



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

July 2021 Newsletter

Be Independent, Not Alone

SAVE THE DATE!
Monday 9/27 -
Wednesday 9/29

2021 School Leadership Conference

***in person* at
Ruttger's Bay Lake
Lodge in Deerwood**

Watch this page and
your inbox for more
information coming
soon.

**Be sure your
school's faculty
and staff have
subscribed to our
newsletter!**

**Important
information about
STEM grants,
Professional
Development
sessions,
advocacy,
conferences and
more.**

Share the link.

**MISF STEM
Learning
Community**

Read more

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

Hopefully, this finds you enjoying some time to refresh and recharge this summer. Needless to say, school leaders, educators and staff deserve it!

Below is an important update from The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) on the latest round of the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) program under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP Act). There are still several details that need to be confirmed and clarified. MISF will monitor the progress and remain in close communication with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) as more is known.

Make sure to block September 27-29, 2021, on your schedule for the MISF School Leadership Conference. More information on agenda, topics and schedule will come in August. The conference committee is focusing on a meaningful agenda, full of important opportunities to network and reconnect with fellow leaders. This is the highest rated program each year, and an important part of a leader's personal and professional development.

Want to spread the good news and information from MISF with your staff? Forward this email to them and have them sign up for our electronic communications ([link to the left](#)). It will keep them "in the loop" and also help extend the reach for information and updates.

Welcome to Jim Hansen, retired president of Hill-Murray, who joined the MISF Board of Directors on July 1. Jim brings extensive experience in business, education and strategic planning to the MISF team. Thank you to Lynn Farmer and Kari Staples, who completed their terms on the MISF Board of Directors. Lynn and Kari have provided valuable leadership and faithful service to MISF and our member schools. The current list of MISF board of directors can be [found here](#).

Thank you for your belief and support of private and independent education.

Tim Benz
President

MISF Jobs Board

Member schools can post job listings for free.

[Read more](#)

This month's newsletter is sponsored by



How to Redesign Your Report Card Template

Today. Right now. This moment might just be the perfect time to rethink your school's report cards. Maybe you're looking for new frames of reference that convey students' performance in areas of work habits or specific skill sets in addition to core subjects like science and math.

Save using coupon code "MISF" at checkout. Visit buy.gradelink.com.



Steven Lockwood
MISF Sponsor at Gradelink
steve@gradelink.com
gradelink.com/demo/

STEM SCOOP

STEM Education Virtual/Online Conference



Tuesday, August 3 2021: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Wednesday, August 4, 2021: 8:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Approved for 6.25 CEUs by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.

Keynote Speaker

Engaging Disengaged Students

Presented by Paul Bernabei, Top 20 Training

This featured session will shine a light on common and frequent experiences students have that cause them to disengage in school and will highlight the essential elements for creating a culture of learning that can activate students' natural desire to try, thus minimizing student disengagement.

Featured Breakout Sessions

Media in the classroom: online resources from Twin Cities PBS (Grades 6-12)

Leah Defenbaugh, Twin Cities PBS

Educators have worked hard over the past year to pivot to new ways of teaching and learning. One proven strategy for engagement is with targeted, standards-based media like videos, games, and interactive lesson plans. In this session, participants will learn about free media resources from Twin Cities PBS and PBS Learning Media. We will discuss ways to implement these resources in different types of lessons, like the flipped class, and create individualized plans for adding media resources into existing curriculum. Educators will leave with a set of resources and strategies to immediately implement in their classrooms.

Infusing curricular content with computer science (Grades K-12)

Andrea Wilson Vazquez, Code Savvy

In this workshop we will explore equity-focused models, tools, and strategies to integrate computer science with other content areas. Instead of viewing computer science as "one more thing" to fit in, we will highlight ways to use computer science as a tool to empower students to explore content in ways that were not previously possible. You will walk away with strategies and resources that you can incorporate immediately into any existing curricular unit or lesson.

Teaching culturally responsive STEM (Grades 3-12)

Desmond Martin, Next Wave STEM

Educating in STEM goes further than understanding science concepts or engaging in problem-solving. When we teach STEM, it is also important to consider the cultural context in which STEM is used. By helping students to explore the specific ways they interact with technology every day, STEM becomes more relatable and relevant.

COST:

- **MISF member regular rate July 10 - July 31: \$50**
- **Nonmember rate: \$125**

[Click here](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF
Check with your LEA about using title funds for registration

Click here to
REGISTER

Special Thanks to our STEM Program and Partner Sponsors

SCHOTT FOUNDATION



MINNESOTA
ACADEMY
OF SCIENCE



3M Science.
Applied to Life.™

Self-Paced Online Course from Science from Scientists
STEM Professional Development Opportunity
Earn 6 CEUs

Getting Ready for the New Minnesota Science Standards

In this self-paced online course, you'll engage with the Science & Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts – central to MN's new science standards and the Next Generation Science Standards – and explore how they transform science teaching and learning. This course is designed for classroom educators as well as school leaders who support their work.

