

MISF connects and strengthens Minnesota's independent schools through exceptional training, resources, and advocacy so they can be student-centered and mission-driven.



In the August Newsletter

[Letter from the President](#)

[Sponsor message from Thrivent Financial/Special Screening Invitation](#)

[MISF District Membership - Science Museum's Educator Resource Center](#)

[Membership renewal](#)

[2019 School Leadership Conference-Registration opens next week](#)

[Behavioral Health & Wellness Grants available](#)

[Dates to remember](#)

Letter from the President

August is here - how did that happen?

Registration for the 2019 School Leadership Conference will open on Tuesday, August 13. Once again, the agenda is filled with relevant, timely and helpful topics for school leaders. For more information on pricing and schedule, click on the [conference webpage](#). This conference is a key member benefit and includes special pricing for first-time attendees. We invite you to join this unique opportunity to connect and network with other leaders, receive high quality professional development and recharge after a busy first few weeks.

A special welcome to our newest member schools, Saint Paul Prep (Faribault), Faithful Shepherd (Eagan), Sacred Heart (East Grand Forks) and St. John's Lutheran (Red Wing). [Interested in being a member?](#) We have a new member incentive which provides access and opportunity to all MISF offerings for a reduced rate for 2019-20. [Contact me for more details.](#)

We look forward to meeting your needs during the upcoming year. Please let us know how we can help you and your school community.

Tim Benz
President

Follow me on Twitter

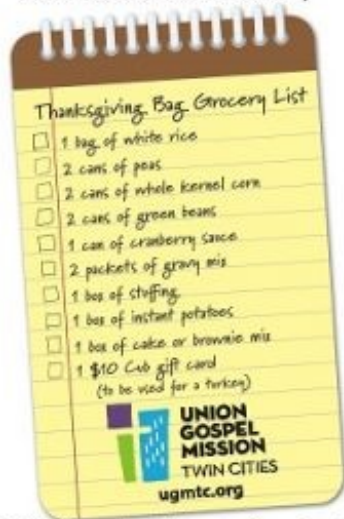
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[Back to top](#)

**The August Newsletter
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For many of us, Thanksgiving is all about food, family, and football. But if you're among the more

HOPE BEGINS WITH A MEAL
You can make a difference for an entire family



Call 651.222.4949 or email thanksgiving@ugmtc.org for more information

than 321,800 Twin Cities-area residents who live in poverty or experience food insecurity, Thanksgiving is just another Thursday.

We are teaming up with **Union Gospel Mission, Minnesota Gopher Football, and Cub Foods** again this year to support [Heart for Hunger](#), a campaign to help raise money and food donations for the Mission's Thanksgiving food distribution.

Join us for several open houses across the metro area, taking place this week! **Anyone who donates a FULL bag of groceries** using the Thanksgiving Bag Grocery List (or a \$35 donation) at one of our open houses will receive a **MyPillow and 2 tickets to the October 26th Gopher Football Game vs. Maryland***.

[Click here for locations.](#)

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*MyPillow and tickets available while supplies last

Join us for a special screening of **Love Them First: Lessons from Lucy Laney Elementary**

Friday, August 16th | 7:00PM | Wooddale Church (Loring Park Campus)
Register here: <http://bit.ly/2NWxXnu>

ABOUT THE FILM: <https://www.lovethefirst.com/about/>

Love Them First: Lessons from Lucy Laney Elementary follows the strength and determination of principal, Mauri Melander Friestleben, as she embarks to undo history. Friestleben not only faces the challenge of the largest achievement gap between black and white children in the United States, but she also faces another barrier - being on the state's list of under performing schools - for two decades.

The documentary's filmmakers KARE 11 reporter Lindsey Seavert and photojournalist Ben Garvin were allowed access to the elementary school to document daily joys and challenges in the school. Love Them First: Lessons From Lucy Laney Elementary tells the story of the exceptional resilience of Lucy Laney's students and staff. Throughout the film, Friestleben is met with challenges that force her to discover the true measure of student success at Lucy Laney.

No products will be sold at this event.

[Back to top](#)



MISF District Membership
Science Museum's Educator Resource Center

(Formerly Science House)

The Educator Resource Center Lending Library is a professional home for teachers at the Science Museum of Minnesota. MISF member schools that register to join the MISF district membership receive unlimited use of the Educator Resource Center for all teachers at your school. The Center provides a welcoming atmosphere that lends itself to comfortable open conversation, supports new teachers, and rejuvenates veteran teachers.

[Visit our website for more information.](#)

[Back to top](#)

Membership Renewal

The membership renewal period is open now. Renewal invoices were mailed to member schools on July 1st. If you have any questions about your invoice, contact Debbie Kaliszewski, Business Manager, at 651-424-4931 or dkalis@misf.org.

We want you to maximize your membership in MISF. Make sure you know all about the programming and opportunities that are available to you. [Click here for a brief outline of membership benefits, and a preliminary calendar for the 2019-2020 school year.](#)

Remember, being independent doesn't mean you have to be alone. With our unified voice, we are stronger together! Thank you for your continued membership in MISF, and we look forward to serving you in the 2019-2020 school year.

[Back to top](#)



2019 School Leadership Conference

Registration opens next week!

Watch your email box for your invitation to register for our annual fall gathering at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, MN. Incentives available for first time attendees! A sampling of some of this year's sessions includes:

- Teacher Retention in Private Schools
- Forum for Inducting, Retaining and Supporting Teachers (F.I.R.S.T. Program) (2019 MISF Program Award winner)

- Blended Learning - A "Real-Life" Case Study
- Employment Law & HR Topics of Interest to Nonpublic Schools
- And other topics of interest to leaders of private and independent schools

Registration opens on Tuesday! [Check out our event page](#) for more information.

[Back to top](#)

Behavioral Health and Wellness Grant

The Minnesota Departments of Human Services and Management and Budget wants to partner with school districts or collaboratives of schools to offer a **social emotional learning-based curriculum** for middle schoolers to promote positive mental health and prevent substance use. Programming would start in fall 2020. The state will cover the costs to implement the curriculum for four years (from school year 2020-21 to 2023-24), including staff training and reimbursement of teacher or substitute training time, curriculum materials, and technical assistance.

Learn more and apply at: <https://mn.gov/mmb/behavioral-wellness/>

Only a limited number of schools can be supported, so all are encouraged to apply as early as July 15, 2019. As soon as an application is received, state staff will schedule a site visit. **The application is expected to officially remain open until November 15**, but the state may close the application process earlier depending on the number of applicants.

The curriculum, called **Life Skills Training (LST)**, is offered to middle school students over three consecutive years (6th-8th or 7th-9th grade). **It works by helping to develop students' social and self-management skills.** The curriculum is flexible and can be taught in a range of different existing courses, including health, physical education, home room, foundational courses, etc. LST is also aligned with CASEL's five social emotional learning competencies (SEL) and may be beneficial for schools looking to implement evidence-based SEL models.

If you have questions or want to learn more, please email Lindsey Thompson at Lindsey.Thompson@state.mn.us.

[Back to top](#)

Dates to Remember:

- August 8, 2019: STEM Education Conference
- September 23-25, 2019: School Leadership Conference

[Back to top](#)



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