

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 December 2020 Newsletter

[Letter from the President](#)

[Message from our sponsor Gradelink](#)

[STEM Scoop](#)

[Join the MISF STEM Learning Community](#)

[Educational Leadership Series #4: The Motivational Power of Purpose](#)

[Presenting the Winners of the 2020 Private & Independent Education Awards](#)

[Important updates from the MN Departments of Education and Health](#)

[MISF Member School Network Information](#)

[Important dates to remember](#)

Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

The 12th annual [Private and Independent Education Awards](#) was held on Thursday, December 10. I strongly encourage you to watch the [livestream replay](#) of the event - a very inspiring forty minute program. You'll learn about the people and programs that make a difference in schools across Minnesota. A special thank you to the generous sponsors who stood beside MISF as we needed to reschedule (twice) and reformat our traditional in-person celebration. Watch for nomination information in January for the 2021 Education Awards event.

Minnesota Department of Education is hosting a training for nonpublic schools focused on Title I, Part A services. This is a great opportunity to hear direct from the staff at MDE on the consultation process and how equitable share is developed. Registration is not required, and [more information is listed below](#).

The new Legislative Session begins on January 4, 2021. Once again, Minnesota will be the only state with a divided legislative branch. MISF is finalizing its legislative agenda, which will focus on key issues impacting nonpublic schools, including several that came to light during the last nine months. In addition, MISF is working together with other nonpublic partners to further amplify the voice of students, educators and families.

We wish you the best for a safe, healthy and peaceful holiday season.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Benz".

Tim Benz
President

Follow me on Twitter
[@misfprez](#)

The December Newsletter is sponsored by



5 Reasons Your School's Admissions Should Be Online



Families want to feel confident that they are making the right choice during the application season. They are checking third-party review sites like Private School Review, Greatschools and even Yelp..... [Read on to find out why your school's admissions should be online.](#)

Steven Lockwood

MISF Sponsor at Gradelink
(949) 682-7019 Cell

26741 Portola Pkwy #1E-649 Foothill Ranch, CA 92610

steve@gradelink.com



[Back to top](#)

STEM Scoop



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

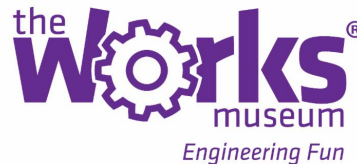
The following resources are available on the STEM Grant Program Webpage
www.misf.org/stem-grants/

- 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.

Virtual STEM Learning Programs

Looking for supportive STEM experiences for your classroom or community? The Works Museum is offering an assortment of synchronous and asynchronous virtual learning programs, socially-distanced workshops brought to you, and virtual family engineering experiences resources that can be adapted to your unique learning circumstances this school year. Choose from [virtual \(synchronous\)](#) and [video \(asynchronous\) workshops](#) aligned with the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Science, [workshops brought to your location](#), and virtual [Explore It!](#) and [Family Engineering](#) programs for students and families to enjoy together. If you have a unique classroom situation, please contact Katy@theworks.org and we'll find a solution that works for you. For [more resources](#) and information, visit theworks.org.



B A K K E N
M U S E U M

Virtual Programs at The Bakken Museum

The Bakken Museum has several highly engaging, interactive virtual programs for students in k-12. Pre-recorded and live-streaming options are available. We also offer classroom experiment kits and take-home kits for individual students to encourage hands-on learning.

For a full list of offerings, please visit https://thebakken.org/digital_outreach/ or email Siri Hellerman, Outreach Programs Manager at hellerman@thebakken.org

3M's Science at Home



3M's Science at Home makes e-learning fun with engaging and educational DIY science experiments for children ages 6-12.

3M is committed to helping teachers, students and parents adapt to new distance learning routines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These simple, at-home experiments conducted by 3M scientists use common household items and are designed to reinforce core scientific principles. School systems, educators, parents, and caregivers are encouraged to use this educational content in virtual classrooms and at home.

3M will post new experiments, featuring 3M scientists and some special guests along the way. Be sure to check back weekly for new content to try at home.

See the experiments at https://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/gives-us/education/science-at-home/#experiments

[Back to top](#)



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.

Save the Date!

Session 3 - Thursday February 4, 2021

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Virtual/Live/Online

The Motivational Power of Purpose

Clarity of purpose keeps us grounded and energized for dealing successfully during these challenging times. By recognizing the invitations life sends us that can knock us off course and by implementing 'purpose keepers', we can more effectively keep the main thing the main thing.

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

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

[Back to top](#)



Presenting the Winners of the 2020 Private & Independent Education Awards



[*If you would like to view the livestream replay of the entire event, click here.*](#)

[Back to top](#)

Title I, Part A for Nonpublic School Officials

The Minnesota Department of Education is hosting a training for nonpublic school officials regarding Title I, Part A services. Participants will

- review the consultation process,
- review key topics to be discussed during the winter consultation, and
- examine how the nonpublic equitable share is calculated.

There will be time for questions. All nonpublic school officials are invited to attend; there is no need to register.

Wednesday, 01/13/2021

10:00-11:00am

[Follow this link to join!](#)



Update on MDH Quarantine Guidance

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) updated quarantine guidance on Monday, Dec. 7. These updates are based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance that shortens quarantine in certain situations. CDC recommends a quarantine period of 14 days, however, based on local circumstances and resources, options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives. The science did not change, but the update supports behavior science implementation. For overview of the updated guidance, read [How long to keep away from others \(quarantine\)](#) on the MDH website.

Updated COVID-19 Notification Letter Templates

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has updated the templates of letters/messages that schools, child care, and youth programs can use to notify families and staff about COVID-19 infections and close contacts. School, child care and youth programs staff can access the updated templates on the [COVID-19 Notification Letter Templates for Schools, Child Care, and Youth Programs webpage](#). This webpage includes close contact and general contact notification template messages that the school, child care or youth programs staff can use. Staff assigned the responsibility related to contact tracing and follow-up should be selecting and using the appropriate notification letters as outlined on page 10 in [Handling a Suspected or Confirmed Positive Case of COVID-19: Information for Schools](#). The templates can be customized by including important information about the infection, such as dates and where contact happened. However, DO NOT edit the templates in any other ways, as they have gone through an extensive revision including a legal review, a plain language review to help the intended reader and translation review. The template messages are available in English and are translated in Hmong, Karen, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese. **Please discontinue using any previous versions** of the template notification letters/messages.

If you have questions about the Handling a Suspected or Confirmed Positive Case of COVID-19: Information for Schools guidance, please email MDH at health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us.

REMINDER: Saliva Test Codes

Minnesota is proud to offer at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for any person who wants to be tested, with or without symptoms, at no cost. This saliva test is just as accurate as the nasal swab test and is available at no cost for every Minnesotan, whether or not you have insurance. With the COVID-19 positivity rate climbing higher than ever before, expanding access to COVID-19 testing to all communities across the state is critical to keeping Minnesotans informed and safe. More information about this partnership with Vault Medical Services is available [Minnesota Department of Health's website](#), including [information on how to order tests](#).

Based on feedback we have received from educators, schools, child care and staff and in order to provide a seamless transition to this new program at-home testing for all Minnesotans, we are urging all educators who have not yet used their saliva test code issued at the start of the school year to order and use them as soon as possible. If you have already used your saliva test code, you may order one at [Vault: No-Cost COVID Testing For All Minnesotans](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Join the MISF Member School Network



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
- 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

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

[Back to top](#)

Important Dates to Remember

- Thursday, February 4, 2021: [Educational Leadership Series](#) The Motivational Power of Purpose

[Back to Top](#)

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



[click here to modify your email preferences.](#)