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## **Letter from the President**

Dear Friends of Independent and Private Education,

On April 28, we will gather to celebrate and recognize the 2019 award recipients at the [Private and Independent Education Awards](#). This event is a unique opportunity for the private and independent school sector to come together and recognize the excellence found in the people and programs in our school communities. We encourage you to consider attending, and join with members of your staff, board and volunteers to enjoy an inspirational and moving celebration. We are thankful and humbly recognize the sponsors and partners that come forward to support this premier annual event.

The 2019 legislative session has six weeks remaining. There are still significant pieces of legislation that could benefit student and families in nonpublic schools. Here is a quick summary - and we urge you to [contact Governor Walz and your local legislators](#) to encourage them to support these legislative priorities. Your voice is important and can bring a positive outcome for students and families.

- Equity and Opportunity Tax Credit Scholarship (SF1872) - this legislation would provide scholarships to low and middle-income families to attend a school of their choice. To learn more check out the [Opportunity for All Kids website](#), a collaborative partner and the lead organization advocating for this new legislation.
- Nonpublic pupil aid calculation modification and appropriation (SF580) - this legislation would expand the guidance and counseling portion of the nonpublic pupil aid program to include K-6 students in our schools.

Thank you for your engagement and investment in independent and private education. We are proud to serve as the hub and voice for a statewide network of schools since 1976.

## April's Newsletter is sponsored by Thrivent Financial



Sometimes it's not easy teaching your children the importance of wise money principles, especially when they're surrounded by messages saying they need the next best thing at a moment's notice. Here are some practical ideas to help show them the value of a dollar:

### [Teaching Dollars & Sense](#)

**KEVIN SZOZDA**

Community Engagement

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Direct 612-709-3446



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## Interested in 3M Open Tickets?

Keep your eyes open for future communication on how you can win tickets through Thrivent Financial!

## STEM SCOOP

### Congratulations to this year's STEM grant recipients

Thank you to everyone who submitted a STEM Grant this year. At the 11th Annual Private and Independent Education Awards event on April 28th we will be awarding 23 STEM grants totaling \$106,699. Since our grant program began in 2009 and including this year's grantees we will have awarded 249 grants totaling \$1,159,264.00. We are grateful to our STEM Program funders 3M, Schott Foundation and Xcel Energy for their outstanding support. Our thanks also to our STEM Advisory Committee for sharing their time with us, reviewing and selecting this year's grantees. A list of the 2019 STEM Grant Awardees is below.

#### STEM Innovation Grants

Academy of Holy Angels  
Academy of Whole Learning  
Ascension Catholic School  
Bethany Academy  
Gethsemane Lutheran School  
Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School  
Legacy Christian Academy  
New Life Academy  
Oak Hill Montessori  
Risen Christ Catholic School  
Southwest Christian High School  
St. Dominic School  
St. Joseph School (Waconia)  
St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School

#### STEM Sustainability Grants

Christian Heritage Academy  
Nativity of Mary Catholic School  
Southwest Christian High School

#### STEM Starter Grants

Carondelet Catholic School  
King of Kings Lutheran School  
Mary Queen of Peace School  
Notre Dame Academy  
St. Paul's Lutheran School (New Ulm)  
Trinity Lutheran School (Waconia)

## You're invited to the Bell Museum Educator Open House

6-8 pm, Wednesday, May 8  
2088 Larpenteur Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55113  
FREE

We welcome educators and their families to join us for an evening at the Bell celebrating National Teacher Appreciation Week. You'll get the whole museum experience at our building-wide open house! Explore our galleries, meet with our education team, and have some fun.

\* Preview new labs, gallery experiences, and planetarium shows.



\* Learn more about our specimen loan program, our ExploraDome traveling planetarium, and key program changes to meet new 2019-20 science standards.

