

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 independent and private education,

As you know, the MISF STEM Program is our flagship program, offering vital resources and funding to member schools. Thanks to the generous support of 3M, Xcel Energy and Schott Foundation more than \$1 million in grants have been invested in member school projects and programs since 2009. **[Read the article below](#)** for more information on this year's STEM program including important deadlines.

National School Choice Week is January 20-26, 2019. A rally and gathering is planned for Wednesday, January 23, at the State Capitol. Through our collaborative partner Opportunity for All Kids (OAK), there is an enhanced emphasis to bring students and school communities to this rally. For more information contact Chas Anderson **chas@oakmn.org** or Leah Koch **leah@mzacompany.com** for ways to participate and become involved in their partnership programs.

Mark your calendars now for the 2019 School Leadership Conference. This conference, our highest rated professional development offering, will be held September 23-25, 2019, again at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. Watch for an email in January from the conference committee for suggested topics and presentation for next year's conference. A reminder, all the conference presentation materials are located in the members-only portion of the website. If you need assistance with your login, contact Michele Skare at **info@misf.org**.

We learned of the passing of **[Hussein Khatib](#)**, principal at Pioneers Academy. Hussein has been a strong and visionary leader for private education in Minnesota and beyond. He was a dear and faithful friend of MISF, and worked diligently in spreading the ministry of Islamic education at Pioneers Academy and Al-Amal School. We recognize a life well lived, and extend the thoughts and prayers from the entire MISF community to Hussein's family and friends.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we extend our gratitude to you for supporting MISF's mission to connect and strengthen Minnesota's independent schools.

Tim Benz

Tim Benz
President

Follow me on Twitter
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ANNOUNCING THE 2019 STEM GRANT PROGRAM

We are excited to announce the kick-off of this year's STEM Grant Program. Once again there are three types of STEM Grants available to fit your school's needs - Innovation Grants, Starter Grants and Sustainability Grants.

The following resources are available on the STEM Grant program page on the MISF website.

www.misf.org/stem-grants/

- STEM Grant Program Calendar
- STEM Grant Guidelines
- Letter of Interest
- Grant Application Forms
- STEM Grant Scoring Rubrics
- Project Descriptions of STEM Grants Awarded the Last Three Years
- Link To Video Highlighting Three Member School's STEM programs

MISF STEM Grant Drop-In Information Session

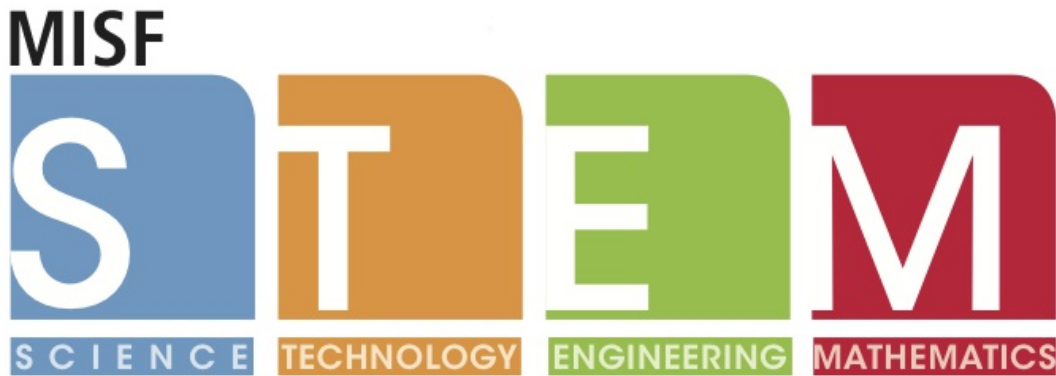
Tuesday, Dec 4, 2018 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM CST

To join this virtual meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone please use the following link - <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/851812509>

If this is your first GoToMeeting use the following link to be sure your device is set-up to access the meeting. <https://link.gotomeeting.com/system-check>

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STEM SCOOP



Provide Feedback for the First Draft of 2019 Science Standards

Your feedback is requested for the First Draft of the 2019 Minnesota Science Standards! The Standards Review Committee will publish the First Draft on November 8 and the feedback period will be **Nov. 9 - 26**. The draft and the link for a feedback survey will be provided on [the MDE Science page](#). You

can complete the survey as an individual or as a group, such as a PLC or district science group.

You should **prepare to review the first draft** by becoming familiar with the primary reference document that is being used by the committee, *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*, especially chapters 1 and 2. This document is available as a free download at the [National Academy Press](#). More information about the *Framework* and how it may impact new standards is in a series of articles at the [MnSTA Science Standards website](#).

