



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

August 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:

I hope you've enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer break. For many schools, the next few weeks are filled with preparation, orientation and back to school nights.

Remember to mark your calendars for the [2021 School Leadership Conference](#), September 27-29 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort. More information and registration will be released in the near future, but topics will include Digital Wellbeing, Nonpublic School Advocacy and a continued Social Emotional Learning focus.

There are still a few requirements as you return to school this fall including reporting confirmed cases of COVID-19 in schools and child care settings. Here is a helpful link to the Minnesota Department of Health:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/index.html>.

Welcome to new MISF member schools:
[Chesterton Academy of the Twin Cities](#)
[Good Shepherd Lutheran High School](#)
[Immanuel Lutheran School](#)
[Marquette Catholic School](#)
[Our Lady of Peace School](#)
[St. John's Lutheran School](#)
[St. Vincent de Paul School](#)

Associate member:
LaCosta Potter ([Diocese of Crookston](#)).

If you've already renewed your MISF membership... THANK YOU! We look forward to serving you in the 2021-2022 school year. If you haven't already renewed, it is our sincere hope we will retain your school as a member of our strong and vibrant cohort of private and independent schools. Interested in becoming a member with a myriad resources and benefits? [Contact me](#) and we'll chat!

Best wishes for the remainder of the summer. Thank you for your firm belief in the power of private and independent education.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by



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Steven Lockwood
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MnSTA Conference on Science Education Oct. 28-Nov.1, Online

A Clear Vision for Science Education: All Students, All Standards, All Voices is the theme for the fall MnCOSE conference. This virtual event allows you to once again participate from the comfort of your home without travel or substitute costs. In addition, just like last year, your registration gets you access to all presentations for the rest of the school year. Plus, stay tuned for information about local events taking place with the conference!

The 2021 MnCOSE strands include some traditional content-focused strands as well as some strands focusing on the teaching and learning pedagogy within science content and across grade bands. In addition to their placement in relevant strands, each MnCOSE21 session will also be tagged with the relevant science content and most appropriate grade range.

MnCOSE21 Strands are

- Life Sciences · Physical Sciences (Chemistry & Physics)
- Earth & Space Sciences
- Leveraging Technology: Lessons Learned from Distance Learning
- Diversity and Inclusion: Equity, Culturally Responsive Teaching, Social-Emotional Learning in the Science Classroom
- Science Communities: Learning, Growing, and Connecting with Others
- Exhibitor Sessions: Presentations by Exhibitors on Products and Services

Save the date and plan to share your great ideas. Presenters get a 50% discount on the fee. More Information: [MnSTA - MnCOSE21: Save the Date!](#)

Be recognized for going green: Green Ribbon Awards

The Green Ribbon Schools Award from the U.S. Department of Education honors schools, districts and higher education institutions that save energy and reduce operating costs, create environmentally friendly learning spaces, promote student health, and incorporate environmental sustainability into the curriculum. Awardees receive a plaque for the school, local recognition, and an invitation to the national award ceremony in Washington, D.C. Schools compete an application that documents their accomplishments and submits it to the MN Dept. of Education by early January. Most Minnesota schools that submit a quality application receive the national award. More Information and application materials: [Green Ribbon Schools \(mn.gov\)](#)

ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge from the MN Zoo

If you are a grade 3-12 teacher looking for ways to engage your students in authentic integrated STEM, join the ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge! Participation is free!

Registered teachers will receive access to a free virtual training in September, design challenge supporting curriculum resources for both in person and distance learning, and ongoing implementation support throughout the school year from Zoo education staff.

2021-2022 ZOOMS Design Challenges - Engineer for the Minnesota Zoo's Gray Wolf Pack

- Gray Wolf Enrichment Design: Design an enrichment to encourage natural behaviors and meet the needs of the 'Funny River Five' gray wolf pack.
- Wolf Ridge Expansion Exhibit Design Challenge: Design the proposed concept in the Zoo's Pathway to Nature Masterplan involving a new wolf exhibit expansion called 'Wolf Ridge' to enhance the currently undeveloped space for the wolves, visitors, and zookeepers

More information - [Minnesota Zoo ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge - Minnesota Zoo \(mnzoo.org\)](#)

Reach for the Stars

Many competitions, out-of-school programs and field trip opportunities are listed in the [Reach for the](#)

MDE Science Update

Read or download the Minnesota Department of Education's August Science Update [here](#).



Membership Renewal

MISF's membership year is July 1 to June 30. For the 2021-2022 school year, dues are \$5.00 per student, or \$275 for schools with 55 or fewer students. Associate membership dues are \$275.

Invoices were emailed to all member schools and associate members on July 1. If you need a copy of your invoice, contact our business manager, Debbie Kaliszewski, at dkalis@misf.org.

There are incentives for new members! If you'd like to learn more about MISF membership, [visit our website](#) or contact Tim Benz at tbenz@misf.org.

We look forward to serving you in the coming school year.

School Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Webinar



Public schools must have health and safety programs that comply with health, safety, and environmental regulations and best practices, including indoor air quality (IAQ) management. One best practice is that

public schools have an IAQ Coordinator. This Minnesota Department of Health webinar will discuss the state's best practices for school IAQ management. The same content will be offered twice: on October 5 and 28. No in-person training is offered in 2021.

Audience

- School officials, service providers, health professionals, and others that want to learn more about indoor air quality, regulations, guidance and resources
- Public schools that need an IAQ Coordinator (expect to lose their current person or want a second person trained)

Registration

Registration is required online through Webex. The same information is presented at both webinars. Choose one of the webinars you want to attend and register. Classes may be canceled if registration is low. There is no cost for this training. An email with an appointment and instructions will be sent to webinar registrants.

October 5, 2021 (9:00 am to noon):

Click [registration link](#) or register at

<https://minnesota.webex.com/webappng/sites/minnesota/meeting/info/8d4d4e8739d643cea0807564127a1b11>

October 28, 2021 (1:00 pm to 4:00 pm):

Click [registration link](#) or register at

<https://minnesota.webex.com/webappng/sites/minnesota/meeting/info/a5cfdbdce72b406092bf121ea16ae403>

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

- Monday, September 27- Wednesday, September 29: School Leadership Conference