



January 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

Happy 2023 to you! I hope you had an opportunity to refresh and recharge over the recent holiday season.

The Minnesota Legislative Session began on January 3, 2023. This is a "budget year" which means the session will have additional dynamics and focus on creating Minnesota's two-year budget. You will hear more about key legislative priorities in the near future, but MINNDEPENDENT, along with other collaborative partners, will ensure a strong and unified voice for the private and independent schools throughout the session. In the end, we will advocate **for** programs, services and resources that benefit students and staff in private and independent schools while monitoring and defending **against** issues that infringe on the unique mission and autonomy of our schools.

Nominations are now being accepted for the [2023 Private and Independent Education Awards](#). This remains the single opportunity to recognize and celebrate the people and programs that make private and independent schools remarkable communities. Curious about our last year's recipients? Check out their highlight videos on [our Vimeo page](#).

The STEM Grant program deadlines are right around the corner. Make sure to submit your LOI by January 17 to ensure your school has the opportunity to apply for a 2023 STEM Grant. This remains a highly valued member benefit, and has injected more than \$1.3 million directly to member schools for projects and programs. Check out the 2023 STEM Grant calendar and other helpful resources [here](#). Thanks to the remarkable generosity of the Schott Foundation, there are additional funds available for the 2023-24 STEM Grant Program. While the process is competitive, this might be the perfect time for your school to "take the leap" and apply. If you have questions about the STEM Grant program reach out to [Beth Murphy](#), our STEM Program Manager, or [Lisa Vosbeek](#), Director of Development and Programs.

We wish you a prosperous New Year. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to private and independent

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MINNDEPENDENT has negotiated a discounted rate for member schools interested in participating in the [#SocialSchool4EDU Membership Program](#).

READ MORE

MINNDEPENDENT Member Network

READ MORE

MINNDEPENDENT Jobs Board

Member schools can post job listings for free.

READ MORE

education in Minnesota.



Tim Benz, President

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](#).

SHARE THE LINK!

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.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



What is MFA and Why is it So Important to School Digital Security?

Protect your data from hackers this year. Learn how multi-factor authentication (MFA) works, what risks exist without this added layer of protection, and how you can enable it at your work today. [Read more here....](#)

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2022-2023 STEM Grant Program

**Letters of Intent Due
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6PM**

*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

Available on the STEM Grant Resource Page

- [STEM Grant Program Calendar](#)
- [STEM Grant Guidelines](#)
- [Academic Standards and Other STEM Resources](#)
- [Letter of Interest \(LOI\) Form \(PDF\)](#)
- [Submit Letter of Interest \(LOI\) Here](#)
- [Grant Application Form \(reference only\)](#)
- [On Demand Video: How to write a winning STEM Grant Proposal](#)
(presented by Beth Murphy, STEM Program Manager)
- [Project Descriptions of STEM Grants Awarded Last Six Years](#)

Important STEM Grant Program Dates

- **Tuesday, November 8:** STEM Grant Program information available
- **Tuesday, January 17:** Due date (6pm) for STEM Grant Letters of Intent

(LOIs)

- **Tuesday, February 14:** Due date (6pm) for STEM Grant Final Applications
- **Sunday, April 30:** STEM Grant Awardees honored at the 2023 Minnesota Private & Independent Education Awards Celebration

QUESTIONS?

Beth Murphy, Ph.D.,
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Lisa Vosbeek
Director of Development & Programs
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651-424-4930

*Only MINNDEPENDENT member schools are eligible to receive STEM grants. For more information on becoming a member, [click here](#).

STEM Scoop



**MINNESOTA
ACADEMY
OF SCIENCE**

2023 State Science & Engineering Fair

Friday, March 24, 2023, at the Saint Paul River Centre in St. Paul, located at 175 Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55102

The Minnesota Academy of Science (MNMAS) is excited to announce that the Minnesota State Science and Engineering Fair will be returning to in-person format in 2023! Since 1950, the MNMAS has celebrated excellence in STEM education and research by providing middle and high school students with opportunities to showcase their scientific research, network, and compete for state-level awards.

LEARN MORE - <https://www.mnmas.org/2023-state-science-fair-details>

Minnesota statewide Science Bowls

Fast-paced team Q & A competitions, covering all branches of science and math, for middle school and high school students. The winning teams represent Minnesota at the National Science Bowl, all expenses paid! Both tournaments will be held in-person in the Twin Cities region, circumstances permitting.

