



## January 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

We hope everyone enjoyed a much needed and deserved holiday and New Year break. This month's communication has important updates, including funding opportunities for nonpublic schools.

The [\*\*MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant Program\*\*](#) LOI process closes today at 6pm. This is an exclusive member benefit that can improve and enhance your STEM programming. Since inception, more than \$1.2 million in direct funding has been distributed to member schools across Minnesota. A special thanks to our key program partners 3M, Xcel Energy and Schott Foundation for investing in the next generation of innovators.

The deadline for the Minnesota COVID-19 School Testing Program Grants for Nonpublic Schools has been extended to January 17, 2022. More information can be found below, including a presentation and link to an upcoming webinar. These grants can be used to further enhance COVID testing and mitigation resources at nonpublic schools.

Nominations are open for the 2022 Private and Independent Education Awards. This is the annual opportunity to recognize and celebrate the people, programs and champions that make your private and independent schools community special. To learn more about this program and to view previous events [click here](#).

As you look ahead in 2022, save the date for the 2022 School Leadership Conference, being held September 26-28 at Ruttger's Bay lake Resort.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Tim Benz".

Tim Benz, President

### 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**

**Hats & Mittens** is a 26-year-old all volunteer Minnesota non-profit. Their curriculum, focused on volunteering and philanthropy for students of all ages, is being offered free of charge to schools, churches, and youth organizations. To learn

This month's MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



## Purchase Gradelink Using Public Funds

A number of private schools have used public funds to purchase Gradelink through their local school district. While we would love to provide you with the exact steps to follow, the process will vary for each school based on location and other factors. Fortunately, most schools have been able to use the same general pattern...

[Learn more here](#).

## How to Purchase Gradelink Using Public Funds



## STEM Scoop

### 2021-2022 STEM Grant Program

***Letters of Interest are due TODAY  
Tuesday, January 11 at 6:00***

**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 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.**

**Beth Murphy, Ph.D.,**  
STEM Program Manager  
[bmurphy@misf.org](mailto:bmurphy@misf.org)  
[612-720-2857](tel:612-720-2857)

**Lisa Vosbeek**  
Director of Development & Programs  
[lvosbeek@misf.org](mailto:lvosbeek@misf.org)  
[651-424-4930](tel:651-424-4930)

## Resources and Materials for Educators

Learning opportunities that bring our collections, research, and exhibits together for educators to incorporate into their learning environments.



[Explore resources](#)

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## 3M Twist - Recruiting STEM Teachers

Spend 6 weeks doing R&D with a 3M scientist or engineer and their team. 3M hopes to offer tours of 3M labs and pilot manufacturing facilities.

- Receive a stipend of at least \$4500
- **Program Dates: June 20-July 29, 2022**
- Minnesota Applications Due: **Extended to January 24, 2022**
- Applications accepted from Science, Math, and Tech Ed teachers of students in grades 7-12.

[Direct link to the Teacher Application](#)

Any Questions? e-mail [twist@mmm.com](mailto:twist@mmm.com) or check out our website at [http://www.3m.com/3M/en\\_US/gives-us/education/](http://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/gives-us/education/)

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**Engineering Technology  
STEM Educator Workshop**  
*Engineering Education and more!*

Join Thursday, February 24, 2022  
10:30am - 12:00pm ~ FREE Online  
Professional Development Hours available

Visit the website to receive more details ~ [CLICK HERE](#)

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## 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**

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

use discount code MISF75  
Regular Price: \$89

**REGISTER NOW**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Do I have to use PayPal to pay 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](mailto:renee@sciencefromscientists.org).

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."

"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.

## Private & Independent Education Awards

### NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

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? MINNDEPENDENT is now accepting nominations for the 2022 Private & Independent Education Awards. All private and independent schools in Minnesota are eligible and encouraged to participate.

Nominations are being accepted for 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.

## NOMINATION FORM

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

\*To review the nomination form prior to submitting one, [click here](#).

## Professional Development Webinars

### 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](#)

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**THRIVE RATHER THAN SURVIVE**  
***7 Strategies to Retaining and Attracting Students***  
***Wednesday, February 16, 2022***  
***11:30am - 1:00pm***



*Presented by*  
**Mike Motyl, President,**  
**St. Joseph Academy**  
**Brownsville, TX**

**Consultant,**  
**Northshore Coaching**  
**& Consulting**

School enrollment is driven by two key factors: Keeping the students you already have and attracting new students. This webinar will provide school leaders with tools and strategies that can be immediately implemented to meet your school's enrollment and retention goals. By strengthening your school's retention efforts and increasing the number of your prospects you can shift your school from surviving to thriving!

**COST:**

**Members: FREE**

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

Michael specializes in enrollment management, marketing, and developing long-term, strategic, planning for K-12 schools. He currently serves as President at Saint Joseph Academy and Guadalupe Regional Middle School in Brownsville, TX. During his 12 years in Texas as a school principal and then president, he has been successful in mapping courses for organizational success focusing on: marketing, strategic planning, communication, enrollment management, and advancement. Michael is a two-time graduate of the University of Notre Dame and has received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science in Education from Boston College in 2015 for his exceptional leadership in Brownsville.

[Click here to register](#)



**#SocialSchool4EDU**



## **Social Media Membership Program** ***discounted rate for MINNDEPENDENT member schools!***

Are you struggling to find the TIME and CONTENT to fill your school's social media pages? Get connected to hundreds of people just like you in this one-of-a-kind membership program from #SocialSchool4EDU!

[Read more here](#)



## **DEADLINE EXTENDED: Grant funding for school COVID-19 testing programs**

The deadline to apply for resources to create and maintain a COVID-19 testing program within a nonpublic K-12 school has been extended to January 17, 2022. The State of Minnesota has designated \$15 million of its Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Reopening Schools Grant supported through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for this purpose. Every nonpublic school that reported 2020 enrollment has been allocated funds. View school [allocations](#).

To receive access to these funds, schools must submit a [budget narrative](#) and fill out the requested information in this [application](#). An overview of the program was presented by the Minnesota Department of Education on December 10. View the [slide deck](#).

Schools will be able to use their funds on [ClassWallet](#), a platform that will allow schools to view their grant balance, shop in a Marketplace, submit receipts for reimbursements and/or make payments to approved service providers.

ClassWallet will be hosting a webinar providing an overview of their website on:

- [January 20 from 3-4 p.m.](#)

Additional information about school testing programs can be found at [COVID-19 Testing During the 2021-22 School Year](#).

Questions about the grants or the application can be emailed to [COVIDtesting.MDE@state.mn.us](mailto:COVIDtesting.MDE@state.mn.us).

## **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

### **Wednesday, February 16:**

Thrive Rather than Survive (11:30am - 1:30pm)

# A TRUSTED PARTNER

For Private & Independent Schools



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