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Letter from the President

Dear friends of Independent and Private education:

There is much to celebrate as a new school year begins. Here are just a few examples that show the strength of our schools and the amazing efforts to sustain and advance the movement of private and independent education:

- [Academy of Whole Learning](#) moved into their new school location in Minnetonka
- [Southwest Christian High School](#) broke ground on a much needed addition to accommodate their growing student community
- [Mayer Lutheran High School](#) began construction on a new student activity center, offices and school entrance
- [Christian Heritage Academy](#) moved into their new facility and began classes on Monday, September 11
- [Academy of Holy Angels](#) began construction on an outdoor athletic field

We know this is just a partial list of all the improvements and investments, so please [send your updates and news](#) for a future edition of the Enews. We are here to share your stories!

During the last 4 months, guided by a committee of the Board of Directors, MISF has been going through a strategic planning process. Thanks to the input and feedback provided by stakeholders, we feel the finished product will bring greater focus and priority to our work with and for our schools. Keep your eyes out for a report in the coming months.

If you are interested in joining a cohort of more than 150 other schools, [please contact me](#). Thanks to the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, schools can become a member of MISF for a reduced rate for 2017-18. There are lots of resources, STEM programs and connections at your fingertips.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our [School Leadership Conference](#) later this month. There is still time to join with other private school leaders across MN. It's a great opportunity to build out your network and bring back actionable items to your school community. Registration for the conference closes on Monday, September 18th.



Tim Benz, CFRE
President

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2017 School Leadership Conference

September 25-27
Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood



Registration ends on Monday, September 18th

Sessions at this year's conference include:

- **Agile Strategic Planning - Thriving in Times of Change** ~ Brandi Olson, Brandi Olson Consulting
- **Mental Health & Suicide - Awareness, Prevention and Response** ~ Wendell Veurink, M. Div., Training Coordinator, Greater Minnesota Family Services
- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Serving Nonpublic Students, Staff and Families** ~ Debra Landvik Letendre, Education Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education
- **Advocacy and School Choice: Why Your Voice Matters** ~ Chas Anderson, Executive Director, Opportunity for All Kids (OAK)
- **Staff Evaluation - A Panel Perspective**
- **Students with Computers: The Power and the Pitfalls** ~ Dr. Steve Pohlen, Director of Technology and Learning, Benilde-St. Margaret's School
- **Legal Perspective: Hiring and Managing Staff** ~ Thomas B. Weiser, Attorney, Meier, Kennedy and Quinn
- **MISF's Strategic Plan** ~ Jennifer Cassidy, Vice Chair, MISF Board of Directors and Tim Benz, President, MISF

Special pricing is available for first time attendees! [Click here for more information, and to register.](#)

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STEM SCOOP



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### Expanding Maker Education Partnership

Expanding Maker Education Across the Nation is a partnership between Google, Maker Ed, and Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, which aims to develop a national strategy to sustainably integrate making into schools across the country.

With this partnership, the Science Museum of Minnesota will serve as one of the hubs to support local schools to expand AND/OR start their maker space. This opportunity will also provide support for schools to kick-start their vision of maker spaces through crowdfunding campaign.

As a hub we will provide:

- 3 professional developments (these workshops will be held at the Science Museum of MN)
- Site visits and consultation towards crowdfunding campaign
- Connecting \$1,000.00 support from Google

If this sounds like something that your school would be interested in please see the link below for the application.

<https://goo.gl/forms/rM4Sy0ExSCiILZog2>

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**Second Biennial Joint Conference
Capturing Imaginations. Building Skills.**

Convened by: [Ignite Afterschool & SciMathMN](#)

DATE AND TIME

Wed, Nov 29, 2017, 8:00 AM -
Thu, Nov 30, 2017, 5:30 PM

LOCATION

University of Minnesota - Continuing Education and Conference Center
1890 Buford Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108

[Click here](#) for more information about the conference, submitting presenter proposals, and registration!

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Check out the webpage for the Tinkering Studio, at the Exploratorium, including project ideas: <https://tinkering.exploratorium.edu/>

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Check out "Practice Briefs"-short written pieces that explore common STEM teaching issues: <http://stemteachingtools.org/tools>

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The Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium are excited to announce **Educator Day III**. Teachers will receive a certificate for up to seven hours of CEU credit for attending. If you require assistance for substitute reimbursement please let us know below. We don't want funding to be a barrier for YOU to attend. We can pay up to \$125 as a substitute reimbursement.

**Date:** October 4, 2017

**Location:** Hampton Inn & Suites, 1019 Paul Bunyan Drive SE, Bemidji, MN 56601

**Time:** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Register:** [http://www.mngislis.org/general/custom.asp?page=2017\\_conf\\_k12\\_form](http://www.mngislis.org/general/custom.asp?page=2017_conf_k12_form)

Check out these links:

- Minnesota Duluth teen wins [Minnesota high school and first National GIS Map Competition](#)
- [Using Story Maps in the classroom](#) (YouTube video - awesome!)
- Learn about the [GeoInquiries](#)
- [K12 GIS Org](#) - More resources for learning about & teaching with GIS, projects to careers

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Check out the latest edition of the [MDE's Science Update](#).

