



December 2021 Newsletter



Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

Over the last two weeks, MINNDEPENDENT was honored by two member schools for cumulative giving and contributions to their schools. On December 4, Hill-Murray inducted MINNDEPENDENT into their Emerald Club for cumulative giving to their school during their annual President's Dinner (left). On December 12, [**MINNDEPENDENT was recipient of Totino-Grace's 2021 Lasallian Legacy Award**](#) (below) which honors special members of the community who have spent a significant portion of their lives in support of the Totino-Grace mission.

What makes these recognitions so meaningful is that Hill-Murray and Totino-Grace were two founding member schools of the organization in 1976. These long standing relationships illustrate the importance of connection and collaboration in our private and independent educational ecosystem.



Please check the important updates from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) including COVID testing and mitigation grants available to nonpublic schools and ESEA/ESSA training scheduled for Wednesday, December 15.

Linda Holmen, former board chair and long time friend of MINNDEPENDENT/MISF, has helped develop a curriculum focused on volunteering and philanthropy for students of all ages. This was done in partnership with [**Hats & Mittens**](#), a 26-year-old all-volunteer Minnesota non-profit. This curriculum is being offered free of charge to schools, churches, and youth organizations. To learn more and find out how you can use this in your school, [**click here**](#).

Thank you for your partnership, support and firm commitment to MINNDEPENDENT and our growing network of schools. Without you, our work is not possible. We wish you a very restful and peaceful holiday season and a joyous New Year.

We've moved!

5200 Willson Road
Suite 310
Edina, MN 55424

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**

MINNDEPENDENT STEM
Learning Community

READ MORE

MINNDEPENDENT Jobs Board
Member schools can post job listings for free.

READ MORE

Tim Benz

Tim Benz, President

This month's MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



Hassle-Free Lunch Ordering

Looking for an easy way to collect school lunch orders and receive accurate meal counts? Gradelink's new lunch ordering system makes it convenient and efficient for everybody. As parents place their orders online, you'll receive notifications and have easy access to order reports. [Learn more here.](#)



STEM Scoop

2021-2022 STEM Grant Program

Don't miss this opportunity! January 11, 2022 is the due date for Letters of Interest (LOIs) for the **2021/2022 MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant Program**. Once again there are three types of STEM Grants available to fit your school's needs.

- Innovation Grants - up to \$5000
- Starter Grants - up to \$1500
- Sustainability Grants - up to 20% of the original grant, not to exceed \$1500

**STEM Grant Resource
Page**

Resources Available on STEM Grant Page

- STEM Grant Program Calendar
- STEM Grant Guidelines
- Academic Standards and Other STEM nt Resources
- Letter of Interest (LOI) Form
- Grant Application Form
- Project Descriptions of STEM Grant Awarded Last Six Years

If you have questions about the MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant Program feel free to reach out to us.

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.

This program is offered in partnership with the Minnesota Technology Association.

How it Works

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, Nebraska, 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.

[Download the 2022 flyer to learn more about TWIST](#) (PDF, 173 KB)

3M TWIST is now accepting applications until January 17 (St. Paul) or February 21 (non-St. Paul) TWIST program. **[Please click here to register.](#)**

Getting Ready for the New Minnesota Science Standards

Self-paced online professional development in partnership with
Science from Scientists

Earn 6 CEUs

\$75 for MISF Members
use discount code MISF75
Regular Price: \$89

REGISTER NOW

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to use PayPal to pay

In this self-paced online course, you'll engage with the Science & Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts – central to MN's new science standards and the Next Generation Science Standards – and explore how they transform science teaching and learning. This course is designed for classroom educators as well as school leaders who support their work.

Upon completion, you'll receive a certificate for 6 clock hours of professional development. This course has been approved for continuing education credits by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.

What participants are saying

"... the online accessibility ... made it fit into my schedule and allowed me to work at my own pace."

for the course?

At this time we only offer online payments through PayPal. You can pay with any major credit card and do not need to have a PayPal account for this option.

Is it possible to invoice my school?

We allow invoicing for groups of four or more registering together. For more information please contact Renee Piersa at renee@sciencefromscientists.org.

"The descriptions of the SEPs and CCCs were awesome [and the] ... handouts helped me to look more deeply at how to implement this more clearly."

"I ... liked the discussions, to see what other educators were thinking."

"I really liked the format of this class because it has a good variety of tasks to complete."

"The handouts that were included [were valuable], because I can not only use them for my benefit but also display them in my classroom."

"The assignments made me think beyond my comfort level, which was very effective in promoting my individual growth in the science standards."

Instructors

Beth Murphy PhD

Beth is an independent consultant with more than 25 years of experience designing, leading, and evaluating science and STEM education programs – including professional development for educators – in K-12, higher-ed, and out-of-school settings. Beth works with a variety of Minnesota based and national clients, including serving as MISF's STEM program manager. She also serves as a director on the boards of Science from Scientists and SciMathMN. Beth holds a PhD in experimental physics.

