



MINNDEPENDENT

April 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

UPDATE FROM THE STATE CAPITOL: The Minnesota Legislature adjourned for the Easter/Passover break on April 9 and will return to Saint Paul on Tuesday, April 19. The House and Senate have drafted supplemental omnibus budget bills for this session and will pass the bills after the Easter/Passover break. Differences between House and Senate bills will be worked out in conference committees next month. The legislature must adjourn no later than Monday, May 23.

MINNDEPENDENT, in partnership with other nonpublic organizations, successfully advocated for the inclusion of two key provisions in the House Education Omnibus Supplemental Budget and Policy bill:

- [HF3506](#), a measure that expands counseling services for nonpublic students in grades K-6, and
- [HF3937](#), allowing for greater flexibility between school districts and nonpublic schools when transporting nonpublic schools

We are pleased that these two important measures for nonpublic schools have advanced to this stage in the legislative session. We'll continue to keep you updated on progress regarding these bills and others impacting nonpublic schools.

On Sunday, May 1, we will celebrate the 14th Annual [Private and Independent Education Awards](#) at Mendakota Country Club. We invite you to join us as we recognize six special people and one innovative program in private and independent schools in Minnesota. This event is the only event based fundraiser and sponsorship and donations are vital to support MINNDEPENDENT's ongoing mission of connection, collaboration and collective action. If you'd like to honor those being recognized, make a gift [here](#).

After nearly 10 years with MINNDEPENDENT/MISF, business manager Debbie Kaliszewski will retire at the end of this month. While Debbie prefers to operate out of the spotlight, she has guided the financial side of our organization with a keen and detailed oriented eye. There is no better testament to her skills than the fact the organization has 10 consecutive years with clean audits. We wish Debbie the very best in her well-deserved retirement as she spends more time with her family. Please join me in thanking Debbie for her service on behalf of MINNDEPENDENT and the schools we serve.

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

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

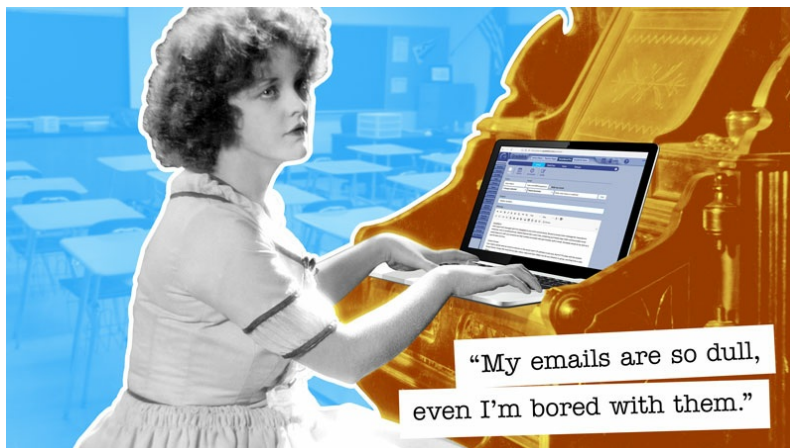


Tim Benz, President

and
more.

SHARE THE
LINK

This month's MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



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Private & Independent Education Awards



MINDEPENDENT

A Trusted Partner For Private & Independent Schools

Invites you to the

14TH ANNUAL PRIVATE & INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AWARDS

SUNDAY
MAY 1, 2022

MENDAKOTA
COUNTRY CLUB

2075 MENDAKOTA DR.
MENDOTA HEIGHTS

4:00 - 5:00 PM
Social Hour

5:00 - 7:00PM
Dinner & Awards

ATTIRE: BUSINESS CASUAL

Information & Registration at www.minndependent.org

**Registration closes April 24th.
Register today!**

Click here to register

2022 STORY AWARD WINNERS



**BEHIND THE SCENES
AWARD**

SUSAN BESSER
MINNEHAHA
ACADEMY

**PROGRAM
AWARD**

**THE NICHOLAS
PROGRAM**
HILL-MURRAY
SCHOOL

**COMMUNITY
CHAMPION AWARD**

JOHN HIGGINS
ACADEMY OF
WHOLE LEARNING

2022 HONOR TEACHER AWARD WINNERS



**HONOR TEACHER
K-6**

EMILY HEYDON
ST. PIUS X SCHOOL



**HONOR TEACHER
7-12**

REBECCA BULLER
ST. ALPHONSUS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2022 LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS



**LEADERSHIP
K-8**



LEADERSHIP

2022 STEM GRANT WINNERS

MINNDEPENDENT awarded STEM grants totaling more than \$36,400 to 10 member schools for projects to be implemented during the 2022-2023 school year.

INNOVATION GRANTS

Academy of Holy Angels - Richfield
Annunciation Catholic School - Minneapolis
Community of Saints Regional Catholic School - West St. Paul
Hand in Hand Christian Montessori - Roseville
Legacy Christian Academy - Andover
Saint Mary's Catholic School - Sleepy Eye
St. John the Baptist Catholic School - Vermillion
St. Michael Catholic School - St. Michael

SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

St. Anastasia Catholic School - Hutchinson
St. Pascal Regional Catholic School - St. Paul

Click here to register

STEM Scoop



**SAVE THE DATE ~
STEM EDUCATION
CONFERENCE**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3
AT
BENILDE-ST.
MARGARET'S**

We are excited to be back together for an IN-PERSON conference this year!



MINNDEPENDENT's Community Partnership with Science from Scientists Program Opportunity

Would you like to bring real scientists into your classrooms to teach high-quality, hands-on STEM to students? Are you looking for professional development opportunities for teachers to prepare for the new science standards? Find out how you can bring Science from Scientists' unique program to your school; virtual or in-person.

As part of our long-standing STEM education partnership with [Science from Scientists](#), MINNDEPENDENT is offering MEMBER schools a special \$1,000 discount on the Scientist-Teacher Partnership program for the 2022-2023 academic year.

[Read more about this opportunity here.](#)

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:

- [New MN K12 Mathematics Standards](#)
-



Learning with NASA is Out of this World!

NASA's Artemis mission is inspiring students, in partnership with LEGO Education, by offering free [Build to Launch Curriculum](#) to schools nationwide, giving students a chance to learn from and interact with our nation's top aeronautics

leaders as they progress towards a first launch in 2022.

[Learn more about the Artemis mission and their collaboration with LEGO education here.](#)

Online Lessons ~ FREE COURSES FOR K-12

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



[Discover more here](#)

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](#)

Flint Hills Family Festival



Ordway Center for the Performing Arts is hosting the annual Flint Hills Family Festival. The festival School Week is Tuesday, May 31 - Friday June 3; the Family Weekend is June 3 - June 4.

[Learn more here](#)

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

minndependent.org | info@minndependent.org

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