\* Enjoy light refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you on May 8! Please email Megan Earnest if you have any questions about the event, [earne012@umn.edu](mailto:earne012@umn.edu)

[RSVP here by April 30th](#)

**And SAVE THE DATE: Our 2019-20 field trip bookings and scholarships open May 1!**

## SAVE THE DATE - STEM Education Conference - August 8, 2019 at Benilde-St. Margaret's School

Although past conferences are hard to beat, we hope this year will be bigger and better than ever before. This year's conference features:

- Presenters you know and love as well as some interesting new ones
- More breakout sessions by teachers from MISF member schools, including many presentations about STEM grant projects and a follow up to last year's Makerspace Mashup
- A selection of traditional one-hour breakout sessions and longer (135 minute) intensives
- Early-bird discounts for registration before June 15 (registration will open in early May)

Watch your inbox and [our website](#) for more information.

### High School Chemistry Teachers

Stone Arch Bridge Initiative for Education Resources (SABIER) is looking for high school chemistry teachers to participate in a professional development cohort to become skilled at using a free, digital, openly licensed chemistry textbook with their Learning Management System. The Chemistry Professional Development Cohort for 2019-20 school year is for teachers who want to use the free openly licensed textbook SABIER has been curating with Libretexts that uses Moodle assessments created by Minnesota teachers. The professional development will be primarily online and asynchronous in order to fit with teachers' schedules.

The funding for the Professional Development Cohort is provided by donors of SABIER.

[To sign up, click here to complete the online form.](#)

If you have questions contact Dan McQuire at [dan@sabier.org](mailto:dan@sabier.org) or 612-889-3482.

### MDE April Science Update

[Click here](#) to read the Minnesota Department of Education April Science Update.

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Private and Independent  
Education Awards

## **Join Us for the 11th Annual Private and Independent Education Awards**

MISF is proud to announce the winners of the 11th Annual Private and Independent Education Awards. The people recognized at this awards celebration exemplify the strengths of our schools, the support of the community, and the many notable efforts to improve K-12 education in Minnesota.

Registration is now open! Click on the link below. We hope you will join us to celebrate the 2019 Honorees.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**

### **Announcing the 2019 Private & Independent Education Award Winners**

#### **Honor Teacher K-8**

Kate Drechsler  
Academy of Whole Learning

#### **Honor Teacher 9-12**

Emily Byrne  
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

#### **Leadership**

Sister Judith Schaefer  
Cotter Schools

#### **Leadership**

Ric Gibson  
St. Croix Lutheran Academy

#### **Community Champion**

Bonnie O'Connor  
Risen Christ Catholic School

#### **Behind the Scenes**

Anne McQuillan  
St. Thomas Academy

#### **Program Award**

Forum for Inducting, Retaining & Supporting Teachers (F.I.R.S.T.)  
Maranatha Christian Academy

### **Event Details**

Sunday, April 28, 2019  
Woulfe Alumni Hall - Anderson Student Center  
University of St. Thomas - St. Paul

4:00 - 4:45 PM

Registration & Social Hour  
4:45 - 7:00 PM  
Dinner & Awards

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER](#)

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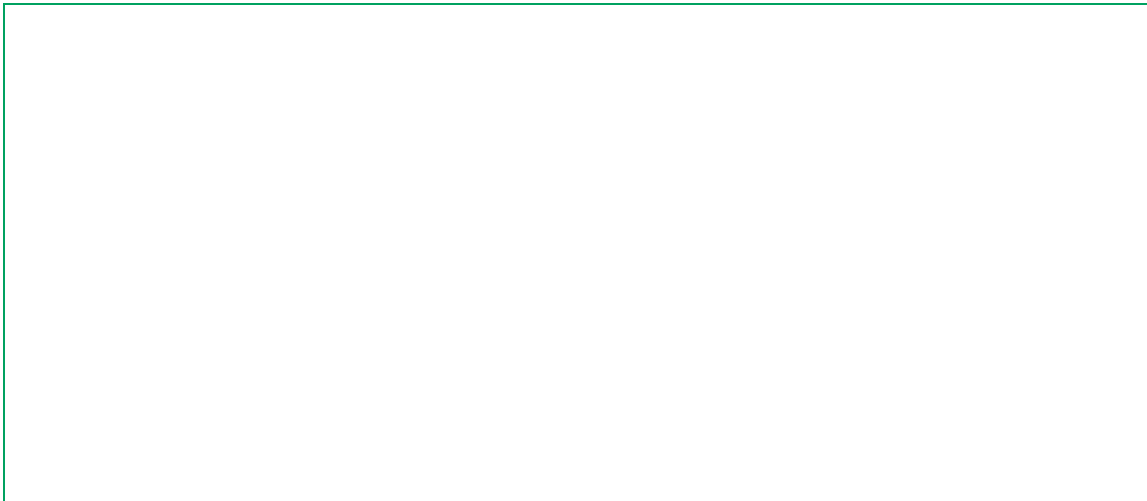
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## Free Webinar from Mission Advancement