This course opens on June 15. Register anytime and complete at your own pace by August 15, 2021. Upon completion, you'll receive a certificate for 6 clock hours of professional development. This course is also approved for continuing education credits by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.

As part of MISF's partnership with [Science from Scientists](#), MISF is offering member schools a special rate for the course.

Regular Price: \$75

MISF member price: \$50

[Click here](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF
Check with your LEA about using title funds for registration

Click here to
REGISTER

To receive the MISF member discount, use coupon code MISF50 to pay using PayPal, or INVOICE50 for an invoice to be sent to your school.

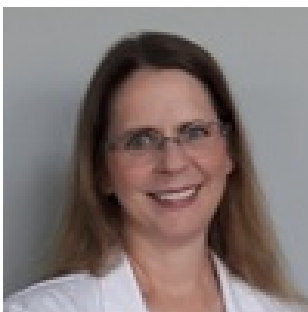
Presenters:



Beth Murphy, PhD, STEM Program Manager

Beth is a STEM education consultant with expertise in teacher professional development, program evaluation, and project management. As STEM Program Manager for MISF, Beth is responsible for the STEM Grant program, MISF's annual STEM Education Conference, and STEM-related community partnerships. Beth holds a PhD in experimental physics and has experience working in K-12, college-level, and out-of-school educational settings. In addition to working with MISF and other clients,

Beth is the field editor for *Connected Science Learning*, an online journal of the National Science Teaching Association. She currently serves as a director on the boards of both Science from Scientists and SciMathMN.



Renee Nesnidal, PhD., Science from Scientists

Renee is a lead Scientist-Teacher Partnership instructor for Science from Scientists. She has had over 20 years of experience working in science education both in K-12 and at the college level. Prior to joining Science from Scientists, she worked as a consultant with several Minnesota schools to incorporate more hands-on experiences in STEM curricula, led science workshops for students and educators, and taught summer STEM camps and in-school STEM enrichment programs for students of all ages.

She holds a PhD in atomic physics, specializing in laser & optical engineering.

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

Science Friday's Educator Phenomena Forum July 21-22, 2021



Free summer professional development for K-12 educators on phenomena facilitated by STEM educators and researchers. Earn a certificate for each 1-hour session!

Learn MORE

<https://www.sciencefriday.com/articles/phenomena-forum-summer-2021/>

Science Lab Safety

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal has created a safety checklist for school science facilities and practices. [View the checklist at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety](#). Additional safety guidelines and information are available in the [Science Best Practices/Science Safety](#) section of the Frameworks website and the National [Science Teachers Association Safety Resources](#)

Top 20 Training Presents: The Summit

TOP20 TRAINING

top20training.com

Top 20 Training is celebrating 20 years of providing social emotional learning trainings and materials to schools all over the country. The Top 20 curriculum is currently being taught in hundreds of elementary, middle and high schools in wonderful, creative ways.

Up until now, it has been a daunting task to gather together, to share best practices, to ask questions...to better serve the students who benefit from this content. But now we have the capability to meet virtually and share ideas.

We are offering a free three-hour virtual Summit on Thursday, July 29th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon (Central time). In this meeting, we will:

- Hear from each school and share best practices and processes that have resonated with students
- Field questions from participants
- Offer breakout sessions for high school, middle school, elementary school, depending on needs of participants
- Strategize about further collaboration

Please share this invitation with colleagues and email us addresses of those attending. We will send out a Zoom link to all participants the week before. Use tom@top20training.com to request the link.

We are hoping to attract a wide range of educators. Some who have taught Top 20 for several years...others who are just beginning this journey and could use some help or guidance. We are very excited about beginning this collaboration between talented, dedicated teachers.

Questions? Call Tom Cody at 651-983-2698 or email tom@top20training.com.

EANS - ARP Updates

Today, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) published [final requirements](#) regarding the implementation of the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) program under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP Act). The ARP Act, which was signed into law on March 11, 2021, provides an additional \$2.75 billion for the EANS program. Under the ARP EANS program, the Department will award grants by formula to each Governor with an approved application to provide services or assistance to eligible non-public schools to address the impact that the COVID-19 emergency has had, and continues to have, on non-public school students and teachers in the State. Like the EANS program under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act), the ARP EANS program will be administered by the State educational agency (SEA).

Although nearly all of the CRRSA EANS requirements apply to the ARP EANS program, there are **two important exceptions** in the ARP Act, which are clarified in the final requirements:

- (1) an SEA may only provide services or assistance under ARP EANS to non-public schools that enroll a significant percentage of students from low-income families and are most impacted by COVID-19; and
- (2) an SEA may not use ARP EANS funds to provide reimbursements to any non-public school as authorized under section 312(d)(4)(M) of the CRRSA Act.

Please note that these two changes in the ARP EANS program will require an SEA to revise both the non-public school EANS application it used under CRRSA EANS and the SEA's process for approving non-public school applications.

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.](#)

Important Dates to Remember

- Tuesday August 3 - Wednesday, August 4: STEM Education Conference
- Monday, September 27- Wednesday, September 29: School Leadership Conference