

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 Private and Independent Education:

MISF received confirmation the State of Minnesota and MN Department of Education will apply for the [Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools \(EANS\)](#), which totals approximately \$41.7 million. The US Department of Education (USDE) extended the application deadline to February 22, 2021. We are awaiting notification when Minnesota's application is formally submitted to the USDE. Some key points on this program that are different than the CARES Act:

- Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will administer the program, not the local school district
- Once the application is approved by USDE, the state will have 30 days to develop the application, guidance and distribute this to nonpublic schools in Minnesota
- Nonpublic schools have 6 months to complete the application and submit to MDE for approval
- It is possible allocations will be based on a formula of total student enrollment, with emphasis on free and reduced priced student enrollment
- Eligible expenses, including reimbursement categories, can be found in section D (pages 10-12) in the FAQ document
[https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final EANS FAQs 1.14.21.pdf](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_EANS_FAQs_1.14.21.pdf)
- Schools that participate in the EANS program cannot participate in the second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

MISF will continue to coordinate and communicate extensively with partners at diocesan, jurisdictional, accrediting agencies and local association representatives to ensure wide distribution of information. In addition, we have offered to partner with MDE to schedule webinars as the program develops in Minnesota.

While there remains a very limited amount of vaccines available, please make sure to [read the section below](#) about the continuing vaccination of educators.



Tim Benz
President

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The February Newsletter is sponsored by



Website Makeover



Join the five step email course that will show you how to use your website to clarify your message and grow your school's admissions.

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Steven Lockwood
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MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM
STEM Scoop

STEM Education Conference

Save the Date: MISF STEM Education Conference

August 4, 2021 from 8:00am - 3:45pm
Benilde-St. Margaret's School
2501 Highway 100 S, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

The 2020 conference was delivered virtually for the first time with great success! **At this time, we plan to be back in person in August 2021.** We are also exploring the possibility of offering sessions simultaneously with both an in-person and virtual format option. More information about the format for the conference will be forthcoming.

The 2021 conference will continue to provide a selection of breakout sessions that allow teachers to share effective resources, expertise, lessons, and strategies. Presentation proposals from individuals or groups are welcome.

Call for Presenters for STEM Education Conference.

Breakout sessions are one hour in length, with participation limited to 25 attendees. We welcome all kinds of presentations that focus on science, technology, engineering, math, or link these subjects with each other or with other topics, such as social-emotional learning, literacy, social studies, art, social justice, preparing students for college and career, and more. To support the launch of new science standards in Minnesota, we are also eager for presentation proposals that connect to these new standards.

We know from conference evaluations that attendees value presentations that include innovative and practical ideas and resources they can implement in their classrooms. **We also love featuring programs and projects that have received MISF STEM Grant funding.**

All interested presenters must complete the [session proposal form](#) before 5:00 pm on March 22, 2021, so we can provide a complete conference program when registration opens on May 7, 2021.

STEM Grant Applications Due February 16

STEM Grant applications must be received by 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Please review the STEM Grant program materials by clicking on the link: www.misf.org/stem-grants/

We look forward to receiving your STEM grant applications. 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.