Schuyler Lehman will bring more than 30 years of insights to this 1-hour presentation. You will learn his 5 core principles for fighting back against donor fatigue and what you can start doing today to raise your retention numbers for next year and beyond.

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

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## MISF Member Principal Receives National Recognition

Debra Meyer-Myrum, principal of Holy Trinity Catholic School in Pierz, MN, was recently awarded the 2019 "Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award" from the NCEA for her dedication and commitment to excellence in Catholic education.



[Click here to read more.](#)

Congratulations, Debra!

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## Twins Tickets Available

The Minnesota Twins organization has given MISF **more** tickets to give away to our member schools! We thank them for their generosity.

If your school is interested in 50 tickets to either of the games listed below, contact Lisa Vosbeek at [lvosbeek@misf.org](mailto:lvosbeek@misf.org) or 651-424-4930.



- Wednesday May 1st 6:40 vs Houston
- Wednesday May 15th 12:10 vs Los Angeles Angels

**GO TWINS!**

# Annual Immunization Status Report (AISR)

## New form released in April 2019

A new form was released in April 2019 by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), which will help schools in collecting the immunization information they need to comply with the School Immunization Law and complete the Annual Immunization Status Report (AISR).

See information at this MDH link: [Vaccines for Infants, Children, and Adolescents](#).

Note: Along with other information, this link includes the [Immunization Form \(PDF\)](#). According to MDH: "Use this form to document vaccines as well as medical or non-medical exemptions for children enrolled in child care, early childhood education, or school. This form is to be used by all schools [**including nonpublic schools**], and all K-12 schools in Minnesota, public and nonpublic (including home schools) schools are required to complete the AISR."

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## New Resource on Inclusive K-8 Education from Institute on Community Integration

What does it look like when schools deliver a more inclusive and rigorous education for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities? In the new [Impact: Feature Issue on Inclusive Education for K-8 Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities](#) inclusive education is explored through the perspectives of researchers, teachers, education administrators, students, and parents. They share knowledge, skills, experiences, and resources that can help public and private K-8 schools nationwide support the learning and inclusion of all students.

This Impact is available in the interactive digital edition with bonus content (videos, webinars, podcasts) and also in print. For information on ordering print copies contact [icipub@umn.edu](mailto:icipub@umn.edu) or 612-624-4512.

Impact is published by the [Institute on Community Integration \(ICI\)](#), and the [Research and Training Center on Community Living](#), at the University of Minnesota. Additional support for this issue came from the [TIES Center](#), the National Technical Assistance Center on Inclusive Practices and Policies for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, based at ICI's National Center on Educational Outcomes.

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## Support the Opportunity Scholarship Legislation

Opportunity Scholarship legislation has been introduced in the



Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate. This legislation will provide families with access to better schools and ensure we have educational freedom in Minnesota.

Your support is needed to help more children attend the school that is best for them. The best way to stay engaged is to sign up for the Opportunity for All Kids (OAK) Advocacy Network online at <https://www.opportunityforallkids.org/take-action/>.

Sign up and stay updated on the latest information from the State Capitol and calls to action.

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## April CAPE Outlook

Equitable Services Policy announced; CAPE board, state CAPES gather in Washington D.C.



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

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### Dates to Remember:

- April 28, 2019: Private & Independent Education Awards
- May 16, 2019: STEM/Technology Lunch & Learn Seminar
- June 20, 2019: Development Seminar
- August 8, 2019: STEM Education Conference
- September 23-25, 2019: School Leadership Conference



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## Join us!

### 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](mailto:tbenz@misf.org)

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MISF | 651-297-6716 | [info@misf.org](mailto:info@misf.org) | [www.misf.org](http://www.misf.org)

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