

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 and Advocates of Private and Independent Schools:

The 12th annual Private and Independent Education Awards will take place on Thursday, December 10, 7:00-8:00pm. This virtual celebration is the annual opportunity to recognize the people and programs that make private and independent schools unique. Take the time to attend, learn about the leaders, educators, staff and programs recognized and their stories. [Visit this year's event page to learn more, see the roster of recipients and event sponsors.](#)

[The MISF Leadership Series continues in December.](#) This series is free for members and will assuredly provide you with inspiring and informative content.

Remember to visit the [MISF COVID-19 page](#) for updates and current documents from MDE, MDH and other helpful resources.

Interested in partnering with MISF to support, advocate, and connect a vibrant network of private and independent schools? [Make a donation](#) or [contact me](#) to discuss ways you can join in MISF's mission.

In this season of gratitude, thank you for the firm and faithful spirit shown in these challenging times.



Tim Benz  
President

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Follow me on Twitter  
[@misfprez](#)

The November Newsletter is sponsored by



## Parent-Teacher Communication Tools That Work



Considering the strong correlation between student success and parent involvement in the educational process, vital connections made through various forms of communication can't be overemphasized. [Read on to find a range of communication tools to maximize the teacher-parent partnership.](#)

**Steven Lockwood**

MISF Sponsor at Gradelink  
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## STEM Scoop



### Announcing the 2020-2021 STEM Grant Program\*

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

- Innovation Grants - up to \$5000
- 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/](http://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

If you have any questions, please email Beth Murphy, MISF STEM Program Manager at [bmurphy@misf.org](mailto:bmurphy@misf.org).

*\*Only MISF member schools are eligible for STEM grants. Click here to learn more about becoming a member.*

## MNCodes Virtual Summit

On Saturday, November 14th, 2020, Code Savvy's Educator Training Program is excited to host the **MNCodes Virtual K12 Computer Science Ed Summit** with the theme of "Networking to Expand Computer Science Education". With a virtual summit, distance is no longer a barrier to participation! We welcome educators from all over to join us for a day of interactive virtual sessions, discussions & labs that explore ways to expand equitable and engaging computer science learning opportunities to all students. Early bird registration and the call for proposals are now open - hope to see you there!

<http://www.mncodessummit.org/>



## Minnesota Department of Education: Science Distance Learning

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) defines distance learning as "students have access to appropriate educational materials and receive daily interactions with their licensed teachers." Supporting science learning in the period where students are working from home provides some challenges and opportunities. MDE has provided a document to help districts set up distance learning. This document builds on those delivery systems and applies them to distance learning in the science. [Read more here....](#)

## MnSTA Conference on Science Education, November 12 - 17, Online

We welcome you to share, learn, and grow together with us in our first entirely virtual MnCOSE! Sessions will be evenings **Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday plus unconference sessions on Saturday morning.**

Theme; A New Vision for Science Education in Minnesota; All Students, All Standards, All Voices! Conference strands are:

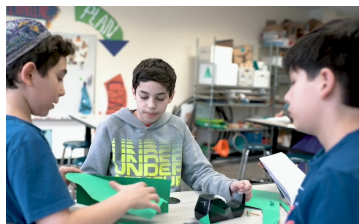
- Distance Learning
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Science Education
- Elementary Science Education
- Life Science Education

- Chemistry Education
- Physics Education
- Earth Science Education All strands will include a focus on the new science standards.

The member rate is \$50 and presenters register for \$25. Check out details at the MnSTA Conference website. Share your great ideas for teaching.

[https://www.mnsta.org/cgi/page.cgi/2020\\_Conference.html](https://www.mnsta.org/cgi/page.cgi/2020_Conference.html)

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## MISF STEM Learning Community

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. [CLICK HERE to join the MISF STEM Learning Community.](#)

## Educational Leadership Series

*Open to all leaders, administrative staff, and educators*

### *Developing Social-Emotional Learning in Students and Staff*

Join MISF virtually for one, two, three or four sessions packed with insights and practical strategies to create a safe and healthy culture for all members of the school community, and develop their potential to think, learn and communicate more effectively. Each session will consist of large group gatherings and small group breakout sessions.

[Click here to register](#)

### **Session 2 - Thursday December 3 (12:00 - 1:30 pm) Virtual/Live/Online**

#### **Knowing How to See Things Differently: The Frame**

The Frame helps us understand why we are getting the results we are getting out of life. The session examines

- (1) the tendency we have to blame others when we are not getting the results we desire;
- (2) how our 'need to be right' activates blame;
- (3) how curiosity helps us to get better results;
- (4) what we can do to see more or differently.

