

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



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Letter from the President

Thank you to the many school leaders who visited our booth last month at the MNSAA, LCMS All Workers and WELS District Teachers' Conferences. It's always a treat to engage and hear what is happening across our member schools. For those nonmember schools who took the time to learn about MISF, our programs, resources and public voice, we look forward to partnering with you in the future as we extend our reach to more private schools in Minnesota.

The 2019-20 MISF STEM Grant program has begun. Keep your eyes on the timeline to ensure you don't miss any of the important deadlines. If you have any questions, contact Beth Murphy (bmurphy@misf.org) or Lisa Vosbeek (lvosbeek@misf.org).

During this month, many schools will have their designated "Give Days" to coincide with the Give to the Max Day on November 14. These opportunities have become unique and innovative ways to highlight your school, tell stories of inspiration and rally your communities to invest in the mission of your school. We look forward to watching your social media posts!

Thank you for your commitment, support and investment in the mission of MISF and our continued efforts to advance and advocate for private and independent education in Minnesota.

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

Tim Benz
President

Follow me on Twitter

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The November Newsletter is sponsored by Thrivent Financial



Thrivent Member Network - Twin Cities Region

Join us Nov 19th for this FREE event:
Get Your Kids Through College Debt-Free-Without Scholarships!

Jeannie Burlowski, author and presenter, will guide us through a conversation on paying for college. Each family attending will receive a FREE signed copy of Jeannie's book.

For more information, and to register visit [http://bit.ly/31dHLuF!](http://bit.ly/31dHLuF)

No products will be sold at this event.

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MISF Matters

"As a first time MISF School Leadership Conference attendee, I was beyond impressed with the knowledgeable staff, presenters and the opportunity to network and collaborate with such an outstanding group of diverse administrators. Thank you, MISF for going the extra mile to assist in securing additional funding for my school."

Kate Hamill, principal, [Mary Queen of Peace \(Rogers\)](#)

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Getting Ready for Minnesota's New Science Standards

STEM Professional Development Seminar
Thursday, December 5, 2019

How are Minnesota's new science standards different than the ones we have now? How do they relate to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)? In what ways will they change how educators think about science teaching and learning? Join us to get a head start in considering what these new standards will mean for your school.

Minnesota's new science standards are heavily influenced by A Framework for K-12 Science Education, a research-based document that is foundational to the NGSS. The Framework identifies eight Science & Engineering Practices (such as asking questions in science and defining problems in engineering) and seven Crosscutting Concepts (like patterns, stability and change, and systems). These Practices and Concepts-which emphasize what scientists and engineers do and how they think-are relevant to all science content areas and throughout K-12, and are at the heart of Minnesota's new standards.

In this seminar, you can expect:

- an overview of Minnesota's new science standards and the process/timeline for adoption,
- the opportunity to explore Science & Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts through interactive experiences, and
- time to consider-through discussion with colleagues and Q & A-how these new standards will impact science teaching and learning at your school.

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

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Beth Murphy, Ph.D.
MISF STEM Program Manager



November STEM Scoop

Announcing the 2019/20 STEM Grant Program

There are three types of STEM Grants available to fit your school's need.

- Innovation Grants - up to \$7500
- Starter Grants - up to \$1500
- Sustainability Grants - up to 20% of the original grant, not to exceed \$1500

The following resources are available on the STEM Grant Program Webpage

www.misf.org/stem-grants/

- STEM Grant Program Calendar
- STEM Grant Guidelines
- Grant Resources
- Letter of Interest (LOI)
- Grant Application Form
- Project Descriptions of STEM Grants Awarded the Last Six Years
- Link To Video Highlighting Three Member Schools' STEM programs



Annual STEM Conference

Tuesday, December 3 at the University of Minnesota's Continuing Education Center, St. Paul

The Minnesota STEM ecosystem is changing, bringing both new challenges and opportunities. On December 3rd join other STEM professionals from the education, business, and academic spheres to engage, discuss, and learn about those challenges and the importance of our collective response.

The day will be filled with insights and engaging sessions by STEM education providers and others from across the state. Breakout sessions are offered in computer science, connections between STEM and Career and Technical Education, on gender-equitable and culturally relevant teaching, and working to advance opportunities for students of color in STEM. Presenters include representatives from Million Women Mentors, SciGirls, Dunwoody Institute, and a number of school districts from across the state.

Registration is available [here](#). Because we work better when we work together, we are offering discounts to teams from schools or businesses that send teams of three or more.

Chemistry Course for K-12

The Stone Arch Bridge Initiative for Education Resources, SABIER, is pleased to announce the launch of a Chemistry course for K-12. This is a course that uses a chemistry text from Libretexts and is housed in a Moodle course with homework quizzes created by Andrew Lyman-Butler.

