

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 Education:

We hope you had a restful and rewarding holiday and New Year break. This month's communication is full of important updates, training opportunities and details on the latest COVID relief bill passed by Congress.

The most significant item is **The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act)**, signed into law on December 27, 2020, authorized the [Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools \(EANS\) program](#), which is part of the Act's Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund. The EANS program is designed to address the impact that the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on non-public school students and teachers. The CRRSA Act provides \$2.75 billion for the EANS program. **Minnesota's EANS portion is \$41.9 million.**

Under the EANS program, the Department awards grants by formula to each Governor with an approved Certification and Agreement to provide services or assistance to eligible non-public schools. By accepting an EANS award from the Department, a Governor designates the State educational agency (SEA) to administer the program. To receive services or assistance, an eligible non-public school must submit an application to the SEA. Because the CRRSA Act established a separate program for which eligible non-public schools may apply to an SEA to receive services or assistance, a local educational agency (LEA) is not required to provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools from supplemental funds received under the CRRSA Act's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund) or GEER Fund (GEER II Fund). **However, equitable services requirements continue to apply under the CARES Act's ESSER and GEER programs.**

In a perfect world, all the necessary details and answers to the myriad questions schools will have would be available. Unfortunately, the scale of these programs is immense and FAQs and guidance always takes longer than expected. The change in administration at the federal level, and USDE, could create additional uncertainty on this process. Rest assured, MISF will provide pertinent details as they become available.

Our national organization, Council for American Private Education (CAPE), has an exceptional summary on the new legislation; [we have included a link below](#). This includes information on the second round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) eligibility.

MISF, in partnership with other organizations and advocates for nonpublic education, remains in frequent communication with the MN Department of Education and elected officials to ensure the voice of nonpublic students and schools is heard.



Tim Benz
President

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@misfprez

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The January 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
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Congress Approves COVID Relief for Private Schools

[Read more in the January issue](#) of the CAPE (Council for American Private Education) Outlook.

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2020-2021 STEM Grant Program

STEM Grant Letters of Interest (LOI) are due TODAY, Tuesday, January 12, by 6:00 PM

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.



PLAYfest2021: a two-day online event that the Playful Learning Lab is hosting January 29-30. There will be 25 speakers, 40 interactive workshops, and an evening event. It is FREE to attend, and while open to anyone, it is designed specifically for educators.

Registration and more information can be found here; <https://www.playfullearninglab.org/playfest-2021>

Use of Real-time Websites to Teach Weather

February 13, 12:00pm - 2:00 pm, online

Weather is a complex phenomenon involving a number of variables that are constantly changing as well as interacting with each other over the course of a "typical day" and longer time scales. But there is nothing more thrilling than to be able to correlate such phenomena with real-time data and/or maps-including satellite imagery-- that can be found on the Internet. [Circle of Illumination Science Education](#) invites 6th grade teachers in Minnesota to participate in a webinar that will help them learn how to harness the power of such web sites, deepen their content mastery of earth and atmospheric science as well as provide them with many ideas for hands-on activities. 2 CEUs will be given.

To register, email Dr. Amy Lilienfeld at amy@circleofillumination.com

This will be the first in a series of free workshops to be offered throughout the spring of 2021 by Circle of Illumination Science Education in which participants will learn how to use data from a variety of government web sites to enhance the teaching of the revised academic science standards. More information, [Circle of Illumination Science Education - HOME](#)

MDE Science Update for January 2021

Read and download a copy of the January Science Update [here](#).



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](#).

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Why STEM? Communicating Your School's Approach to STEM Education

STEM Professional Development Webinar

Thursday, January 28th

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Virtual/Live/Online

Join Beth Murphy, MISF's STEM Program Manager and independent STEM education consultant, to explore why STEM education matters. In this interactive webinar, Beth will lead participants through interpreting the goals laid out in Charting a Course for Success: America's Strategy for STEM Education, a framework designed to guide any organization that provides STEM-related learning experiences. We will work together to identify the many ways K-12 schools contribute to achieving these goals as they prepare young people for life and work. Finally, each participant will identify the unique and authentic ways that their school's STEM program connects with these broader community goals. This webinar is appropriate for anyone looking to better articulate the difference made by their school's STEM program-whether under development or established. Each school that

registers for this webinar will also receive an invitation to sign up for a free 30-minute consultation with Beth to discuss your school's STEM program.

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

**Click here to
REGISTER**

Beth Murphy, PhD MISF STEM Program Manager and independent STEM education consultant

Beth has been involved in STEM education for more than 20 years, with experience working with nonprofits, K-12 schools and districts, higher education, as well as companies and professional organizations. In 2014 Beth started Beth Murphy Consulting LLC, which focuses on supporting educators and their organizations in providing impactful STEM learning experiences through professional development, strategic-level program design, and planning, fostering partnerships, and program evaluation. In this capacity, she works with MISF as its STEM Program Manager and the National Science Teaching Association as the field editor for its journal *Connected Science Learning*. She also works with organizations such as Science from Scientists and Engineering Alliance MN on projects to design, implement, evaluate, and improve STEM education programs. Beth holds a PhD in physics, has two children (an 11th grader and college sophomore) who are both interested in STEM careers, and enjoys hiking in the woods even during a Minnesota winter.



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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.

The Motivational Power of Purpose

Session 3 - Thursday February 4, 2021

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Virtual/Live/Online

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.

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

[Click here to register](#)

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.



Questions? Contact Lisa Vosbeek, 651-308-6454, lvosbeek@misf.org

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Nominations Now Being Accepted for 2021 Private and Independent Education Awards

MISF is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Private and Independent Education Awards. All private and independent schools in Minnesota are eligible and encouraged to participate. Nominations may be submitted by students, staff, board members, parents, school leaders, or anyone connected to the school community.

Do you know an exceptional educator? How about the volunteer who handles lots of assignments? Who has made a difference in your community by their philanthropy? Take the time to nominate them in one of the following categories.

Behind the Scenes

This award recognizes the quiet and essential work of an individual who supports the school outside the classroom. These individuals go out of their way to make the school environment welcoming, friendly, and caring. School staff, coaches, volunteers and other behind the scenes workers may be nominated for this award.

Community Champion

This award celebrates the work of an individual or group that has benefited a school and the community in which the school is located. Board members, donors, and other school supporters may be nominated for this award.

Program

This award highlights an innovative or successful program that supports engagement and academic achievement for the school, students, or faculty.

Leadership

This award recognizes the hard work and dedication of school heads, presidents, principals, superintendents, or executive directors.

Honor Teacher

This award recognizes that special teacher at a school, who has a passion for students and education. They're creative, innovative, fair and compassionate, and they model integrity and excellence. They are involved in their communities, and they achieve exceptional outcomes.

If you would like to review the nomination form prior to submitting one, [click here](#).

[Click here to submit a nomination](#)

**The Awards event will be held virtually/online on
Thursday, April 29, 2021**

[Watch our event page for more details](#)

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Training: 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, 1/13/2021

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

[Follow this link to join!](#)

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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

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Important Dates to Remember

- Tuesday, January 12: LOIs for MISF STEM Grants due by 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, January 13: Title I A Training for Nonpublic School Officials
- Thursday, January 28: STEM Professional Development Webinar: Why STEM?
- Thursday, February 4: Educational Leadership Series: The Motivational Power of Purpose
- Tuesday, February 16: STEM Grant final applications due by 6:00 PM
- Thursday, April 29: Virtual/Online Private & Independent Education Awards

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