

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,

As everyone prepares for the impending school year, listed below are several resources to aid schools in a safe return to school. Think of this as the "**back to school**" packet schools send to families prior to the first day of school. We know these may not answer EVERY question, but we hope these will assist in your planning and implementation of a return to school.

Mask mandate

Governor Walz's [Executive Order 20-81](#) applies to all indoor settings, which includes K-12 schools across all sectors. There have been several questions related to slight inconsistencies in the EO and MISF, in partnership with several others, has requested clarity on portions related to presenters, teachers, etc. We will provide an update as warranted.

MN Department of Education resources

Last week, MDE issued updated guidance regarding [nonpublic pupil transportation](#) in various learning models. For many schools, transportation is the largest hurdle to overcome in a return to school plan. MISF has communicated with MDE and legislators on this new guidance, including the cumbersome and inequitable situation this causes for private and independent schools. Note, the guidance DOES allow nonpublic schools to work with their district and contract directly with a private company to handle transportation of students in the varied learning models. MISF will provide further updates.

CARES Act guidance (ESSER/GEER funds)

MDE has issued new guidance for ESSER/GEER funds and nonpublic equitable services <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/cares/>. Based on this new guidance, LEAs must select one of three options to follow during calculation and implementation. IF you have met with your LEA already, MISF suggests reconnecting with the district to learn which option they have chosen. If you have not heard from or consulted with your LEA on equitable services for your school, **contact Alicia Waeffler, Nonpublic Ombudsman**, Alicia.waeffler@state.mn.us. MISF is willing to walk you through these new stipulations.

MN Department of Health resources

- 2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf>
- What To Do When Notified of a Lab-Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in a School or Child Care Setting

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/casenotify.pdf>

- Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

While the 2020 School Leadership Conference will not take place in person, [a condensed virtual version will take place](#). Block your schedules now and take the time to join your fellow member school leaders in this virtual gathering. Our conference committee is finalizing topics, but they are working to ensure the content will "fill your bucket" as a leader. The webpage will be updated as information is confirmed.

Thank you for your commitment and belief in the power of private and independent education.

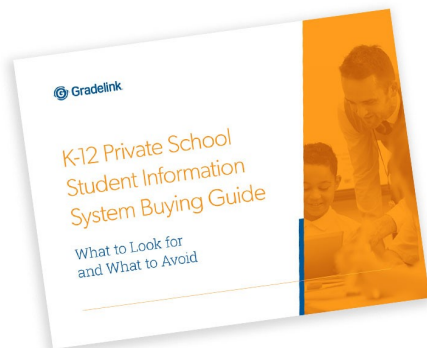


Tim Benz
President

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The August Newsletter is sponsored by



K-12 Private School Student Information System Buying Guide
What to Look for and What to Avoid
URL: <https://www.gradelink.com/sis-buying-guide/>

Too many private schools are still using clunky, outdated systems, causing unnecessary stress and wasted time. That's why it's vital for them to invest in modern products and services purposefully designed for private K-12 education. This buying guide will help you navigate the process of shopping for a new system for your school. Mention MISF for a 45% discount off setup.

Steven Lockwood
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STEM Scoop

The **MISF STEM Learning Community** is an online network created by MISF to provide STEM educators with the opportunity to collaborate and learn from each other to advance STEM teaching and learning at private and independent schools throughout Minnesota. [CLICK HERE](#) to join the **MISF STEM LEARNING COMMUNITY**.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Creating A Spark: Engaging and Motivating Students in Distance Learning

Engaging and motivating students is a challenge educators face regardless of where learning takes place, but it can be increasingly difficult in an online setting. This webinar, a part of PLTW's distance learning support, will provide tips and tools to engage your students, build excitement for your course, and discover meaningful ways to motivate students. After attending this webinar, participants will be able to implement strategies to motivate and engage students.

