

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 April Newsletter*

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## Letter from the President

Dear private and independent school leaders:

While in the midst of unprecedented uncertainty, there have been so many inspiring stories of how schools are meeting the needs of their students, educators and communities. Take a moment to reflect and celebrate all you have accomplished in a short time.

There are several updates on the national and local front:

- The federal CARES Act dedicates \$13.5 billion to support education - with a clear message that private and independent schools will be served equitably. Our national CAPE organization has been fully engaged to ensure the voice of private and independent education is heard as US DOE develops final guidance. [Here is a letter from CAPE on key issues and concerns.](#)
- MISF is in close and consistent communication with the MDE Ombudsman to serve as a resource and voice for nonpublic schools once guidance is published.
- A strong coalition across the private and independent education ecosystem sent [a joint letter to Governor Walz and legislative leaders](#) impacting our schools.
- There is still a bit of concern from religiously affiliated schools about potential entanglements in the Paycheck Protection Program. [This document answers several questions raised by many national religious organizations.](#) In the end, be sure to confirm with your lender/financial institution for clarity.

Thanks to the generosity of the GHR Foundation, MISF was honored to facilitate a microgrant program to meet schools' immediate COVID related impacts. Last Thursday, 56 schools received grants totaling more than \$95,000. The amount requested was nearly 3 times the current funds available. We continue to seek additional funding opportunities and hope to distribute another round of grants to schools.

We will repeat this many times during this period, **we hear you, and we are here for you. We wish you good health and strength to meet the challenges ahead.**



Tim Benz  
President

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## COVID-19 and Nonpublic Schools

In an effort to provide the latest and most pertinent information on COVID-19, MISF has collected resources and learning opportunities for schools.

There are several resources for food/meals for kids:

- [Twin Cities restaurants providing free kids meals](#)
- [A list of central MN Businesses providing free lunches for kids](#)
- [Free food resources](#)
- [Free Meals for Kids App](#) and [Minnesota Food Helpline](#)

Mission Advancement has [a COVID-19 Fundraising Resources for Schools Page](#) .

#SocialSchool4EDU has a page of [Social Media Tips for K-12 Schools Regarding COVID-19](#).

[Free Online Resources for Schools from National School Choice Week.](#)

[A K-8 eLearning Guide from the Alliance for Catholic Education at the University of Notre Dame.](#)

All these resources and more can be found on our dedicated webpage which can be found here: <http://misf.org/covid19/>

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## April STEM Scoop

### 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.**

## STEM Resources

[Our COVID-19 information page](#) has several STEM-specific resources. Some are listed below. Check our information page often for more updates.

- [Science from Scientists Away from the Classroom](#)
- [A list of STEM-learning resources from MDE](#)
- [Exploratorium](#)
- [Remote Learning Resources from Minnesota State Engineering Center of Excellence](#)
- [STEM Education and Outreach from MNDOT](#)
- [Resources page](#) for other creative activities such as the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies exciting Gridlock Buster traffic control game!

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## Special Cooperative Pricing on Dell Chromebooks

For those interested in acquiring additional technology for students or staff, the Catholic Finance Corporation has graciously extended their special cooperative pricing program to all nonpublic schools in Minnesota. This offer includes Dell Chromebooks.

For more information, or to learn more, contact Michael Laughery, Finance Consultant at Catholic Finance Corporation, at [mlaughter@catholicfinance.org](mailto:mlaughter@catholicfinance.org) or 651.767.3665.

Please let Michael know you heard about the offer through MISF.

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## Important Dates to Remember

- August 6, 2020: MISF STEM Education Conference at Benilde-St. Margaret's
- September 28-30: MISF School Leadership Conference at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort

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MISF | 651-297-6716 | [info@misf.org](mailto:info@misf.org) | [www.misf.org](http://www.misf.org)

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