

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

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Schools,

The summer e-news update is normally abbreviated...however, this is not a "normal" summer for anyone.

MISF is working to develop resources for schools to plan for the fall including FAQs based on recent meetings with MN Department of Health (MDH) and MN Department of Education (MDE), and links to school reopening plans from private and independent schools. While schools would prefer greater clarity, some answers are still unknown until a final back to school plan is announced by MDE.

MISF continues to meet weekly with MDE to advocate and bring forward concerns and issues on behalf of nonpublic schools concerning ESSER and GEER guidance and interpretation. MISF is beginning to collect data on the status and progress of ESSER/GEER consultations with nonpublic schools across the state. Watch for an email on Monday with a link to a short survey. **Please take the time to complete this survey - the information will assist in ongoing advocacy and communication with leadership at MDE.**

Due to great uncertainty, the annual School Leadership Conference will not be held in person at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge this year. **HOWEVER, keep a hold on your calendars for September 28-30.** The SLC Committee is developing a thoughtful, meaningful and fun virtual option for member school leaders. Rest assured, while we won't be in person, this conference will fill your bucket to connect to fellow school leaders. More information to follow.

Membership renewal and recruitment continues. Thanks to those who have renewed their membership and we welcome new school members [St. James Lutheran School, Howard Lake](#), [St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Vermillion](#), and [St. Wenceslaus Catholic School, New Prague](#).

Thanks for your dedication and commitment to private and independent education.

Tim Benz
President

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The July Newsletter is sponsored by



Gradelink is an easy student information system that helps you improve enrollment and fulfill your mission. Pricing starts at just \$97/mo for 50 students. Watch an instant demo at Gradelink.com/demo. Be sure to mention MISF and get 45% off setup.

We cut our administrative software costs by 65% with switching to Gradelink. We cut our headaches associated with administrative software by 100%!"
- Jean W., Principal. St. Stanislaus School.

Steven Lockwood
MISF Sponsor at Gradelink
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MISF STEM Education Conference

Conference will take place virtually on August 4-6th

While in-person conferences are hard to beat, this year's MISF STEM Education Conference needs to go virtual. We'll rely heavily on the "T" in STEM (technology) to meet your professional development needs. The conference will take place from Tuesday, August 4 through Thursday, August 6.

We are confident this virtual conference will provide the same high quality STEM professional development you've come to expect at our in-person STEM Education Conference.

The conference is for grade K-12 educators and leaders. Your school does not need to be a member of MISF to attend.

Conference Features

- Presenters you know and love as well as some interesting new ones
- Earn CEU's for each session you attend up to 9 CEU's for entire conference
- Access to recorded webinars

Conference Schedule

- Two breakout sessions each day
- 9:30 - 11:00 AM
- 1:00 - 2:30 PM
- Each breakout session offers 2-3 different presentations
- [CLICK HERE](#) to view list of presentations with recommended grade ranges
- Attendees will choose breakout sessions upon registering

Registration and Fees

- MISF Member Schools - \$35
- Nonmember Schools - \$105
- [CLICK HERE](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF

Title Funds may be available to cover registration fees. Check with your local school district for more details.

Registration fees are nonrefundable; however, registrations are transferable.

Featured Content

Welcome and Keynote Address:
Tuesday, August 4
8:00 - 9:00 AM



Jayshree Seth
Corporate Scientist, 3M

Global Perception of Science and the Need for Advocacy

Dr. Jayshree Seth, 3M Corporate Scientist and Chief Science Advocate, will provide an overview of the 3M State of Science Index, a global survey of more than 14,000 people in 14 countries to uncover what people think of science and how they perceive its impact on their daily lives. Many of the survey findings highlight the importance of reducing real and perceived barriers to science appreciation and STEM education - in order to ensure that we have a healthy pipeline of future scientists and engineers to solve tomorrow's challenges. Jayshree will share her personal journey as she explores ways we can advocate for science and promote STEM awareness, equity, and access for all.

Featured Content

In this session participants will explore the online Minnesota STEM Teachers Center. The Center provides teachers and administrators with resources on each Minnesota academic standard in math and science, concepts for implementing them in your classroom, links to resources, and support for implementing the standards with special student populations including English Language Learners and students receiving special education services.

Mistakes, Failure and Confusion: Essentials in Creating a Culture of Learning
Paul Bernaei, Top 20 Training

If we want students to explore and create, we need to establish a culture of learning in which mistakes, failure, and confusion are celebrated. This session focuses on (1) the negative beliefs students often have when they make mistakes, fail, or experience confusion; (2) how these beliefs keep them stuck in their comfort zone; and (3) how we can help students move into their curious zone by more effectively responding to and celebrating student mistakes, failure, and confusion.

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SOCIAL MEDIA IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

~ Dos and Don'ts for your
school

*Marketing Professional Development
Webinar*

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM, followed by a 30 minute Q&A

We are all struggling right now as independent schools. Social media can be a great tool, but only if used in the right way! Andrea Gribble of #SocialSchool4EDU will break down what's working - and what isn't - in this informative, take-action webinar. She works with hundreds of schools across the country and will share specific examples of how to effectively engage with your families on channels like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

A Q & A session will follow the presentation. If you have specific questions you would like answered, please submit them on the webinar registration form.



Andrea Gribble
#SocialSchool4EDU

Click here to
REGISTER

Webinar Cost

MISF member school staff: FREE

Nonmember school staff: \$25

Presenter Bio

Andrea Gribble is passionate about celebrating students and connecting communities. She runs #SocialSchool4EDU, a company that partners with schools across the country to manage social media. Andrea holds an MBA from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and is a frequent speaker at educational conferences on the topic of social media.

Registration closes at 12:00 PM on Monday, July 27th.

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Renew your MISF Membership Today!