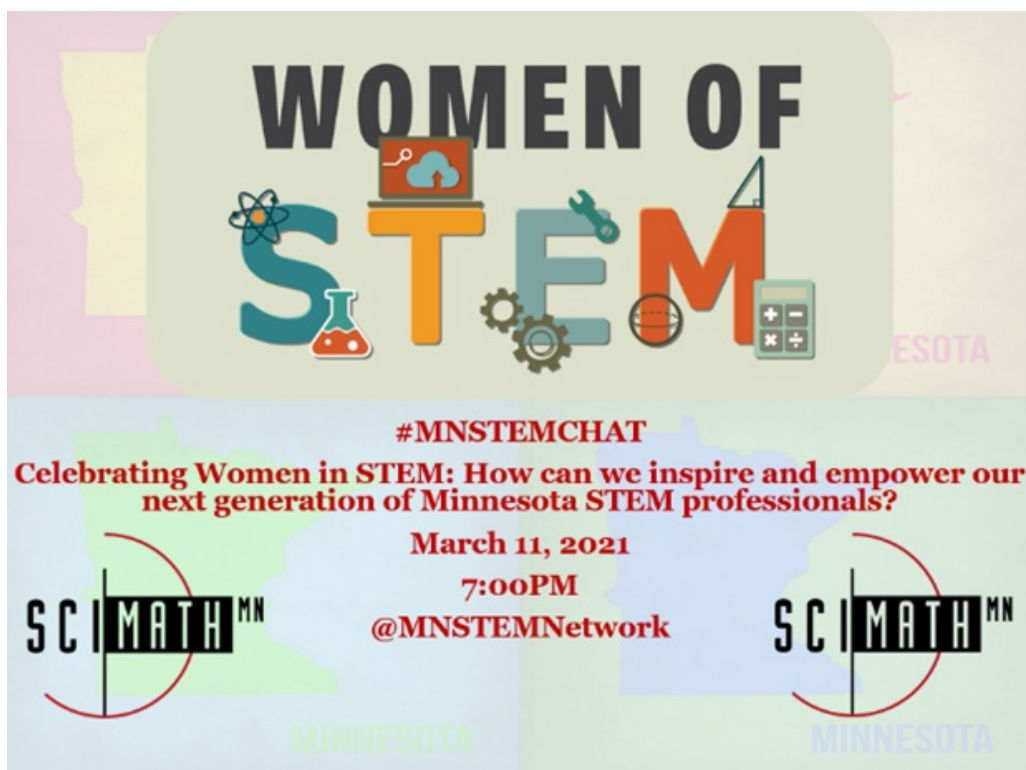
Engineering Machine Design Contest

The Engineering Machine Design Contest is an opportunity for teams of 3-10 students to design and build a complex machine using everyday objects with the guidance of a coach. The completed machine will use multiple steps to complete a simple task. Teams showcase and exhibit their machine at a regional contest with the opportunity to advance to the Engineering Machine Design Championship. Teams are scored on a Team Journal, Team Presentation, and Machine Design and Operation.

Each year a competition theme is chosen to guide the machine build and allow for whimsical creativity to flourish. Students are able to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) principles while having fun in a collaborative

environment. The 2021 content theme is **Driving Change through Transportation**.

Learn more: <https://engineering.mnsu.edu/engineering-machine-design-contest>.



Minnesota Programs and Competitions

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

MDE Science Update for February 2021

Read and download a copy of the February Science Update [here](#).



MISF member schools: Let's Talk About STEM

Looking to better articulate your school's STEM vision, take it to the next level or get recommendations for professional development or resources?

If so, schedule a 30-minute conversation for you/your team with Beth Murphy, MISF's STEM program manager and independent consultant.

[Sign up here](#)

Learn more about Beth at bethmurphyconsulting.com



MISF STEM Learning Community

The MISF STEM Learning Community is an online network created by MISF to provide STEM educators with the opportunity to collaborate and learn from each other to advance STEM teaching and learning. [CLICK HERE to join the MISF STEM Learning Community.](#)

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COVID-19 Vaccine updates

Second Dose Vaccine Appointments Beginning Next Week

School staff who were vaccinated during the first week of the COVID-19 vaccine pilot (between January 21 and January 23) will receive their second dose of the vaccine next week.

With the exception of those who received their first dose at the former Andover site who will now be receiving their second dose of the vaccine at the Blaine site, all educators, school staff and child care workers will receive their second dose of the vaccine at the same location they received their first dose. Staff who have questions about their second dose should contact support@primarybio.com or 1-833-431-2053. Note that staff may not change locations for their second dose.

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What's Working in School Social Media ~ 2021

Marketing Professional Development Webinar March 4, 2021 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Now that hindsight truly is 2020, let's look forward to making 2021 the best year yet for your independent school! Social media is a powerful tool to keep families engaged and this session is going to break down the latest strategies that are working for schools across the country. Andrea works with hundreds of schools just like yours and she will share the tools, tactics, and boundary-saving sanity tips to help you make a bigger impact on your school's communication efforts, even when COVID is still a concern.



Andrea Gribble
Founder, #SocialSchool4EDU

Andrea's passion is helping schools recognize their daily awesomeness and sharing that story with the world. She's built a team that celebrates hundreds of schools across the country! #SocialSchool4EDU provides full social media management, offers an intensive Social Media Bootcamp, and runs a vibrant online community that provides ongoing professional development for school social media champions.

**Click here to
REGISTER**

Professional Development Features

- Earn CEUs for attending
- Access to recorded presentation

Cost:

- FREE for MISF members ([click here to see if your school is a member of MISF](#))
- \$75 for nonmembers. Check with your LEA about using Title funds for registration

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

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Educational Leadership Series

Open to all leaders, administrative staff, and educators

Developing Social-Emotional Learning in Students and Staff

Join MISF virtually for one, two, three or four sessions packed with insights and practical strategies to create a safe and healthy culture for all members of the school community, and develop their potential to think, learn and communicate more effectively. Each session will consist of large group gatherings and small group breakout sessions.

Creating an Effective and Healthy Workplace Culture

SAVE THE DATE!

Session 4 - Wednesday, April 21

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Virtual/Live/Online

The workplace culture has a major impact on the potential of people who work together. This session presents four components of a Top 20 culture that create safety and trust and develops the group's potential: (1) help others succeed, (2) communicate 'you matter,' (3) honor the absent, and (4) see the problem, own the problem. It also presents a tool for assessing the degree to which these components exist in a culture.

