

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 highlighted in one of our theory of change statements, "**We advocate with a focused and united voice so that local and state policy makers will understand and support policies and practices that strengthen Minnesota's independent schools.**" A new governor and legislature took office this week. There is a strong tone of working together toward solutions and investments in education, including student safety and student mental health. For more on MISF legislative priorities this session, check out the [View from the Capitol](#), a new monthly column featuring insight and information from Shep Harris, MISF lobbyist.

[The nomination process for the 2019 Private and Independent Education Awards is open.](#) This event is an annual opportunity to come together and celebrate the people and programs that make private and independent schools amazing and caring educational communities. Mark your calendar and join us on Sunday, April 28, at the University of St. Thomas.

As you set your 2019-20 calendars, make sure to block out the **STEM Education Conference** (August 8 at Benilde-St. Margaret's) and **School Leadership Conference** (September 23-25 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge). These are two unique opportunities for high level learnings while expanding your network of educators and leaders from schools across Minnesota.

A special welcome to new member school [Trinity First Lutheran](#), in Minneapolis. If you are interested in becoming a member of our network, while gaining access to tons of resources and benefits, [email](#) or give me a call at 651-424-4929.

Thank you for your support and advocacy on behalf of private and independent schools and students.



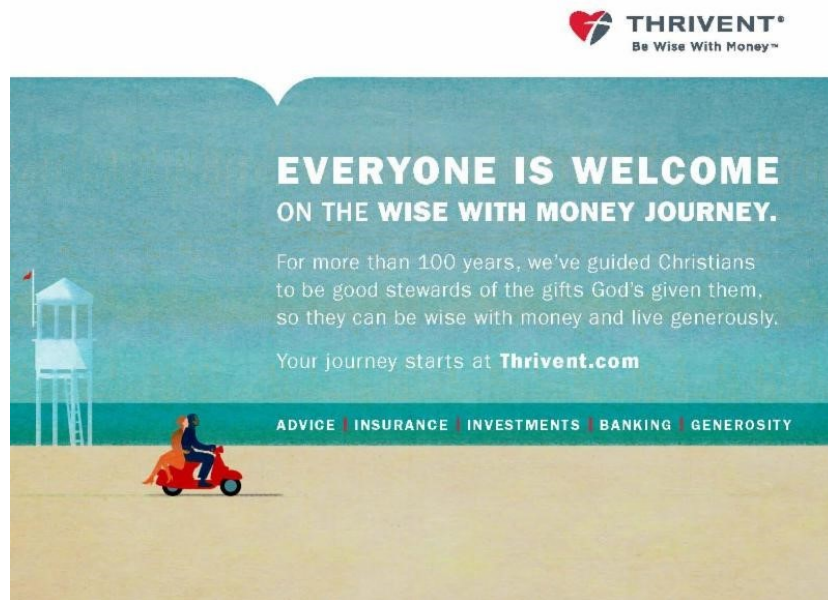
Tim Benz
President

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The View from the Capitol

by Shep Harris, MISF Lobbyist

The Walz/Flanagan Administration has been installed and the 91st Legislative Session has been gavelled to order. Now it's time to get down to business!

Gov. Walz' inaugural address emphasized a number of themes but public education received much attention and will undoubtedly be a signature item for the next four years. Along with the assistance of Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, he selected



former executive vice president of the American Federation of Teachers Mary Cathryn Ricker as the next Commissioner of Education. For more information about Commissioner Ricker, go to <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/about/cmsh/>.

As for the legislature, the Senate remains a Republican majority by one vote (or possibly by two votes, depending on a special February election created by Sen. Tony Lourey's appointment to head the state human services agency) but the House DFL now takes over with a 75-59 majority. Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman and Majority Leader Ryan Winkler lead the DFL while Rep. Kurt Daudt and Rep. Ann Neu represent the Republican Caucuses (yes, there are two Republican Caucuses).

Because of the elections, there is an entirely new set of committees, committee chairs and membership in the House. To learn more, go to <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/committees>. Due to the special Senate election of Sen. Jeff Howe (succeeding outgoing Sen. Michelle Fischbach), the Senate also had some slight changes in committees, committee chairs and membership. You can see it at <https://www.senate.mn/committees/>.