MN High School Science Bowl 1/28/23; registration deadline Dec. 15
MN Middle School Science Bowl 2/11/23; registration deadline Jan. 15

LEARN MORE and REGISTER - <https://www.mnmas.org/2020-science-bowl-registration>



TWIST Program

Teachers Working in Science and Technology

When your students ask...
When am I ever going to use this?
What do engineers do?
Why do we have to work together?
How do you answer?

TWIST teachers: Spend 6 weeks doing R&D with a **3M scientist** or engineer and their team

- We hope to offer tours of 3M labs and pilot manufacturing facilities
- Receive stipend of \$5000

Program Dates: **June 19-July 28, 2023**

Minnesota Applications Due: **January 16, 2023**

Outstate Applications Due: **February 20, 2023**

Applications accepted from Science, Math, and Tech Ed teachers of students in grades K-12.

Any Questions? e-mail twist@mmm.com or check out our website at http://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/gives-us/education/
Once on the website scroll down

[Direct link to the Teacher Application](#)

TWIST is a partnership with the Minnesota Technology Association

"My host and work group were amazing, the project I worked on felt relevant and important, and the in-person tours were super cool!" TWIST Teacher – Class 2022

Private & Independent Education Awards Nominations Now Being Accepted



**The 2023 Private & Independent Education Awards
Sunday, April 30th at the Mendakota Country Club, Mendota Hts.**

Are you looking for a chance to recognize and celebrate the hard work, dedication and achievements of your school community's donors, volunteers, faculty and staff? Consider nominating them for a private and independent education award. It's a great opportunity to give them the recognition they deserve. Don't miss this chance to honor those who make a difference!

Nominations are due by **Monday, February 13th at 5:00pm** and 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.

[Click here](#) to view or download a preview of the nomination form. When you are ready to submit a nomination click on the button below.

Click here to submit a nomination

Maximizing EANS Funds to Benefit Your School & Navigating ClassWallet Professional Development Webinar

**January 24, 2023
10:00 am - 11:30 am
Virtual/Zoom Session**

**Presenters:
Shawn Poyser, Ed. D
Director of School Partnerships
and
Khaliah Williams
Director of School Partnerships |
Midwest**



[Catapult Learning, LLC](#)

Each school has its own specific needs, and EANS funding can be used to address those needs. When determining how to spend your EANS funds, it may be helpful to ask yourself:

- Do you have small group interventions and tutoring programs for all students who might benefit from them?
- Are you providing ongoing professional development and coaching for your staff?
- Do you offer emotional support services such as family counseling and social work services, or in-school nursing services?

The webinar, provided by Catapult Learning, will include an overview of EANS funding with additional information on how to navigate ClassWallet. The webinar will conclude with a Q&A session.

COST

Member schools: Free

Nonmember schools: \$75 (check with your LEA about using Title Funds for registration.)

Dr. Shawn Poyser is a Director of School Partnerships for Catapult Learning. He has served in a variety of roles over the past 30 years from teacher, coach, principal, and athletic director to superintendent. Recently he retired from the Warsaw School District (Missouri), where he served as Superintendent of Schools.

Khaliah Williams is the Director of School Partnerships/Midwest for Catapult Learning. She specializes in helping schools execute programs to support a wide range of students.

[Click here to register](#)

What's Working for School Social Media Professional Development Webinar

January 31, 2023
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Andrea Gribble from [#SocialSchool4EDU](#) is back with more tips and trends for your school's social media. She'll break down five proven strategies for social media success:

- How to build an army of storytellers
- Easy ways to save time
- How to plan your content
- How to boost your engagement
- The latest social trends to help you thrive



COST

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[Click here to register](#)

Important Dates

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Monday, February 13, 2023 (5:00 pm deadline):

Due date for Private and Independent Education Award Nominations

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 (6:00 pm deadline):

Due date for STEM Grant applications for project implementation during the 2023-2024 school year

Sunday, April 30, 2023:
Private and Independent Education Awards
Mendakota Country Club

August, 2023, Date TBA:
STEM Education Conference

September 25-27, 2023:
School Leadership Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

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