



MINNDEPENDENT

July 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education,

We extend a warm welcome to the following schools as new members of MINNDEPENDENT: Immanuel Lutheran (Mankato), St. Peter's Catholic (Forest Lake), Immanuel Lutheran (Walker), Zion Lutheran (Alexandria), St. John's Lutheran (Thief River Falls), Crown Christian (St. Francis), Good Shepherd Lutheran HS (Otsego), St. Paul's Lutheran (Perham) and Prince of Peace Lutheran (St. Cloud). If you are not currently a member, but interested in connecting to a broad and diverse network of private and independent schools, [send me an email](#). Curious what members value about their membership? Check out <https://minndependent.org/about-us/> or view our [benefits of membership](#) page.

Current member renewal invoices were emailed in early July. If you have not yet received your invoice, please check your spam folder. If you still cannot find it, please let me know and we will resend a copy. Thank you for your prompt payment. Your continued engagement is greatly appreciated.

The [2023 School Leadership Conference](#) is just around the corner. This annual conference remains the premier gathering of private and independent school leaders for connection and collaboration. Registration will open in early August, but topics confirmed include; School/Employment Law, Equitable Services in Nonpublic Schools, Leading the Independent School: 10 Skills for Success and Culture Reset: Better Than Ever and Stronger. A special thanks to our generous sponsor partners that keep this conference affordable for attendees. Visit the [School Leadership Conference](#) page to view the draft agenda and our sponsor partners.

We wish everyone a restful, refreshing and enjoyable remainder of the summer. Thank you for your support and commitment to MINNDEPENDENT.

Tim Benz, President

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](#)

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

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



**How to get more Inquiries with your website.
Video | A Comprehensive Guide to the 5 website must-haves for driving enrollment.**

[Click here to read more.](#)

Steve Lockwood | Sales Executive
M: 949-682-7019

E: steve@gradelink.com

www.gradelink.com





2023 STEM Education Conference Tuesday, August 1, 2023 Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove

- Come together with other educators, STEM specialists, and school leaders to gain new insights, discover new trends, and bring innovative ideas back to your school that promote imaginative learning and student engagement.
- **Get ready for an exhilarating day of innovation, inspiration & connection!**
- Expand your knowledge with a variety of 1-hour breakout sessions led by MINNDEPENDENT member teachers, including presentations about STEM grant projects.
- **Explore ways to build social-emotional learning into STEM teaching.**
- Immerse yourself in hands-on experiences to regain student perspectives.
- Check out new education curriculum, products and resources.
- Earn 4.5 BOSA- Approved CEUs

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout sessions will be chosen upon registering. **Space is limited to 25 people for each session so register early to ensure availability**

[View Breakout Descriptions](#)

CONFERENCE FEES

Member Schools: \$75
Nonmember Schools: \$175

[REGISTER HERE](#)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM - Registration and Breakfast

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM - Welcome and Keynote

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM - Session One

10:50 AM - 11:50 AM - Session Two

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM - Lunch

12:50 PM - 1:50 PM - Session Three

2:10 PM - 3:15 PM - Session Four & Conference Evaluation

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM - Pick up CEU certificates

HOST SPONSOR



SPONSOR EXHIBITORS

Sponsor exhibitors will be available to showcase products and services offered to the STEM Education Community. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about sponsorship opportunities.

STEM PROGRAM SPONSORS



SCHOTT FOUNDATION

CONFERENCE HOST SPONSOR



CONFERENCE PARTNER SPONSORS

thrivent



QUESTIONS

Contact Lisa Vosbeek, Director of Development & Programs

STEM Scoop



Gain solar literacy.



Practice stem skills.



Be a global citizen.

WE SHARE SOLAR

FULLY FUNDED STEM program opportunity for 2 member schools for the 2023-2024 school year

In partnership with We Share Solar, MINNDEPENDENT is offering 2 member schools the opportunity to participate in a **fully funded** program during the 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 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.