[Watch this WCCO TV News interview](#) with our former STEM Advisory Committee member and St. Thomas professor, Deb Besser, about encouraging women to work in STEM fields.

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Council for American Private Education (CAPE) Outlook

It's been a great summer for private education, and the **September 2017 CAPE Outlook** reports on it.

- National Private School Enrollment Jumps 7 Percent
- Gallup Poll: Americans Give High Marks to Private Schools
- Blue State Illinois Enacts Tax Credit Scholarship Program
- Supreme Court Says Religious School Can Access State Grant

[Find the link to this month's issue here.](#)

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English Learners and the Global Classroom: Unlocking Your Students' Potential

Every day, Minnesota teachers welcome students and families from all over the world. These students bring multiple languages, important perspectives, and motivation to learn. By designing instruction that prioritizes both language development and global competence, teachers can increase engagement and critical thinking. World Savvy knows English learners are important assets to schools and communities, and is pleased to offer a new professional development experience for teachers who have English learners in their classroom.

[Click here to view the brochure with more information.](#) Or [click here to register.](#)

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School Indoor Air Quality Training

The Minnesota Department of Health is holding free School Indoor Air Quality Trainings statewide and via webinar.

Public schools must have health and safety programs that comply with health, safety, and environmental regulations and best practices, including indoor air quality (IAQ) management. This training will discuss the state's best practices for school IAQ management. **Non-public schools are encouraged to attend this training, follow these best practices, and develop an IAQ Management Plan.**

There is no cost for this training (lunch is NOT provided).

Registration is required. Classes may be canceled if registration is low.

The training announcement and registration form [available at the MDH site.](#)

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2018 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program (USPSP) - Nomination Deadline October 13, 2017

The USPSP was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, and since that time, the program has honored more than over 7,000 outstanding high school seniors. The mission of the program is to recognize and honor outstanding high school seniors, and thereby encourage high attainment among all students. Students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship.

Chief State School Officers are invited this year to nominate up to 20 candidates from each of their states for the general component of the program and an additional five students for the CTE component. Please consider nominating students in your district who are outstanding high school seniors. Read the [memorandum from Commissioner Brenda Cassellius for nomination details](#).

If you have questions, please contact [Terry Alvarado](#).

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2018 United States Senate Youth Program Applications Available

Applications are now available for the 2018 United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Each year, all 50 states and the District of Columbia select two high school juniors or seniors to participate in the USSYP. The delegates receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship and will attend a one-week, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., from March 3 to 10, 2018, where they will learn about the Senate and meet with political leaders. Students must be in grade 11 or 12 and hold an elected office (student government, civic, community, etc.) during the 2017-18 school year to be eligible.

Minnesota's application deadline is October 13, 2017. [More information and an application can be found here](#).

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Join Senator Al Franken's High School Internship Team

The high school internship program aims to connect students in grades 11 and 12 who are passionate about improving the lives of Minnesota youth with Senator Franken's office. High school interns will meet with staff once a month from October to May and work on projects which help inform Senator Franken about issues important to Minnesotans while also furthering students' professional development.

[Read more info about the curriculum](#).

To apply go to www.franken.senate.gov, fill out the high school internship application from the Apply for an Internship page and send it via mail to 60 Plato Blvd East, Suite 220, Saint Paul, MN 55107 or by email to highschoolintern@franken.senate.gov by September 20, 2017.

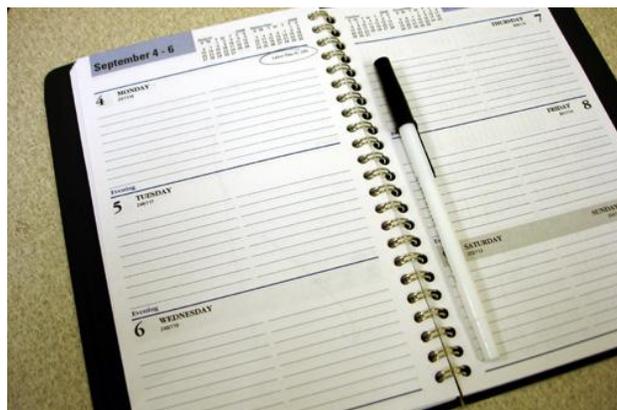
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Dates to Remember

MISF's Lunch & Learn Seminars

With topics and presenters to be announced soon, dates have been set for the 2017-2018 Lunch & Learn Seminars. Put these on your calendar now, and watch the MISF Newsletters and your email box for further information!

- Thursday, October 26, 2017
- Thursday, December 7, 2017



- Thursday, January 18, 2018
- Thursday, March 1, 2018
- Thursday, May 10, 2018
- Thursday, June 21, 2018

School Leadership Conference

September 25-27, 2017 ~ Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood

Private & Independent Education Awards

Sunday, April 29, 2018 ~ University of St. Thomas, St. Paul

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