Series Features

- Earn CEUs for attending
- Access to recorded presentations

Webinar Cost

MISF Member School Staff: FREE

- [CLICK HERE](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF

- Check with your LEA about using Title funds for registration

Registration opens soon!
[Watch our website](#) and your inbox for details.

Paul Bernabei
Co-Owner/Co-Founder/Senior Facilitator/Author/Director

Paul directs Top 20 Training and has been leading the initiative to transform American education and bring Top 20 to schools around the world. Paul travels the U.S. presenting Top 20 Training seminars. He has been an educator in Twin Cities schools for over 30 years and has conducted hundreds of retreats for youth and adults. He has co-authored Top 20 Teachers: The Revolution in American Education, Top 20 Parents: Raising Happy, Responsible and Emotionally Healthy Children and Top 20 Teens: Discovering the Best-kept Thinking, Learning and Communicating Secrets of Successful Teenagers. He has also authored Why Students Disengage in American Schools and What We Can Do about It. A graduate of St. John's University and the University of St. Thomas, Paul and his wife Paula, a retired kindergarten teacher, have four daughters and fourteen grandchildren. They live in St. Paul, Minnesota.



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

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Nominate someone from your school community for a 2021 Private and Independent Education Award

Nominations will be accepted through Monday February 15

MISF is accepting nominations for the 2021 Private and Independent Education Awards through Monday, February 15th. All private and independent schools in Minnesota are eligible and encouraged to participate. Nominations may be submitted by students, staff, board members, parents, school leaders, or anyone connected to the school community.

Do you know an exceptional educator? How about the volunteer who handles lots of assignments? Who has made a difference in your community by their philanthropy? Take the time to nominate them in one of the following categories.

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.

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.

Program

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

Leadership

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

Honor Teacher

This award recognizes that special teacher at a school, who has a passion for students and education. They're creative, innovative, fair and compassionate, and they model integrity and excellence. They are involved in their communities, and they achieve exceptional outcomes.

If you would like to review the nomination form prior to submitting one, [click here](#).

[Click here to submit a nomination](#)

**The Awards event will be held virtually/online on
Thursday, April 29, 2021**

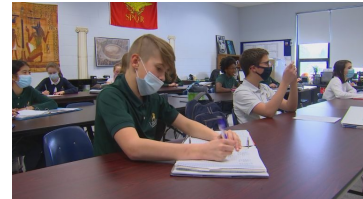
[Watch our event page for more details](#)

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MISF Member School in the News *Liberty Classical Academy, White Bear Lake*

[Follow this link to the Fox9 KMSP story](#) featuring [Liberty Classical Academy](#): Minnesota private schools say they are proof in-person learning can be done safely.

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Join the MISF Member School Network



We would like to invite MISF members to join us on the **MISF Member School Network**, a **private, personalized MISF Group**, in partnership with **ChangeMakers for Impact**.

Participation in this collaborative network is a NEW member benefit that we believe will be of high value as we continue to navigate an ambiguous educational environment. There has never been a greater need for leaders to have a place online where they can connect and be resourced that is accessible anytime.

This NEW member benefit will provide member schools with **FREE** access to our private group - **MISF Member School Network** and the larger [ChangeMaker for Impact Network](#).

Explanation & Benefits

As a member of the **MISF Member School Network**, we want you to get immediate value from being a member.

- **Network** and connect with MISF member school members
- **Authentically collaborate**, connect, and resource one another virtually
- **Access timely information** to navigate a full range of issues
- Access exclusive **professional development training** and resources
- **Stay up to date** on program opportunities, training, and events to support you in your work

Access Instructions

- The **MISF Member School Network** can be accessed via a web browser on your computer or download the Mighty Networks app from the app store to access on your device!
- Click on one of the links below to connect to our partner site, Incubate to Innovate.
- Once connected, access our private site by clicking on GROUPS in the left menu and choose MISF Member School Network.
- BOOKMARK the MISF Member School Network for direct future access.
- Review WELCOME article for more instructions on how to use the site.

Ready to Join?

- **New members** join here: https://changemakersforimpact.mn.co/plans/47176?bundle_token=c587f1edbb98e28626925922be2f27e0&utm_source=manual
- Those **already members of ChangeMakers for Impact**, but want to join the MISF Member School Network join here: https://changemakersforimpact.mn.co/plans/47177?bundle_token=6665cc3e32c7319139196020e97f591b&utm_source=manual

Questions: Lisa Vosbeek, Director of Development & Programs
lvosbeek@misf.org or call 651-424-4930

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Important Dates to Remember

- Monday, February 15: Private & Independent Education Awards nominations due
- Tuesday, February 16: STEM Grant final applications due by 6:00 PM
- Thursday, March 4: What's Working in School Social Media ~ 2021
- Wednesday, April 21: Creating an Effective and Healthy Workplace Culture
- Thursday, April 29: Virtual/Online Private & Independent Education Awards
- Wednesday, August 4: STEM Education Conference

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