Date: August 25, 2020 at 4 p.m. EST - <https://pltw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlrcu-hqT8rHtPFvqDmhkLmiXVVA2AAok3X>

Project Lead The Way Supports Educators: A Deep Dive Into PLTW's Distance Learning Support

PLTW's distance learning support is a full suite of resources created by PLTW that schools can utilize to enhance their distinct distance learning needs. In this session we will explore PLTW's distance learning support resources including

- Online Learning Guides,
- Embedded curriculum enhancements and PLTW teacher and student guidance,
- Webinars and educator forums,
- Office hours,
- And more!

Access Webinar Recordings Here - <https://www.pltw.org/webinar-recordings>



Funded STEM Program Opportunity

Space Available for 4 more MISF Member Schools to Participate

JOIN US on Thursday, August 20 at 10:00 am

Gigi Goldman (Co-Founder of We Share Solar) will share a 15-minute description of the program and answer questions. Leaders and educators are welcome. Email Lisa Vosbeek if interested in attending, lvosbeek@misf.org.

- 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.

Solar Suitcase Capstone Project (2020-2021) for 9-12 Grade Students

Interdisciplinary STEM & Social Studies Curriculum



The **Solar Suitcase Capstone Project** 2020-2021 is a pilot program for **9-12 grade students**. The program is interdisciplinary with a science and a social studies unit that can be delivered via team-teaching, or by a single teacher focused on environmental science. **It is a 2-3 week in-class or out-of-class program that can be delivered in person or by virtual access.**

- Lessons focus on how solar works and the role that solar can play in the world of energy access.
- Students will build a stand-alone solar system, learning about user-centered design, innovation, and social entrepreneurship.
- The solar system built by the students will be deployed to light a school for refugee children
- Social studies lessons focus on the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals, global energy access and life in Uganda...particularly as a refugee.

Application Details

- MUST be a MISF member in the 2020-21 year to participate
- 11 MISF member schools will be chosen to participate

- Curriculum will provide approximately 10 - 15 STEM lessons and 5 - 10 Social Studies lessons
- **Application deadline: ASAP - Room for 4 additional schools to participate. Complete Letter of Interest Application**
- [CLICK HERE to Complete Letter of Interest Application](#)

If you have questions about the application or program please contact
 Lisa Vosbeek, Director of Development & Programs
lvosbeek@misf.org or call 651-308-6454

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Renew your MISF Membership Today!



If you've already renewed your MISF membership... THANK YOU! We look forward to serving you in the 2020-2021 school year.

If you haven't already renewed...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

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.

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!

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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Meet MISF's Newest Members

[St. John the Baptist Catholic School ~ Vermillion](#)
[St. Wenceslaus Catholic School ~ New Prague](#)
[Bais Yaakov High School ~ St. Louis Park](#)
[Our Lady of Grace Catholic School ~ Edina](#)
[St. John's Lutheran School ~ Corcoran](#)
[St. Felix Catholic School ~ Wabasha](#)
[St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School ~ Brainerd](#)
[Redeemer Christian Academy ~ Wayzata](#)

Welcome to MISF - we're happy you're with us!

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MISF has negotiated a discounted membership rate for member schools interested in participating in the #SocialSchool4EDU Membership Program

What's included?

- Private Facebook Community
- New training sessions each month
- Live office hours
- Inspiration and support from other members
- Access to #SocialSchool4EDU's expertise 365 days/year

[Learn more.....](#)

What Photos Should I Share on Social Media this School Year? by Andrea Gribble, #SocialSchool4EDU

Education looks different this school year. And our social media posts will reflect that!

But what are some best practices when it comes to the images we share?.... [read more here](#)

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Important Dates to Remember

- September 28-30, 2020: [MISF Virtual School Leadership Conference](#)

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MISF | 651-297-6716 | info@misf.org | www.misf.org

STAY CONNECTED WITH MISF:



Please note: If you unsubscribe from this email, you will be removed from all email communication from MISF, including STEM opportunities, conference and seminar information, and advocacy updates. You may instead [click here to modify your email preferences.](#)
Thank you.