MN Earth Science Teachers Conference, Feb 1, Plymouth

This annual [Mn Earth Science Teachers Assn.](#) conference features a keynote on inclusive science from Native Skywatchers. Concurrent session topics include Skywarn storm spotting and severe weather, bedrock geology and groundwater management, authentic learning and assessments, and ESRI Story Maps. The Thursday evening pre-conference session features the Como Planetarium and dinner at Gabe's by the Park.

Outdoor Education and Raptor Lab Teacher Workshops

Learn to use the *Raptor Lab* a free interactive online learning environment that models the process of scientific investigation in real-world settings through the active role-play of different scientific careers involved in veterinary care and wildlife rehabilitation. Then provides a platform for students to team up, investigate outside, and share their own inquiry-based investigations online. Raptor Lab is appropriate for students from sixth grade through high school. This free day-long workshop will look at the *Outdoor Investigator* module of the *Raptor Lab* and provide techniques to bring students outside and do scientific inquiry. All educators of any grade are invited. [Details and registration](#)

- Nov. 26, Deep Portage, Hackensack
- March 9 Audubon Center, Sandstone
- April 6 St. Mary's, Morris

If you are interested in hosting a workshop, contact hannah.edstrom@wolf-ridge.org.

School Programs and Instruction Resources

Mighty Mississippi Electronic Field Trip, Nov. 14



[Register your class](#) (especially grades 5 - 8) for the *Mighty Mississippi Electronic Field Trip*--a free, source-to-sea, web-based learning adventure that streams live November 14, 2018. The hour-long interactive television program, produced by PBS affiliate WYES New Orleans in collaboration with Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE), features field segments with content experts (including CGEE's John Shepard) interviewed by student reporters at Lake Itasca, the Twin Cities, and multiple points downstream.



Youth Eco Solutions

[YES!](#) is a unique youth program that develops youth leaders among students in grades 7 - 12 while inspiring widespread adoption of renewable energy technologies, waste, and energy conservation best practices, local foods, habitat restorations, and water quality improvement projects, which contribute to the environmental and economic health of rural Minnesota communities. In addition, students are gaining leadership and workforce skills such as problem solving, communication, teamwork, innovation, and project management.

Participating YES! teams of students are guided by motivated adult coaches. Throughout the year, YES! Coordinators work intensively with teams to assess community assets and needs, create action plans, identify and involve community partners, and link teams with further funding resources to match the students' passions with real needs and opportunities in their communities. Students also take part in hands-on YES! educational opportunities during the school year.

Captain Planet Grants

K-12 educators who are interested in receiving support for students to design and implement hands-on environmental solutions should check out some of the [grant opportunities](#) that Captain Planet Foundation™ is offering! Take a look and see if they have a program that fits your needs.



3M Science Encouragement Program

3M TECH offers classroom visits to provide students, especially women and minorities, with the opportunity to meet and interact with role models who enjoy technical careers. 3M volunteers from a variety of technical job positions, degree levels, and backgrounds participate. The visits encourage a variety of questions from the students, such as: scientists sharing stories from their own career path, guidance on courses to take now to prepare for college, demonstration of the products or technology the scientist/engineer has developed as part of their job, and the facts around technical careers (salaries, types of jobs available, high demand for trained persons, etc.). Submit requests by Dec. 14.

[Information and Registration.](#)

Physics Force Demonstration Shows January: Minneapolis May: Rochester

Science teachers of all ages - did you know that the University of Minnesota's Physics Force performs for free 12 times every January at Northrop Auditorium on the U of MN campus and in Rochester in May? Did you know that

the Force will help subsidize your transportation fees if you are at a high-poverty school? Well, we do. This year's shows are better than ever, with live fire, lightning, a crushing barrel, and a performer falling from a tower.

Before the school year gets too hairy, sign your classes up for the free tickets! Your kids will see large-scale physics demonstrations done by trained professionals paired with comedy done by total amateurs. [Information and registration.](#)



Student Programs, Awards, and Competitions

Science and Engineering Competitions

November is an important month for registering for competitions. Some to consider:

- [Minnesota Science Olympiad](#)
- [Science and Engineering Fair and Science Bowl](#)
- [FIRST Lego League, FIRST Tech Challenge, FIRST Robotics](#)
- [Supermileage Challenge](#)
- [Real World Design Challenge](#)
- [Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision](#)
- [NSTA Angela Award](#) - girls grades 5 - 8
- [National Youth Science Camp](#) - two Minnesota Delegates



Minnesota Programs and Competitions

Many competitions, out-of-school programs and field trip opportunities are posted at [the Mn-STEM website](#) and listed in the [Reach for the Stars Catalog of Programs and Activities.](#)

Other Minnesota Links

- [Minn. Dept. of Education Science Page](#)
- [Minn. Science Teachers Association](#)
- [Frameworks for MN Science and Mathematics Standards](#)
- [Get - STEM](#) Connections between schools and businesses
- [Mn-STEM](#) STEM programs and resources for families, schools and community
- [Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge](#) environmental education resources
- [Minnesota Academy of Science](#): Science Fair, Science Bowl and other competitions
- [Mn DNR Education website](#): Curriculum, professional development, posters, etc.