Click to Complete Interest Application – DEADLINE July 28,

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



MINNESOTA STATE

Engineering Center of Excellence

Virtual Training Symposium

You are invited to attend the Siemens Virtual Training Symposium. There will be four separate one week in duration classes offered intended to help secondary school teachers to obtain the skills and confidence to deliver the Siemens STEM curriculum. Please share this announcement with other teachers.

Upon successful completion of these training sessions, Siemens will provide each teacher with a Certificate of Continuing Education Units (40 contact hours).

Siemens is committed to making the Siemens Engineering Pathway courses effective and affordable for any secondary school and we are pleased to offer **this training free of charge**. However, it is important to note that class enrollment is limited to 21 attendees each, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Course 3: Mechatronics and the Internet of Things (IoT)

This virtual course meets daily from 9:00 AM through 4PM ET beginning **July 24th - 28th**. This course will focus on the engineering of mechatronic systems, a combination of robotics, electronics, computer programming, control, and product engineering, as well as communications between systems securely over the internet.

Course 4: Engineering Research and Development

There will be a virtual overview of this course late summer. Date to be announced. Learn more and register:

<http://siemensdesign.tomwhitestem.com/training-schedule>



Girls Who Code is providing more free and flexible computer science resources for our community!

Whether you're looking for last minute summer programming or planning for the school year ahead, Girls Who Code has your back!

When you sign up to start a Girls Who Code Club, you'll get access to everything you need -- including training, comprehensive resources, and over 120 hours of easy-to-use and flexible coding curriculum for 3-12th graders! Clubs curriculum feature coding tutorials for all skill levels, inspiring women in tech, community-building activities to increase confidence, and project-based learning related to activism.

You don't need any prior coding experience to get started! Plus -- all genders are welcome in this girls-supportive environment. Learn more about the Clubs program [here](#) or join a webinar [here](#).

Sign up here to access GWC's free Clubs curriculum & resources!

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by

Educators Deserve Financial Clarity!

Include **FREE, Financial Education workshops** at teacher prep training, before or after school, or let Thrivent provide a Lunch and Learn.

Workshops run between 30 - 60 minutes and can be customized to meet your specific needs. No products will be sold.

LEARN MORE

To schedule a workshop contact:

Sue Furry, Thrivent's Engagement Leader
sue.furry@thrivent.com, or 651-666-8695

thrivent[®]

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



SAVE THE DATES!

The annual School Leadership Conference is the premier gathering of private and independent school leaders from across Minnesota. Whether you are a new school leader eager to expand your network, or a seasoned veteran looking for fresh new ideas, this is the place for you. Registration begins in early August. Watch your inbox and [our website](#) for more information. We hope to see you there!



MINNDEPENDENT Membership Renewal

Renewal invoices have been emailed to member schools and associate members.

MINNDEPENDENT membership gives your school access to discounted or free resources, publications and exclusive education offerings. MINNDEPENDENT also provides invaluable support to public policy initiatives on behalf of the nonpublic school ecosystem. [Click here to read more about the benefits of membership.](#)

Renew your membership today! If you aren't currently a member and want to learn more, [reach out to us](#) for more information.

We look forward to serving you in the 2023-2024 school year!

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



[Read more about 360 Security Services](#)

School Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Training



MDH is offering school IAQ trainings in fall 2023, in-person statewide and a webinar. This training will discuss requirements and best practices for school IAQ. School staff, service providers, health officials,

and others are welcome to attend. The training is free. Registration is required. See [MDH School IAQ Plan Training](#) for details and registration.

Important Dates

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

*STEM Education Conference
Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove*

September 25-27, 2023:

School Leadership Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

A TRUSTED PARTNER
For Private & Independent Schools



MINNDEPENDENT

minndependent.org | info@minndependent.org

MINNDEPENDENT | 5200 Willson Road, Suite 310, Edina, MN 55424

[Unsubscribe](#) tbenz@minndependent.org

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by tbenz@minndependent.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!