Renee Nesnidal, PhD

Renee is a lead instructor for Science from Scientists (SfS), with over 20 years' experience working in science education at K-12 and college levels. Prior to joining SfS, she worked as a consultant with several Minnesota schools to incorporate more hands-on science, lead science workshops for students and educators, and teach summer STEM camps and in-school enrichment programs for students of all ages. She holds a PHD in atomic physics, specializing in laser and optical engineering.

Professional Development Webinars

FIVE KEYS TO SOCIAL MEDIA SUCCESS IN 21-22

Part Two

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

12:00-1:30pm

My, how things have changed regarding school social media! While navigating the negativity can drain your energy, there is still so much to celebrate. Grab a pep talk from School PR's biggest cheerleader, Andrea Gribble. She'll break down five proven strategies for social media success this school year. You'll learn:

- How to build an army of storytellers without spending a dime
- Easy ways to save time
- How to plan your content
- How to boost engagement
- The latest social trends to help you thrive

COST:

Members: FREE

Nonmembers: \$75 per session (Check with your LEA about using Title funds for fees.)



Presented by
Andrea Gribble

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.

[#SocialSchool4EDU](#)

[Click here to register](#)

LEADING OTHERS DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

11:30am - 1:00pm



Presented by
Jessica Werner, Ph.D
Northshore Coaching
& Consulting

The last 1.5 years have taught us a lot, and we are continuing to discover that uncertainty is going to be a part of life for school leaders, at least for the foreseeable future. In this webinar, we will unpack our relationship to ambiguity and discuss how to lead others during uncertain and ambiguous times, while developing a skill set that will help us thrive as leaders. Additionally, we will discuss how uncertainty can be positive, and ultimately enhance our potential as innovative leaders.

COST:

Members: FREE

Nonmembers: \$75 (Check with your LEA about using Title funds for fees.)

Jessica holds a doctorate in Educational Policy and Administration from the University of Minnesota, and a Master's and Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame. She has worked as a classroom teacher in South America, Africa, Eastern Europe, and the United States. She currently teaches graduate courses in education at the Institute for Educational Initiatives at the University of Notre Dame and consults at schools worldwide as an instructional coach and mentor for teachers. She is a certified coach and a senior facilitator of the Personal Leadership program which offers SEL-based strategies for leadership. She lives in St. Paul, MN, with her husband and two children.

[Click here to register](#)



ESEA Title Programs

BD Veritor At-Home COVID-19

Nonpublic Equitable Services for Nonpublic School Officials

Join members of the MDE Student Access and Opportunity Division on **December 15, 2021 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm** for a training on nonpublic equitable services in ESEA Title programs for nonpublic school officials. The session will address winter consultation topics, the LEA's authority for setting reasonable deadlines throughout the year, and the responsibilities of LEA and nonpublic school leaders for ensuring ESEA Title services are provided to nonpublic school students and staff.

If you have questions contact Alicia Waeffler, ESEA/ESSA Nonpublic Ombudsman, at alicia.waeffler@state.mn.us

Tests are Available Now

The State of Minnesota has secured 2.8 million BD Veritor At-Home rapid antigen COVID-19 tests for public, tribal and nonpublic schools. These are available for the use of students and school staff. Learn more about the [BD Veritor At-Home test](#), including how to order tests.

Read the full [November 30 announcement](#) on the availability of BD Veritor tests.

CLIA Certificate of Waiver Needed for Cue COVID-19 Tests

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recently announced that schools and other organizations that are administering Cue COVID-19 tests will need to have a (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver when using them to test people in their facility. **Starting on December 16, 2021, in order to receive Cue tests from MDH in the future, public and nonpublic school districts and school will need to have a CLIA Certificate of Waiver.** You can find more information about the Cue test on MDH's website, including CLIA requirements and options, at [Cue Testing Information \(state.mn.us\)](#). If you have any questions, email COVIDtesting.MDE@state.mn.us.

Minnesota COVID-19 School Testing Program Grants for Nonpublic Schools

Grant funding is now available to support the implementation of COVID-19 testing programs at nonpublic schools for the 2021-22 school year. Every nonpublic school that has reported 2020 enrollment has been [allocated](#) funds. To receive access to these funds, schools must complete a [short application](#). **The deadline to apply is January 10, 2022.** Learn more about [Minnesota COVID-19 School Testing Program Grants for Nonpublic Schools](#).

Important Dates

Tuesday, January 11:

Five Keys to Social Media Success in 21-22 (Pt.2) (12:00-1:30pm)

Tuesday, January 11:

Due date for STEM Grant Letters of Interest (LOIs)

Wednesday, January 19:

Leading Others During Uncertain Times (11:30am - 1:30pm)

Tuesday, February 15:

Due Date for STEM Grant Final Applications

A TRUSTED PARTNER

For Private & Independent Schools



minndependent.org | info@minndependent.org

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