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Development Lunch & Learn Seminar



"CRAFTING THE DONOR STORY"

Date: Thursday, December 6, 2018

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Location: Sunrise Bank Corporate Headquarters (not a branch location)

2525 Wabash Avenue, St. Paul, 55114 ([MAP HERE](#))

Presenter: Kyle Queal, Vice President, Mission Advancement

Join in person or via webinar

Sponsored by



CRAFTING THE DONOR STORY

Could you be confusing your donors with too much information? Do they see too much clutter in your materials? How can you give them absolute clarity about your mission and gain their trust? Your major donors deserve a unique and compelling story in which they are the central character. Let them partner with you to overcome your biggest challenges and then celebrate a successful conclusion together. This will help you realize a capacity giving and healthy, balanced donor relationships.

This session will help you:

- Discover the language your donors need to hear
- Design the steps of personal interaction with key donors
- Deliver a unique and compelling experience for your donors

Presenter Bio

For the past 20 years, Kyle Queal has served in various capacities within the nonprofit space, including teaching, starting and leading a ministry at Park Cities Presbyterian Church, and serving as Director of Development and then Head of School for The Covenant School of Dallas. Just prior to joining MAP, he worked for the largest public charter school organization in Texas, Responsive Education Solutions, serving as Vice President of Learning & Leadership Development.

Kyle is a native of North Texas who grew up in the Lakewood area of East Dallas. He earned a B.A. degree in History and Philosophy from UT-Austin and an M.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia. He and his wife Sarah live in Richardson, TX with their three great kids: Molly, Sam, and Sophie and dog Lucy.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EARN CEU CREDITS!

Seminar Cost:

- MISF Member Schools - First in person attendee: Free
- MISF Member Schools - Additional in person attendees: \$25
- [Click HERE](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF
- Nonmember Schools - Attending in person: \$65

Registration for the seminar includes a lunch and all presentation materials

Webinar Cost: (Space limited)

- MISF member school staff: FREE
- Nonmember school staff: \$25

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

REGISTER THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018

*CANCELLATION/NO-SHOW POLICY: Registration fees paid are nonrefundable; however, they may be transferred to another staff member (including board members, committee members, volunteers, or any individual affiliated with your school community). Cancellations for unpaid registrants who notify MISF less than 48 hours of the seminar or do not show up to the event will be charged as follows: MEMBERS - \$25; NONMEMBERS - \$65.



FREE WEBINAR

"ARE YOU READY FOR A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?"

**Thursday, November 15, 2018
12:00 PM CST**

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY

Register Now !

PRESENTED BY >> Kyle Queal, Vice President at Mission Advancement

ABOUT THE WEBINAR >> Are you considering a capital campaign in the next 24 months? Believe it or not, you should be thinking through some key decisions now. Early preparation can put you on track to achieving your fundraising goals and save you from costly (and embarrassing) mistakes with your most important donors.

Whether you are raising \$1,000,000 or \$50,000,000 - there are basic building blocks that are foundational to your success. Wouldn't it help to have those laid out before you even begin? This webinar will guide you through answers to important questions with real-life application to

help you start your campaign the right way.

- > How do we put together a compelling and urgent case statement?
- > When will we know how much we can raise?
- > How do we identify the right prospective donors and avoid donor fatigue?
- > How do we maintain annual giving throughout the campaign?

[View System Requirements](#)

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CAPE Outlook

The National Association of Elementary School Principals recognized four private school principals as 2018 National Distinguished Principals in Washington, DC on October 11-12. Read about this and other items of interest to nonpublic schools in the November Edition of the Council of American Private Education (CAPE) Outlook. [Click here for more information.](#)



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Nonpublic Fall Report 2018-19

The Nonpublic Fall Report for 2018-19 is due on Thursday, November 15th. We have a link to the report form and information sheet available on our website. The information collected on this report is used for a variety of purposes, many of which will ultimately benefit your students, faculty and staff.

- [Report form](#)
- [Information sheet](#)

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Not an MISF member school? Join us today!

MISF connects and strengthens Minnesota's independent schools through exceptional training, resources, and advocacy so they can be student-centered and mission-driven.

You can be independent, but not alone! We invite you to [learn more about membership](#) in our cohort of over 150 schools throughout the state. If you have questions, please contact Tim Benz at 651-297-6716 or tbenz@misf.org

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

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