



July 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

Thank you to those who completed the needs assessment and membership evaluation survey. The information captured and survey results are very valuable and will help guide programming, advocacy and ensure MINNDEPENDENT is meeting the needs "on the ground" for private and independent school leaders and staff.

SAVE THE DATE! Make sure to block September 26-28, 2022, for our annual [School Leadership Conference](#) at [Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort](#). The conference begins Monday evening and concludes Wednesday at 11:30 AM. Detailed information on agenda, topics and schedule will be sent in August. This conference is a valuable part of a leader's personal and professional development. Come join your colleagues for meaningful connection and collaboration...and some time to recharge. **This is a members only benefit, so if you are interested in becoming a member, please [send me an email](#).**

Many companies are unaware that they qualify for the CARES Act Employee Retention Credit (ERC). The ERC allows businesses impacted by COVID-19 to receive a refundable, above the line payroll tax credit. This credit can be utilized as a cash refund and is worth up to \$26,000 per employee. [Synergi Partners](#) will present a webinar on Wednesday, July 20 to discuss eligibility and showcase how the ERC can greatly benefit your organization. [Click here for more information and to register](#).

The Minnesota Department of Education continues to develop and outline the process for the remaining/leftover ARP-EANS (EANS II) funds. Every nonpublic school that did not qualify for the initial round of ARP-EANS will be eligible to participate in this secondary round. Watch for more information from MINNDEPENDENT, MDE and your diocesan or jurisdictional organizations.

The deadline to apply for the Frontline Worker Pay Program is July 22. Employers should make sure staff are informed of the deadline to apply. Complete details and application requirements can be found at www.frontlinepay.mn.gov.

We've moved

5200 Willson Road
Suite 310
Edina, MN 55424

MINNDEPENDENT Member Network

[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 more and find out how you can use this in your school, [click here](#).

Be sure your school's faculty and staff have subscribed to our newsletter! Important information

We hope every school leader, educator and staff member has time to refresh this summer. Thank you for your support and belief in private and independent education.



Tim Benz, President

about
STEM grants, Professional
Development sessions,
advocacy, conferences and
more.

SHARE THE
LINK

This month's MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



The Complete Report Card Design Guidebook

Designing high-quality report cards doesn't have to be daunting. See lots of examples of high-quality private school report cards [at this link](#).

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STEM Education Conference
Wednesday, August 3
Benilde-St. Margaret's School
St. Louis Park

Early Bird Pricing extended through July 15. Register Today!

We are excited to be back in-person for the 2022 STEM Education Conference. The conference provides an exceptional opportunity for teachers, STEM

specialists and school leaders to learn about innovative and practical ideas and resources they can implement in their classrooms and schools. This year's conference features:

- A selection of traditional one-hour breakout sessions and longer (135 minute) intensives
- Sessions by teachers from MINNDEPENDENT member schools, including presentations about STEM grant projects
- Sessions linking STEM to Social-Emotional Learning
- Earn CEUs

[Click here for conference schedule and breakout session descriptions.](#)

[Register Here](#)



Members

> Early Bird Price (Through July 15): \$55

> Regular Price (After July 15): \$75

Nonmembers

> Early Bird Price (Through July 15): \$125

> Regular Price (After July 15): \$175

* Check with your LEA about using Title Funds for registration

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MINNDEPENDENT annual membership renewal invoices are being emailed to schools. If you are a current member, THANK YOU. We hope you will remain a member of a growing and engaged network of 172 schools.

If you are not a current member, [but have benefitted or engaged in our offerings](#) during the past year, please contact [Tim Benz](#) to discuss membership. New member incentives are available.

SAVE THE DATE! School Leadership Conference September 26-28 Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

We're planning to come together in-person for networking, learning, conversation and FUN! Watch your inbox and [our website](#) for more information.

STEM SCOOP

WE SHARE SOLAR

FULLY FUNDED STEM *program opportunity for member schools for the 2022-2023 school year*

In partnership with We Share Solar and generous funding from H.B. Fuller Company Foundation, MINNDEPENDENT is offering a limited number of opportunities for member schools to participate in a **fully funded** program during the 2022-2023 school year. The program, called Power2Share, is designed for students in Grade(s) 7-12 and can be implemented during the school day or as an after-school program.

Learning goals focus on solar energy, climate change, social justice, and innovation. Power2Share offers teachers flexibility on when to implement the program during the 2022-2023 school year. Core lessons take approximately 5-10 hours, including hands-on lab activities.

Participating teachers will complete a self-paced, online training program to prepare for implementation with students, including tools for teaching principles of solar electricity and facilitating innovative thinking in engineering. Teachers earn clock hours upon completion.

Each participating school will receive two Solar Suitcase kits (stand-alone solar electric systems), including solar lab materials and tools. Program implementation is supported by full access to a virtual learning platform and a curriculum library that allows students and teachers to learn together, accessible anywhere and anytime. This includes 5-10 hours of core lessons plus a supplemental lesson library of 20+ hours of additional lessons that can be adapted by each teacher. In the classroom, teachers lead students through the interactive lessons and hands-on building of a stand-alone solar electric system. In addition, students learn about the impact of innovative solutions to global problems by participating in the international donation of one of the Solar Suitcase they build to an area experiencing energy poverty and lack of access to reliable electricity.

