

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 February Newsletter

[Letter from the President](#)

[STEM Scoop](#)

[STEM Grant Applications Due on February 18](#)

[MISF Private and Independent Education Awards](#)

[Admissions/Marketing Webinar with Rick Newberry](#)

[Dates to Remember](#)

Letter from the President

The Minnesota Legislature convened on Tuesday, February 11. This year's session will be a "shorter" session than 2019, but there is a myriad of issues that will rise to the top. There are two key areas on the MISF legislative agenda for 2020. The first priority is to expand the guidance and counseling portion of the nonpublic pupil aid program to include elementary (grades K-6) students. Many schools have shared the increased need for mental health services for our youngest learners. A second priority is inclusion or eligibility of private and independent schools in school safety/security resources or funding that may be approved during this session. MISF will provide updates and action alerts as needed.

Thank you for the numerous nominations submitted for the 12th annual [Private and Independent Education Awards](#). Final selections and award winners will be announced in the near future. It's apparent there is no shortage of caring people, innovative programs and inspiring stories in school communities across Minnesota.

MISF would like to recognize the life and impact of [Brother Milton Barker](#), former president of Totino-Grace HS. Brother Milton was an inspiring leader and strong advocate for private education in Minnesota. He has left a tremendous educational legacy at Totino-Grace.

Thank you for investing and advocating for private and independent education. Your voice matters!



Tim Benz
President

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[Back to top](#)



February STEM Scoop

STEM Grant Applications Due February 18

STEM Grant applications must be received by 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Please review the STEM Grant program materials by clicking on the link: www.misf.org/stem-grants/

We look forward to receiving your STEM grant applications. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Murphy, STEM Program Manager at bmurphy@misf.org, 612-270-0194, or Lisa Vosbeek, Director of Development & Programs at lvosbeek@misf.org, 651-424-4930.

Save the Date: MISF STEM Education Conference

The conference, open to all independent schools in Minnesota, offers breakout sessions for K-12 school educators, and draws presenters from K-12, higher education, STEM businesses, and the professional community. The conference addresses the need for on-going support for teachers to develop skills in using hands-on learning activities to foster inquiry, problem-solving and engineering design processes and to deepen their knowledge of science and math content.

**August 6, 2020, at Benilde-St. Margaret's School
2501 Highway 100 S, Minneapolis, MN 55416.**

Call for Presenters for the MISF STEM Education Conference

Several breakout sessions at the 2019 Conference were presented by teachers from MISF member schools, a highlight of the conference. Thus, the 2020 conference will continue to provide a selection of breakout sessions that allow teachers to share effective resources, expertise, lessons, and strategies. Presentation proposals from individual or groups of teachers are welcome.

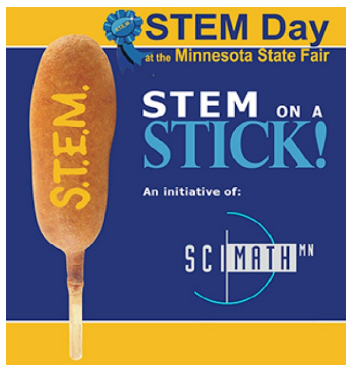
All interested presenters must complete the [session proposal form](#) before 5:00pm on March 23, 2020, so we can provide a complete conference program when registration opens on May 1, 2020.

Schoolyard Gardens Conference, March 6, Chaska

Schoolyard gardens are a successful, growing part of Minnesota schools, and provide an incomparable, hands-on opportunity for educators and students. Join us for this annual conference to:

- Learn how to meet academic standards through gardening
- Discover ways to engage with community partners and the school board to sustain your project
- Explore the latest research and best practices in agriculture, healthy eating, cultural competency, natural systems and more
- Apply innovative strategies for building, sustaining, and engaging diverse learners in a thriving schoolyard garden

For more information - <https://www.arboretum.umn.edu/Schoolyards2019.aspx>



STEM Day at the Fair: August 27, 2020

STEM Day returns for the opening day of the Minnesota State Fair on Thursday, Aug. 27th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the Dan Patch Park just outside the grandstand. State Fair visitors will find over 30 exhibitors with hands-on activities and interactive demonstrations designed for youth of all ages. Last year was a great success with over 17,000 youth and adults estimated to attend the event.