**Paul Bernabei**  
**Co-Owner/Co-Founder/Senior Facilitator/Author/Director**

Paul directs Top 20 Training and has been leading the initiative to transform

American education and bring Top 20 to schools around the world. Paul travels the U.S. presenting Top 20 Training seminars. He has been an educator in Twin Cities schools for over 30 years and has conducted hundreds of retreats for youth and adults. He has co-authored Top 20 Teachers: The Revolution in American Education, Top 20 Parents: Raising Happy, Responsible and Emotionally Healthy Children and Top 20 Teens: Discovering the Best-kept Thinking, Learning and Communicating Secrets of Successful Teenagers. He has also authored Why Students Disengage in American Schools and What We Can Do about It. A graduate of St. John's University and the University of St. Thomas, Paul and his wife Paula, a retired kindergarten teacher, have four daughters and fourteen grandchildren. They live in St. Paul, Minnesota.



## Series Features

- Earn CEUs for attending
- Access to recorded presentations

[Click here to register](#)

## Webinar Cost

**MISF Member School Staff: FREE**

- [CLICK HERE](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF

**Nonmember School Staff: \$75 per session**

- Check with your LEA about using Title funds for registration

[Series Information](#)

Questions? Contact Lisa Vosbeek, 651-308-6454, [lvosbeek@misf.org](mailto:lvosbeek@misf.org)

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## 2020 Private & Independent Education Awards

Join us for a **VIRTUAL** Celebration!

Thursday, December 10, 2020  
7:00 - 8:00 PM

[Watch your inbox and our event page for more](#)



**Presenting the Winners of the  
2020 Private & Independent Education Awards**

**Community Champion**

**Steve Hoepfner**

*Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation*

**Behind the Scenes**

**Jessica Martinez**

*Cristo Rey Jesuit High School*

**Program Award**

**Totino-Grace Service Immersion Program**

**Traci Bennington**

*Totino-Grace High School*

**Honor Teacher K-8**

**Jenelle Fackler**

*St. Odilia Catholic School*

**Honor Teacher 9-12**

**Jen Lopez**

*Cristo Rey Jesuit High School*

**Leadership**

**Sue Skinner, Ed.D**

*Benilde-St. Margaret's School*

**Leadership**

**Barry Lieske, AFSC**

**President (2012-2020)**

*DeLaSalle High School*

# Join the MISF Member School Network



MINNESOTA  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL FORUM

We would like to invite MISF members to join us on the **MISF Member School Network**, a **private, personalized MISF Group, in partnership with ChangeMakers for Impact.**

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](#).

## Explanation & Benefits

As a member of the **MISF Member School Network**, we want you to get immediate value from being a member.

- **Network** and connect with MISF member school members
- **Authentically collaborate**, connect, and resource one another virtually
- **Access timely information** to navigate a full range of issues
- Access exclusive **professional development training** and resources
- **Stay up to date** on program opportunities, training, and events to support you in your work

## Access Instructions

- The **MISF Member School Network** can be accessed via a web browser on your computer or download the Mighty Networks app from the app store to access on your device!
- Click on one of the links below to connect to our partner site, Incubate to Innovate.
- Once connected, access our private site by clicking on GROUPS in the left menu and choose MISF Member School Network.
- BOOKMARK the MISF Member School Network for direct future access.
- Review WELCOME article for more instructions on how to use the site.

## Ready to Join?

- **New members** join here: [https://changemakersforimpact.mn.co/plans/47176?bundle\\_token=c587f1edbb98e28626925922be2f27e0&utm\\_source=manual](https://changemakersforimpact.mn.co/plans/47176?bundle_token=c587f1edbb98e28626925922be2f27e0&utm_source=manual)
- Those **already members of ChangeMakers for Impact**, but want to join the MISF Member School Network join here: [https://changemakersforimpact.mn.co/plans/47177?bundle\\_token=6665cc3e32c7319139196020e97f591b&utm\\_source=manual](https://changemakersforimpact.mn.co/plans/47177?bundle_token=6665cc3e32c7319139196020e97f591b&utm_source=manual)

Questions: Lisa Vosbeek, Director of Development & Programs  
[lvosbeek@misf.org](mailto:lvosbeek@misf.org) or call 651-424-4930

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## Important Dates to Remember

- Monday, November 16 and Wednesday November 18, 2020: MISF 101 Webinar (**Members Only**)

- Thursday, December 3, 2020: [Educational Leadership Series](#) Knowing How to See Things Differently: The Frame
- Thursday, December 10, 2020: [Private and Independent Education Awards](#)

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Thank you.