (COP)

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is seeking applications from educators, parents, members of local school boards, **nonpublic school representatives**, pupil services personnel and community members to serve on the 2016-2016 Title I Committee of Practitioners (COP). The COP provides MDE ongoing recommendations on a variety of issues related to Title I programs. The Elementary Secondary Educational Act (ESEA) of 2001, section 1903, requires each state that receives Title I funds to ensure that any state rules, regulations, and policies relating to Title I conforms to the purposes of Title I, and provide any such proposed rule, regulations, and policies to the Title I COP for review and comment.

If you are interested, please [complete the application](#) by June 30, 2016. MDE staff will contact you via email regarding the status of your application. Please forward this to any parent of a Title I student or colleague who might be interested.

The [application](#) must be submitted by June 30, 2016. COP meeting dates for school year 2016-2017 are:

- September 28, 2016, orientation
- November 2, 2016
- February 1, 2017
- May 3, 2017

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact your area director or call ESEA Title Programs Support at 651-582-8579 and ask to speak to your area director.



Private and Independent
Education Awards



Correction:

In the last edition of our newsletter, we misidentified Ned Thompson's school. Ned is a teacher at Totino-Grace High School. We apologize for the error.

Congratulations to our 2016 Award Winners

Honor Teacher Finalists

K-8

Diane LaBeau~Risen Christ School
Erin McBurney~Annunciation School
Krista Welle~St. Pascal Baylon School

9-12

David Pearson~DeLaSalle High School
Ned Thompson~Totino-Grace High School
Krista Woolever Marinez~St. Paul Preparatory School

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**Leadership Award (K-8)**

Jane Nordin~St. Joseph's School (West St. Paul)

**Leadership Award (9-12)**

Cade Lambert~New Life Academy

**Community Champion Award**

Jack & Mary Ann Remick~Rochester Catholic Schools

**Behind the Scenes Award**

Marion Sandfort~Calvin Christian School

**Program Award**

Project Based Learning~New Life Academy

**Honor Teacher K-8**

Diane LaBeau~Risen Christ School

**Honor Teacher 9-12**

David Pearson~DeLaSalle High School

The videos from the event have been posted on [MISF's YouTube channel](#), and pictures are on [MISF's Flickr page](#).

## Member Schools in the Spotlight



**King of Grace Lutheran School**, in Golden Valley, joined MISF in 2012. For over thirty years they have worked to develop a challenging curriculum, balanced with a nurturing spirit, anchored by the Word of God and carried out each day by devoted teachers and faculty. King of Grace Lutheran School is committed to the spiritual, academic and physical well-being of today's children and tomorrow's leaders. Their students go forward better prepared for secondary education and life as productive Christian adults. [Click here to read more about King of Grace Lutheran School.](#)



**Pine Harbor Christian Academy** is located in Hastings, and serves students from Hastings, Cottage Grove, Prescott WI, and much of South Washington county. They became a member of MISF in 2012. Their stated mission is to provide a place that focuses on growing children by instilling Christ-centered values, together with strong core academics, to develop high character leaders who influence their world. The non-denominational school is a ministry of, and supported by, the Harbor Church and welcomes students of all faiths. [Click here to read more about Pine Harbor.](#)



**St. James Catholic School** in Duluth became an MISF member school in 2014. St. James Catholic School provides excellence in all aspects of education for students in preschool through 8th grade. As an extension of the Church, St. James exists to develop the full potential of all students and prepare them for their God-ordained purpose in the mission of Christ. The school serves families from Duluth, Hermantown, Proctor, and surrounding communities in the Twin Ports area. [Click here to read more about St. James Catholic School.](#)

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