Exhibitors and stage performances for STEM Day at the Fair are chosen to represent a broad range of STEM interest areas allowing visitors to explore how everyday objects, systems and buildings are driven by science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

[Contact SciMathMN](#) to learn more about exhibiting at this event!

Minnesota Zoo's STEM Teacher Workshop

ZOOMS Institute
August 3-6, 2020

See the Zoo in a whole new way! This four day workshop will engage teachers in utilizing animals and the Zoo as a tool to integrate engineering concepts into their curriculum. Sessions focus on Engineering BY Animals, Engineering FROM Animals (biomimicry), and Engineering FOR Animals. Through hands on activities, expert talks and behind the scenes experiences, see how STEM is being used by aquarists, conservationists, and zoo staff to help care for and conserve wildlife both in the zoo and in the wild.

- Designed for K-12 Teachers
- Hear from a variety of zoo professionals and visit the Zoo's exhibits shop, grizzly bear kitchen, life support, animal health center, and more!
- 24 CEUS available
- Fee includes a light breakfast and full lunch each day.
- 3 grad credits available through Hamline University

To register for a workshop or to learn more about the ZOOMS program, visit www.mnzoo.org/stem or email questions to STEM@mnzoo.org.

[Back to Top](#)

MISF Private and Independent Education Awards

Sunday, April 26, 2020
4:00 PM
University of St. Thomas
James B. Woulfe Alumni Hall

Mark your calendars and save the date for the 12th Annual Private and Independent Education Awards

~ An evening to celebrate the people and programs found in our school communities.



Winners in all categories and registration information will be announced soon. Watch your inbox and [MISF's website](#) for more information.

Save the Date!

Admissions/Marketing Professional Development Webinar

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sponsored By:



Back by popular demand - an Admissions/Marketing Webinar with **Rick Newberry, President, Enrollment Catalyst.**

Watch your inbox and [the MISF website](#) for more information.

Presenter Bio

Rick Newberry, Ph.D., is the President of Enrollment Catalyst. Rick partners with school administrators to provide coaching and consulting in enrollment management and marketing systems, strategies, and solutions needed to reach their goals. The goal is to provide school leaders with effective marketing and enrollment strategies as well as staff accountability, direction and results needed to grow their enrollment.

His expertise in enrollment management strategies, marketing planning and institutional brand development provides in-depth educational consultation to independent, private and faith-based schools across the nation. With over 25 years of educational leadership experience in both higher education and K-12 levels, Rick has served as the executive director of development and enrollment management at a private university and as well as head of a large private school.

Through his successes and expertise, Rick has helped many schools throughout the nation achieve their strategic marketing and enrollment goals. Rick holds a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in educational leadership and is a regular speaker at many educational conferences on the topics of marketing, branding, enrollment management and leadership.

Take advantage of this opportunity to earn CEU Credits!

Webinar Cost

- MISF member school staff: FREE
- Nonmember school staff: \$25

Registration Begins Soon.

***CANCELLATION/NO-SHOW POLICY:**

Registration fees paid are nonrefundable; however, they may be transferred to another staff member (including board members, committee members, volunteers, or any individual affiliated with your school community). Cancellations for unpaid registrants who notify MISF less than 48 hours of the seminar or do not show up to the event will be charged as follows: **MEMBERS - \$25; NONMEMBERS - \$65**

Dates to Remember:

- February 18, 2020: STEM Grant applications due (by 6:00 pm)
- February 21, 2020: Minnesota Nonpublic Education Conference at MDE
- April 2, 2020: Admissions/Marketing Webinar with Rick Newberry
- April 26, 2020: MISF Private and Independent Education Awards
- August 6, 2020: MISF STEM Education Conference at Benilde-St. Margaret's



[Back to Top](#)

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