As the legislative session begins, expect a number of key issues to draw much attention including the state budget surplus, tax conformity, health care, transportation funding, education funding, and getting the state's business done in a timely and civil manner. More specifically, MISF will be working closely with education committee legislators to clarify and/or increase nonpublic funding with regard to teacher textbook manuals, telecommunications, counseling and security grants. Stay tuned for more detail and updates as the session moves along!

Shep Harris is a Senior Government Relations Specialist at Fredrikson & Byron PA. He is a seasoned lobbyist who develops and executes government relations strategies with a deep understanding of government and relationships with key government officials in areas of education, workforce development, Legacy funding, health and human services. [Read more about Shep here.](#)

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STEM SCOOP



**STEM Grant Letters of Interest must be received by
6pm on Tuesday, January 15**

Reminder: An LOI is required in order to submit a full grant application.

Full grant proposals are due no later than 6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. Please review the STEM Grant program materials by clicking on the link below.

www.misf.org/stem-grants/

We look forward to learning about your STEM projects. If you have any questions,

please contact Beth Murphy, STEM Program Manager at bmurphy@misf.org, 612-270-0194, or Lisa Vosbeek, Director of Development & Programs at lvosbeek@misf.org, 651-424-4930.

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STEM Lunch & Learn Seminar/Webinar

"Embracing the Maker Movement at Your School: Designing a Purposeful Makerspace"

Open to ALL MISF member and nonmember private and independent schools!

When: Thursday, January 17th, 11:30AM - 1:30PM

Where: Nativity of Our Lord School, 1900 Stanford Avenue, St. Paul, 55105 ([Map](#))

Presenters: Anne Schneeman Dougherty, Engineering Teacher, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Justin Spencer, Associate Director of Education, The Bakken Museum; Nicole Koen, Makerspace Coordinator, Mounds Park Academy; Jenna Laleman, STEAM Teacher, Nativity of Our Lord School

Seminar/Webinar Content

Does your school have a makerspace, FabLab, hackerspace, or are you thinking about creating one? In this seminar we will consider the philosophy behind makerspace learning environments through hands-on experiences and discussion. Maker education is fundamentally about approaches, mindsets, and community-more than it is about stuff. Yet, we educators need support, tools, and resources to fully participate. Discussion will include defining your school's maker philosophy, research behind this popular movement in STEM education, guidelines for outfitting your makerspace, and the role of teachers, school leadership, parents and other stakeholders in creating a culture that supports making.

Seminar Cost

MISF member schools-first in person attendee: free

MISF member school-additional in person attendee: \$25

[Click here](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF

Nonmember school staff: \$65 per person

Webinar (space limited)

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

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 before the seminar or do not show up to the event will be charged as follows: members: \$25; nonmembers: \$65.

Registration ends Monday, January 14th.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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3M Twist

Teachers Working in Science and Technology

The 3M TWIST program allows middle and high school math, science, and technology teachers to spend six weeks during the summer working closely with a 3M host on an actual 3M research project. The objective is to provide active and challenging technical experiences for teachers in an industrial setting. TWIST is based on the idea that the way to learn science is to do science - an axiom that applies as much to teachers as it does to their students.

- Tour labs and pilot manufacturing facilities
- Receive a stipend of \$4,500
- Can earn graduate credits through St. Mary's University of MN

Program Details:

3M selects about 40 teachers for the program each year. The TWIST program currently brings in teachers to work at our 3M R&D facility in St. Paul, MN and in our manufacturing plants in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Texas, North Carolina and Connecticut. During the six weeks of the project, the teachers work under the supervision of their hosts on a research project related to a 3M product or technology.

After this portion of the program, the teachers are encouraged to participate in follow-up sessions with their school districts to discuss how to best use their new knowledge and share it with their colleagues.

Minnesota Applications Due: January 21, 2019

Outstate Applications Due: February 28rd, 2019

Applications accepted from Science, Math, and Tech Ed teachers of students in grades 7-12.

[Click here to learn more about the program.](#)

Cognitively Guided Instruction ~ National Biennial Conference

The Cognitively Guided Instruction National Biennial Conference being held June 24-26, 2019 in the Twin Cities, with SciMathMN as a co-sponsor. Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) is grounded in 30 years of research on how children develop their mathematical understandings and how teachers use that knowledge to shape instruction. The CGI conference brings together classroom teachers, administrators, researchers, and professional developers from across the country. Educators develop and extend their understanding of CGI, learn about the latest research advances, and share about the impact CGI has on mathematics learning in PreK-6 classrooms.

