



MINNDEPENDENT

March 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

MINNDEPENDENT is pleased to announce the slate of recipients for the **2022 Private and Independent Education Awards**. The individuals and programs represent the finest examples in private and independent school communities across Minnesota. After a two year virtual hiatus, we will gather to celebrate on Sunday, May 1, 4:00-7:00pm at Mendakota Country Club. There has never been a more appropriate time to recognize leaders, educators, staff and volunteers. This celebration is our only event-based fundraiser and critical to our efforts to support our member schools. If you, or your business, is interested in supporting this celebration, please [email Lisa Vosbeek](mailto:lisa.vosbeek@minndependent.org) to learn about sponsorship or advertising opportunities. We are brimming with excitement to gather for an inspiring celebration. Come celebrate with us, and other advocates and supporters of private and independent schools.

As you may know, Jim "Fig" Field passed away on February 23. Jim led MISF for 25 years with grace, determination and a gentle soul. His reach and impact were felt locally and nationally. Upon the announcement of Jim's death, we received so many replies about Jim and his impact. Here's just two prime examples, *"He was such a good, good man. His care for young students was genuine, deep and true."* *"Jim was a sweet soul with a heart of gold. He possessed a unique set of gifts, and was always fun to be around and work with."*

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) released official enrollment figures on February 25. Nonpublic K-12 school enrollment increased to 69,971, an increase of 5.7% over 2020-21 enrollment. The majority of the growth was in grades K-8, with a very slight increase in grades 9-12. A sincere thank you to the educators, leaders and staff that have endured all the changes and disruptions over the last two years on this remarkable outcome and success.

Thank you for your belief and commitment to private and independent education.

We're Hiring!

MINNDEPENDENT is seeking a part-time Accounting and Business Manager. Read more about the position [here](#). Please send a cover letter and resume to jobs@minndependent.org. Applications accepted until position is filled.

We've moved

5200 Willson Road
Suite 310
Edina, MN 55424

MINNDEPENDENT STEM
Learning Community

[READ MORE](#)

MINNDEPENDENT Jobs Board

Member schools can post job listings for free.

[READ MORE](#)

Be sure your school's faculty and staff have subscribed to our newsletter! Important information about STEM grants, Professional Development sessions, advocacy, conferences

Tim Benz

Tim Benz, President

and
more.

SHARE THE
LINK

This month's MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



Standards-Based Grading

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Private & Independent Education Awards

ANNOUNCING THE 2022 PRIVATE & INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

Honor Teacher
REBECCA BULLER
ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC
SCHOOL



Honor Teacher
EMILY HEYDON
ST. PIUS X SCHOOL

Leadership
CARRIE HACKMAN
*ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL*

Leadership
KELBY WOODARD
SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

Behind the Scenes
SUSAN BESSER
MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

Community Champion
JOHN HIGGINS
*ACADEMY OF WHOLE
LEARNING*

Program
THE NICHOLAS CENTER
HILL-MURRAY SCHOOL



SAVE THE DATE!
**The 14th Annual Private & Independent
Education Awards**

**Sunday, May 1
4:00 - 7:00 PM
Mendakota Country Club**

**Watch your inbox and [our website](#)
for registration details**

STEM Scoop

Call for Presenters for the MINNDEPENDENT STEM Education Conference

We invite individuals and groups of teachers from MINNDEPENDENT member schools to submit proposals for breakout sessions. This conference is an exceptional opportunity for teachers to share effective resources, expertise, lessons, and

strategies. 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 MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant funding.

We welcome breakout session proposals that focus on one or more of the STEM disciplines or link them with other subject areas such as language arts, creative arts, social studies, and more. In addition, we are interested in sessions that link STEM with topics such as innovation, social entrepreneurship, social-emotional learning, social justice, and preparing students for college and careers. To support the launch of new science standards in Minnesota, we are also eager for session proposals that connect to these new standards. Breakout sessions are one hour in length, with participation limited to 25 attendees.

If you have an idea for a panel presentation – but need help finding additional teachers to serve on the panel – reach out to STEM Program Manager Beth Murphy at bmurphy@minndependent.org or 612-270-0194.

All interested presenters must complete the session proposal form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YYY5R62> before March 28, 2022.

