



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

March 2021 Newsletter

Be Independent, not alone

2021 Private & Independent Education Award Winners Announced

Virtual/Online Event will be held on Thursday, April 29

[Read more](#)

Introducing THE VAULT

A new MISF member benefit for Social-Emotional Learning Resources and Support.

[Read more](#)

MISF Leadership Series

SAVE THE DATE!
April 21, 2021

Creating an Effective and Healthy Workplace Culture.

[Read more](#)

MDE Science Update for March 2021

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

MISF has announced the slate of recipients for the **2021 Private and Independent Education Awards**. The individuals and programs being recognized are shining examples of those found in private and independent school communities across Minnesota. I hope you will take time to join the virtual awards event on Thursday, April 29, from 7:00-8:00pm. If there's ever been a time to recognize leaders, educators, staff and volunteers, this is the year! It's guaranteed to be an affirming and inspirational production. Thank you to our generous sponsors and partners who support this event, MISF's only fundraising event of the year.

As of this writing, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is awaiting approval from the US Department of Education (USDE) on the state's Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS) application. Once approved, all federal funds must be approved through a legislative process. MISF has been in close communication with MDE to ensure dissemination of information is clear and timely. As noted in last month's newsletter, here are key items for schools to know.

Some key points on this program that are different than the CARES Act:

- Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will administer the program, not the local school district. There will be a dedicated staff person at MDE to handle EANS process.
- MDE has a dedicated page to all federal funds and programs, including a specific EANS section <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/cares/>
- Once the application is approved by USDE, the state will have 30 days to develop the application, guidance and distribute to nonpublic schools in Minnesota
- Nonpublic schools have 6 months to complete the application and submit to MDE for approval
- **Preliminary allocations** are based on a formula of total student enrollment, with emphasis on free and reduced priced student enrollment
- Eligible expenses, including reimbursement categories, can be found in section D (pages 10-12) in the FAQ document https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_EANS_FAQs_1.14.21.pdf
- Schools that participate in the second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans are ineligible to participate in EANS
- MISF has recommended that MDE host a webinar

[Read more](#)

MISF STEM Learning Community

[Read more](#)

alongside the release of the EANS application to nonpublic schools

If a school has staff who have not registered to receive their vaccine but are still interested, they can access via the **Vaccine Connector**. Educators and school staff are still being prioritized in receiving vaccinations.

Finally, MISF is pleased to partner with Care Counseling to introduce THE VAULT, a new MISF member benefit for Social-Emotional Learning Resources and Support. [Read more](#) about this valuable resource that is free for member schools.



Tim Benz
President



This newsletter sponsored by Gradelink

Gradelink Saves Schools Time

Would you like to save time by consolidating admissions, communication and back office into a centralized system that isn't complicated or expensive? Do you want to make life easier for your staff and parents? [Paige](#) did, [Priscilla](#) did, [Jennifer](#) did and you can too. Contact Steven Lockwood to pay if you want to waive monthly fees between now and June 1st. Mention MISF to collect your discount.

[View the video here.](#)

Steven Lockwood
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Announcing the 2021 Private & Independent Education Award Recipients

BEHIND THE SCENES

Melissa Schleppenbach
Pine Harbor Christian Academy

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Robert and Teri Crosby
Academy of Whole Learning

PROGRAM AWARD

College Success Program
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

These awards will be presented at the

2021 Private and Independent Education Awards Virtual/Online Event
Thursday, April 29
7:00 - 8:00 PM

HONOR TEACHER K-8

Anne Flynn
St. Charles Borromeo School

Read more about the awards event and this year's recipients on [our website](#).

HONOR TEACHER 9-12

Trish Flock-Johnson
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

LEADERSHIP

Mary Gangelhoff
St. Mary's Catholic School, Sleepy Eye

LEADERSHIP

Andrew Hilliker
St. Joseph School, Moorhead and
Diocese of Crookston, MN

New Member Benefit THE VAULT

MISF is proud to announce a partnership with **CARE Counseling** to bring member schools invaluable resources to **teach social and emotional learning (SEL) as well as practice self resiliency**.

The VAULT is a customized online portal uniquely created for MISF member schools. Think of this as an **“on-demand”** library of videos to support your vocation as a leader, educator, or school staff. **This is a NEW member benefit that we hope you will find helpful.**

SEL provides a foundation for safe and positive learning, and enhances students' ability to succeed in school, careers, and life as well as provides additional support to **LEADERS, EDUCATORS, AND STAFF**.