"Navigating the Journey" is the conference theme. An educator's journey takes time to develop and requires nurturing along that path. The conference will create a supportive environment to network with a community of fellow learners, and engage with speakers offering insights into various facets of children's mathematical thinking.

A pre-conference on Monday, June 24 is the "Research and Policy Forum". This forum is intended for school district administrators, principals, instructional coaches, non-profit

education community leaders, and legislators to meet directly with CGI researchers to discuss specific research data and the implications for professional development support for classroom teachers. Registration for the pre-conference is independent of the main conference.

To follow the program development and registration details of both the full conference and the pre-conference forum, go to the conference website at link: <https://cgiconference.com/>

MN Earth Science Teachers Conference February 1, 2019 ~ Plymouth

Keynote: Annette Lee, director of the Native Skywatchers program and Astronomy Professor at St. Cloud State University. The presentation will focus on cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, and STEM/STREAM resources for authentic astronomy education engagement.

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)



MN State Championship will be held on Feb 8 & 9, 2019 at Washington Technology Magnet School. Information may be found on the [MN FTC State Championship page](#) on the High Tech Kids website.

Stratasys Scholarships

Applicants must be Minnesota residents, currently a member on an active MN FTC team and in 10th or 11th grade.

Applications must be submitted by January 20, 2019. Winners will be acknowledged at the MN FTC State Championship, however an applicants' team does NOT need to be participating at this event to be considered.

Award winners will be determined by a panel, no interviews will be conducted. Award recipients will be notified by February 5

For more information and instructions on how to apply please see the FTC Stratasys Scholarship page on our website: <https://hightechkids.org/ftc-overview/scholarships-and-awards/#1542146660455-df8424af-7631>

YOUNG MENTOR & YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARDS

For youth involved with FIRST LEGO League

High Tech Kids is happy to offer two \$250 youth scholarships for Minnesota students between the ages of 14-18 who have had an impact on a Minnesota FIRST LEGO League team or community.

- Young Mentor Award
- Young Leadership Award

Nominations are due by January 28, 2019. Finalists will be interviewed in early February via Skype or in person. Winners will be notified by February 21 and will be acknowledged during the awards ceremony at the MN FIRST LEGO League State Championship on February 23.

For more information and how to apply please see the FLL Youth Awards page on our website: <https://hightechkids.org/fll-overview/scholarships-and-awards/#1542151499478-142705be-9729>

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2019 Private & Independent Education Awards

*Nominations begin
January 7*

The 11th annual Private & Independent Education Awards will be held on April 28, 2019. Nominations for all award categories begin on January 7th.



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.

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.

PROGRAM AWARD

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

HONOR TEACHER

An MISF Honor Teacher nominee should:

- Display a passion for students and education
- Model integrity, fairness, compassion, and excellence
- Drive creativity and innovation in their students
- Achieve exceptional and measurable outcomes
- Demonstrate personal and professional growth through community service/involvement

LEADERSHIP

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

An MISF Leadership Award nominee should:

- Instill passion in themselves and the people with whom they work.
- Bring innovative ideas forward and to fruition
- Be regarded as demonstrating highest integrity and ethical behavior
- Understand how to help move change forward in an organization by effectively communicating with key internal and external stakeholders to help them understand, and participate in, the change process.
- Advocate for the importance of private/independent education in Minnesota



[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION](#)

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K-12 Education Subtraction and Credit

Minnesota has two programs to help families pay for education expenses. The K-12 Education Subtraction and the K-12 Education Credit can lower the tax families pay or increase their refund when filing their Minnesota income tax return.

Families may qualify for the subtraction, credit, or both - if they save their receipts.

[Click here for a flyer with more information that you can print and distribute to parents at your school.](#)

[Click here for the flyer in Spanish.](#)

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January CAPE Outlook

The New York State Education Department has issued guidelines under which public school officials would inspect private schools to determine whether the education being provided is satisfactory. This stunning announcement has generated massive pushback from the private school community and promises to be an important test of private school autonomy.



Read more and download the latest copy of the CAPE (Council for American Private Education) [here](#).

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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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