Upon completion, one Solar Suitcase will remain at the school for in-place emergency preparedness and to serve as an ongoing solar learning tool. Once the second Solar Suitcase is installed at its destination in East Africa, students will receive a high-impact placement story and photos, showing their work in action. The multi-disciplinary approach meets Next Generation Science Standards, teaches young people that they can be agents for positive change and highlights renewable solar energy as a powerful solution to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

MINNDEPENDENT is excited to offer this solar energy and community service program at no cost to schools.



Gain solar literacy.



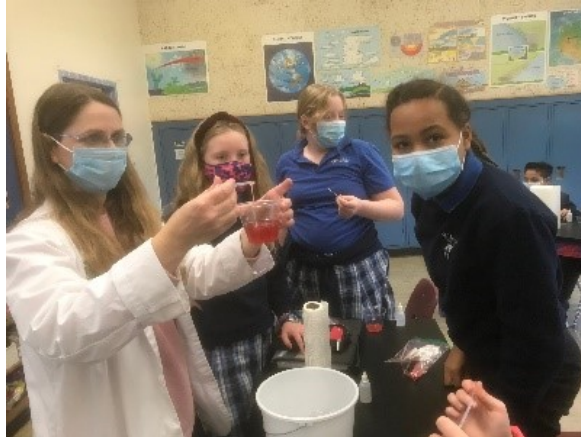
Practice stem skills.



Be a global citizen.

Complete Interest Application Here -Due July 15, 2022

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



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.](#)

Join CSTA Minnesota (for free!)

The Minnesota Chapter of the CSTA will be the leader in getting Computer Science recognized as an important discipline in the K-12 curriculum; establishing clear state level standards; offering timely and purposeful professional development for computer science teachers.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Next Gen Navigator

This monthly e-newsletter delivers information, insights, resources, and professional learning opportunities for science educators by science educators on the Next Generation Science Standards and three-dimensional instruction.



Learn More - <https://www.nsta.org/nextgennavigator>

NSTA Reports

NSTA Reports is our new weekly e-newsletter



replacing NSTA Express. NSTA Reports will feature news on science education and education in general; highlight NSTA resources, including new lesson plans and journal articles; showcase professional learning opportunities; and so much more. As you engage with the content in the e-newsletter, we will learn your preferences and personalize it to include the most

relevant news article to you. Rest assured, you will still find the same trusted articles and quality resources that you've come to expect from us. Learn More - <https://www.nsta.org/types/nsta-reports>

Simple Machines on the International Space Station

NASA and the International Space Station are pleased to present the latest [STEMonstrations](#) episode that invites students to learn about the six different types of simple machines and explore how astronauts aboard the International Space Station use simple and compound machines to complete tasks in microgravity. The [Classroom Connection](#) released with this video challenges students to explore their environment in search of simple and compound machines. For more STEMonstrations and activities, visit the [STEM on Station](#) website.

Science and Engineering in Preschool Through Elementary Grades

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASME) is hosting a series of webinars based on the recently released report [Science and Engineering in Preschool Through Elementary Grades: The Brilliance of Children and the Strengths of Educators](#). Each webinar is designed to elevate several important themes described in the report—equity, early education, integration, teacher professional learning, and instructional practice—and will engage with leading scholars and stakeholders around these issues. [Register](#) for the next webinar is scheduled for July 21, 2022.

MEMBER SCHOOL NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

In our ongoing effort to ensure member satisfaction and meet the professional development needs of member schools, MINNDEPENDENT wants to hear from you.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey linked below. Our goal is to identify which program offerings and professional development content are most important for you and your school community. The survey results will help create future program offerings, including conference and professional development schedules for the coming year.

In addition, we ask for your honest assessment of your membership satisfaction and engagement. This information will also help inform our current strategic planning efforts.

THANK YOU for your valuable input on this survey!

[Click here to access the survey](#)

School Indoor Air Quality Training

MDH is offering school IAQ plan trainings in fall 2022, in-person statewide and a webinar. This training will discuss the state's best practices for school IAQ management plans. School staff, service providers, and others are welcome to attend. The training is free. Registration is required. See [MDH School IAQ Plan Training](#) for details and registration.

Air Filtration Systems Now Available Through ClassWallet

Access to ClassWallet Extended

Non-public schools that received a [COVID-19 School Testing Grant](#) from the Minnesota Department of Education can continue to purchase goods and pay for services through ClassWallet until July 30, 2022. Allowable expenses for the grant funds will continue to include products and services to create or maintain COVID-19 testing programs or purchase portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items costing less than \$5,000 that may allow for improved air circulation. If you have questions on allowable expenses, please contact COVIDtesting.MDE@state.mn.us.

Important Dates

Wednesday, July 20:

Synergi Partners Webinar: How the ERC Can Help Businesses Impacted by COVID

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



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