Invoices have been emailed to schools



As you may know, MISF member renewal is underway. It is our sincere hope we will retain your school as a member of our strong and vibrant cohort of private and independent schools. **Here are just a handful of ways your school community benefits from membership with MISF:**

- Looking for local professional development opportunities? MISF provides high quality, relevant topics, including access to recorded seminar and conference materials
- Have a question about legal requirements or services your school should receive? MISF provides member-only access to our Law Guide and Directory of Programs and Services for Nonpublic Schools
- Looking to build a network with other private school leaders? Make plans to attend the MISF School Leadership Conference, a supportive gathering focused on the unique needs of private schools leaders
- Not sure if you are receiving all your title services or nonpublic pupil aids? We're just an email or phone call away. We'll help problem-solve and ensure your students and school receive their equitable services
- Looking for STEM resources or funding? You'll receive access to member-only STEM grants, community partnership programs and periodic in-kind donations
- Have a question about ESSER or GEER funds? We're all over it! We can provide helpful guidance in working with your district to ensure you are provided accurate and transparent information
- Need to stay current on local, state and national issues impacting nonpublic schools? MISF is active at all levels to ensure consistent, accurate and timely information is conveyed to member schools

New Member Benefit for 2020-21

In partnership with ChangeMakers for Impact, **MISF has created the MISF Member**

School Network, a private, personalized MISF Group within the larger ChangeMakers for Impact Network. Participation in this collaborative network is a NEW member benefit that we believe will be of high value as we continue to navigate an ambiguous educational environment. There has never been a greater need for leaders to have a place online where they can connect and be resourced that is accessible anytime.

This NEW member benefit will provide member schools with FREE access to our private group - MISF Member School Network and the larger ChangeMaker for Impact Network. Membership activation and additional information about this resource is coming soon!

Invoices have been emailed to all member schools.

If you need a copy, please contact Debbie Kaliszewski at dkalis@misf.org. We look forward to serving you in the 2020-21 school year.

Not yet a member, and looking for more information?

To learn about membership, [visit our membership page](#). For new school members, there is a new member incentive including a **reduced member rate for the first year**. To learn more about this special offer, send an email to tbenz@misf.org.

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Funded STEM Program Opportunity
*Space Available for 11 MISF Member Schools
to Participate*

**Solar Suitcase Capstone Project (2020-2021) for
9-12 Grade Students**
Interdisciplinary STEM & Social Studies



MISF is inviting member schools that serve 9-12 grade students to apply for a **FULLY FUNDED STEM Program** in partnership with We Share Solar® and the WEM Foundation.



The Solar Suitcase Capstone Project 2020-2021 is a pilot program for 9-12 grade students that integrates Social Studies with STEM curriculum for an interdisciplinary project-based learning experience. The program targets STEM-subject and Social Studies teachers who would team-teach in a multidisciplinary approach to student engagement. Learning will focus on the science of solar and the social studies of global energy access and inequality. Project-based learning methods will incorporate capstone-style engagement by addressing essential questions and promoting independent, innovative and entrepreneurial thinking.

We Invite Your School to Apply

There is no cost to member schools to participate in this first year grant-funded program. Schools will receive teacher training, curriculum, Solar Suitcase equipment and learning tools, and deployment of a Solar Suitcase to East Africa valued over \$2,500.

Application Details

- MUST be a MISF member in the 2020-21 year to participate
- 11 MISF member schools will be chosen to participate
- MISF is coordinating the application process for member schools
- **Teacher training will be delivered virtually with self-paced modules beginning in Aug/Sept and a full day of virtual training on Oct. 15, 2020**
- Curriculum will provide approximately 10 - 15 STEM lessons and 5 - 10 Social Studies lessons
- A hybrid delivery model is planned for teaching training and program delivery, and can pivot to online as local circumstances change
- **Application deadline has been extended to Friday, July 31, 2020 - Complete Letter of Interest Application**
- [CLICK HERE to Complete Letter of Interest Application](#)



About the Program

By combining solar energy and engineering education with real-world applicability, trained teachers cultivate students' interest in STEM subjects and inspire them to meet an immediate need in the developing world. These trained teachers then lead their students in building a 12-volt DC stand-alone solar system, the [We Share Solar® Suitcase](#), that is powerful enough to illuminate a classroom and charge devices such as mobile phones or tablets. As students build, they learn about global energy poverty, basic electricity, solar energy, and engineering.

Questions: Lisa Vosbeek, Director of Development & Programs
lvosbeek@misf.org or call 651-308-6454

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Six Lessons School Leaders Can Learn from the Car Wash

Have you ever thought about why some schools thrive and others fail? What can we learn from the story of the Caribbean Car Wash?

..... [read more here](#).

This post appears on the [Enrollment Catalyst Blog](#), by Rick Newberry.

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Free Online Mental Health Training



MDE, the Minnesota Department of Health, and [Kognito](#) have partnered to bring free, online mental health training to Minnesota schools and educators. The training provides free access to Kognito At-Risk, a series of three online interactive modules that help educators and other school staff improve their skills, confidence, and willingness to help students in distress. **The modules can be completed in one hour and meet educator suicide prevention training requirement per MN statute 122A.187.**

Schools recognized and listed as a nonpublic school by the MDE are eligible. To register for the training:

1. Visit [Minnesota.Kognito.com](#)
2. Create a new account.
3. Launch At-Risk for High, Middle, or Elementary School Educators

For any additional information, contact Stephanie Downey at Stephanie.Downey@state.mn.us

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Important Dates to Remember

- July 1, 2020: Membership renewal begins
- July 28, 2020: Marketing Professional Development Webinar
- August 4-6, 2020: MISF Virtual STEM Education Conference
- September 28-30, 2020: MISF Virtual School Leadership Conference

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