This course will be available for download from the SABIER Moodle site upon request, and after a piloting period from MoodleNet and other repositories. All components of the course are openly licensed so that teachers can modify any portion of the content or quizzes to meet the particular needs of their students. In addition to the quizzes that are aligned to each section of the content, there is a template for lab reports and a grading rubric for those reports. A forum will be available in each content section that allows each student to respond to a prompt and then reply to the posts of other students once they have made their posts. SABIER's teacher professional development cohorts will explore various strategies for using both lab reports and forums.

Please contact Dan McGuire (dan@sabier.org) to be included in the teacher professional development cohort and to receive instructions for downloading the Moodle course file.

MDE Science Update

Read the latest edition of the [MDE Science Update](#) here.

Science Matters 2020 - Camp-In and Tour

With generous support from Flint Hills Resources, the Science Matters Program provides access to a range of science enrichment experiences for students both at their school and the Science Museum. If your school is selected your 4th and 5th grade students will attend the museum for an Overnight Camp-In, and on another date the museum will come to your school and provide assemblies for the whole school!

The application deadline has been extended to November 15, 2019.

Note: This program is available to all schools that have both a 4th and 5th grade. Here is a link to the program and application. <https://www.smm.org/sciencematters>

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WEM Outstanding Educator Awards Program

Nominations Now Open: Celebrating Excellent Educators and Coaches

Parents, students, administrators or colleagues are invited to nominate educators and academic challenge coaches who they believe make a difference in the lives of students. We encourage you to participate in the nomination process for the 2020 program by [completing a nomination form](#) now!

The WEM Outstanding Educator Awards Program was created in 1998 by the WEM Foundation in support of teachers and their important role in helping all students excel academically. The program seeks to bring recognition to the unsung heroes who meet the challenges of teaching in a variety of settings.

The WEM Foundation honors in four areas: Teacher Achievement, Ethics in Education, Athletic Coach and Academic Challenge Coach. Each year, six honorees will be selected between these four categories and each will receive an unrestricted \$15,000 gift and a crystal apple award.

- The Teacher Achievement Awards recognize exemplary teachers who support, inspire and assist students to attain greater learning as evidenced by student achievement.
- The Academic Challenge Coach Awards recognize exemplary coaches of student teams that participate and compete in academic challenges endorsed by the Minnesota Academic League Council.
- The Athletic Coach Awards recognizes an exemplary coach of student teams that participate and compete in athletic sports endorsed by the Minnesota State High School League.
- The Ethics in Education Awards recognize exemplary educators who embody ethical behavior and promote ethical development for students through classroom or school activities, policies or curriculum.

Nominated educators are required to complete an application packet to become eligible for the Teacher Achievement, Ethics in Education, Athletic Coach and/or Academic Challenge Coach Awards. Following review by a preliminary evaluation panel, the applications are evaluated by a Blue Ribbon independent panel of judges representing business and academia.

The deadline for nominations is December 6th. [Click here for more information.](#)

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2019-2020 Member School Information Survey



Attention all MISF Member Schools:

As you complete and file the yearly Nonpublic Fall Report (due this year on November 15th) with your district, we are ask you to also update a brief [MISF member information survey](#).

The information you provide helps us in our advocacy efforts as a united voice for all nonpublic schools, in securing funding for STEM projects and other programs to enhance and benefit our member services, resources and outreach. Thank you in advance for completing this survey.

Not yet a MISF member and want to learn more? [Click here for more information](#) or [send us an email](#).



Special Member Opportunity

MISF has negotiated a special program for member schools to join the [#SocialSchool4EDU](#) Membership Program at a significant discount.

#SocialSchool4EDU has been serving schools since 2014. Their helpful video webinars and training sessions have been viewed by thousands of schools across North America. Receive access to a significant amount of webinars with new content each month, inspiration and support from other members and access to #SocialSchool4EDU expertise 365 days/year by joining their membership program. Get instant access to more than 50 recorded trainings!

Thanks to Andrea Gribble and the #SocialSchool4EDU team, member schools can join their membership program for a reduced annual rate of \$250 (regularly \$795). To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#) to see how this program can help your social media presence. Questions: Contact Lisa Vosbeek at lvosbeek@misf.org

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Dates to Remember:

- December 5, 2019: STEM Professional Development Seminar
- January 14, 2020: STEM Grant Letters of Intent due
- February 18, 2020: STEM Grant applications due (by 6:00 pm)
- April 26, 2020: MISF Private and Independent Education Awards



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