Minnesota Department of Education Releases First Draft of New Mathematics Standards

The Minnesota Department of Education has released the first draft of [new academic standards in mathematics](#), an important step in the standards review process. The first draft consists of the twenty proposed anchor standards, those standards that act as a summary of all student learning expected in a discipline from kindergarten through high school graduation. It does not include frameworks, the more detailed applications of those standards at different grade levels.

The goal of this initial version is to integrate math practice for students while broadening the purpose of mathematics. This version updates the standards to include both data science and computational thinking, mirroring changes in society and the economy since the last standards update in 2007. Reflecting the growing diversity of Minnesota's students, the draft aims to include multiple cultural perspectives and traditions in mathematics while including relevant historical and contemporary mathematical problem-solving practices of the Dakota and Anishinaabe communities.

The Minnesota Department of Education is asking for public feedback on each of the twenty anchor standards. Learn more at:

- [MN K12 Math Standards Public Review](#)
 - [New MN K12 Mathematics Standards](#)
-

Bring Science Lessons to Life

What better way to inspire the next generation of STEM professionals than by bringing school science lessons to life with a field trip to the Science Museum?

Spark a lifelong passion for science by visiting the dinosaurs, watching a movie in the Omnitheater, and exploring 8 acres of experiments and interactive exhibits with science museum field trips.

[Learn MORE](#)



Spring Education Programs at the Bakken Museum

Give kids the opportunity to tinker, make, and build using tools and technology this spring. Each program offers a chance to learn STEM concepts with guidance from the museum's expert educators and volunteers.

[Learn MORE](#)



Minnesota State Engineering Center of Excellence

Minnesota State Engineering Center of Excellence is excited to announce the NEW Reverse Engineering Challenge program for 5th – 12 grade students.

- This is a same-day experience for teams of 3-5 students.
- The program was designed in partnership with Minnesota 4-H to address [21st Century Skills](#).
- Teams can participate in the Junior (5th-8th grade), Senior (9th-12th grade), or Experiential (non-competitive) Division.
- Teams will be scored on Teamwork, Team Presentation, and Proposed Solution.
- Through this challenge, students are able to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) principles while having fun in a collaborative environment.

[Learn MORE](#)

Remembering Jim Field



We are saddened to share that Jim "Fig" Field, former president, has passed away.

Jim faithfully served as president and president emeritus from 1989-2015 and was a highly respected and admired leader in nonpublic education locally and nationally. Jim led MISF through its transformation to an all encompassing organization serving the entire spectrum of K-12 private and independent schools, growing membership significantly to propel us to where

MINNDEPENDENT is today. We stand on the shoulders of Jim's legacy.

Jim's guiding mantra was always "It's About Kids." That inspired his fierce determination to ensure the needs of students, families, educators and leaders in private and independent schools were known, heard and respected.

A gathering to celebrate Jim and his life will be planned at a later date, and details will be provided once confirmed. Please keep Jim, his wife Martha and their extended family in your thoughts and prayers.



Webinar on EANS & Other Federal COVID Relief Programs

**Wednesday, March 9
3:30 - 4:30 PM EST**

In this webinar, sponsored by CAPE and its member organizations, you will hear from private school leaders across the country who have succeeded in accessing federal COVID relief funds in new and creative ways.

This webinar is for non-public school leaders, system leaders, policy leaders, and advocates at the state and local level.

Agenda

EANS I (CRRSA EANS)

- Non-public schools and EANS funds that have reverted to GEER

EANS II (ARP EANS)

- USDE approved low-income thresholds across the country
- States reapplying to USDE to lower their low-income threshold

GEER

- Non-public school programs under GEER
- Working with your Governor and SEA to ensure access to reverted EANS funds

State and Local Programs Using Federal COVID Relief Funds

- [AEI Report](#)
- Local Tuition Scholarship Program

Please feel free to share this invitation with your networks and colleagues.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SwpxpnbMTJeCdfyNpgaB4Q

College Inside Track

**Free Upcoming Education
Opportunity from College Inside**



Track

· [Savvy Tips for Performing Arts Related College Searches](#) webinar - Thurs, April 7 at 7 pm CT

Important Dates

Sunday, May 1

Private & Independent Education Awards, Mendakota Country Club

Wednesday, August 3:

STEM Education Conference, Benilde-St. Margaret's

September 26-28:

School Leadership Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

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For Private & Independent Schools



MINNDEPENDENT

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