- The Vault is a **FREE RESOURCE** for MISF member schools
- Each individual user will create their own username and password so they can work through the modules at their own pace
- Videos are divided by topic
- New content will be added monthly
- On-demand, self-paced video resources
- Earn CEUs - certificates will be generated upon completion of each module

[Click here to read more about this new member benefit.](#)

ESEA Title Programs Training for Nonpublic Schools

The MDE Equity and Opportunity Division is hosting a training for nonpublic school officials to review the ESEA Title program topics for spring consultation with LEAs. Additional topics will include: calculating equitable share in each ESEA Title program, implications of transferring funds from Title IIA and Title IVA into other programs, school participation notification update, and allowable activities in each program. There will be time for participant questions related to these topics.

Location: **Microsoft Teams**

Date: 5/5/2021

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 AM

STEM SCOOP

SAVE THE DATE!
STEM EDUCATION CONFERENCE

August 4, 2021 from 8:00am - 3:45pm
Benilde-St. Margaret's School
2501 Highway 100 S, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

The 2020 conference was delivered virtually for the first time with great success! **At this time, we plan to be back in person in August 2021.** We are also exploring the possibility of offering sessions simultaneously with both an in-person and virtual format option. More information about the format for the conference will be forthcoming.

The 2021 conference will continue to provide a selection of breakout sessions that allow teachers to share effective resources, expertise, lessons, and strategies. Presentation proposals from individuals or groups are welcome.

Call for Presenters for STEM Education Conference.

Breakout sessions are one hour in length, with participation limited to 25 attendees. We welcome all kinds of presentations that focus on science, technology, engineering, math, or link these subjects with each other or with other topics, such as social-emotional learning, literacy, social studies, art, social justice, preparing students for college and career, and more. To support the launch of new science standards in Minnesota, we are also eager for presentation proposals that connect to these new standards.

We know from conference evaluations that attendees value presentations that include innovative and practical ideas and resources they can implement in their classrooms. **We also love featuring programs and projects that have received MISF STEM Grant funding.**

All interested presenters must complete the [session proposal form](#) before 5:00 pm on March 22, 2021, so we can provide a complete conference program when registration opens on May 7, 2021.

Chat with Beth

Looking to better articulate your school's STEM vision, take it to the next level or get recommendations for professional development or resources?

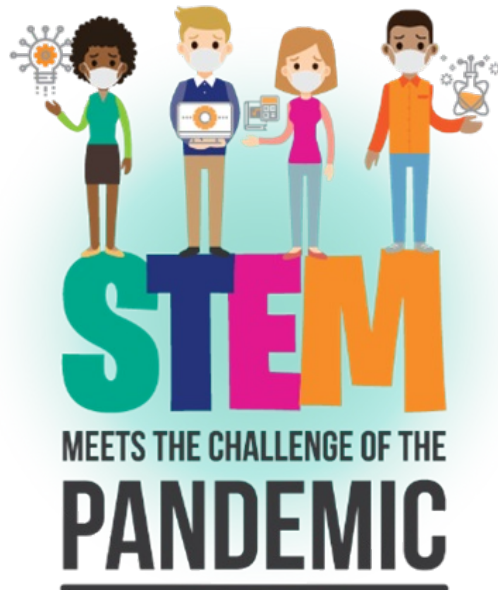
If so, schedule a 30-minute conversation for you/your team with Beth Murphy, MISF's STEM program manager and independent consultant.

[Sign up here](#)

STEM Meets the Challenge of the Pandemic

Solving problems is what STEM professionals do every day, and COVID-19 has created a new set of challenges that need to be addressed — including ensuring that young people have opportunities to explore STEM careers, even during a pandemic. **STEM Meets the Challenge of the Pandemic**, a project of Engineering Alliance Minnesota in collaboration with sponsoring organizations and STEM partners, is designed to help fill this gap by connecting students with role models through videos, online resources, and live virtual mentoring.

The free educational resources available at **stemleadstheaway.org** share the ways that engineers, scientists, and other STEM professionals are using science, engineering, technology and mathematics to find innovative solutions to the challenges introduced by



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**.

[Click here for more information on this member benefit.](#)

MISF Jobs Board

MISF member schools and associate members may post school and education-related jobs at no cost. Nonmember private and independent schools may post school-related jobs for \$65 per post. To submit a job posting, send an email to **office@misf.org**.

[Click here to visit the jobs board.](#)

Important Dates to Remember

- Wednesday, April 21: Creating an Effective and Healthy Workplace Culture
- Thursday, April 29: Virtual/Online Private & Independent Education Awards
- Wednesday, May 5: ESEA Title Program Training for Nonpublic Schools
- Wednesday, August 4: STEM Education Conference