



MINNDEPENDENT

September 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education,

There are certain days that stand out in an organization's history; Monday, August 21 was one of those days. MINNDEPENDENT received a remarkable grant from the WEM Foundation that invests in our new strategic plan implementation over the coming years. This transformational gift will enhance member benefits, resources, data and board engagement. This is the largest grant to MINNDEPENDENT/MISF in more than a decade. We are confident this will inspire others to invest in the future of the organization to further our vision of "A vibrant educational ecosystem that promotes success for all Minnesota students." We extend our heartfelt thanks to Betty MacMillan and Jim Hield of the WEM Foundation for the confidence placed in MINNDEPENDENT to connect and strengthen Minnesota's private and independent schools.

The deadline to register for [the 2023 School Leadership Conference](#) is Tuesday, September 19. Make plans to join 65 fellow school leaders already committed to attending the premier gathering of private and independent school leaders from across the state. A very special thank you to our conference sponsors for their faithful support. Their participation ensures a high quality agenda and experience for attendees.

Membership keeps on growing at MINNDEPENDENT! We welcome the following new member schools to our growing network; St. Francis Xavier Catholic School (Sartell), All Saints Academy (St. Cloud), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School (St. Cloud), St. Joseph Catholic School (St. Joseph), St. Katharine Drexel School (St. Cloud), St. Mary Help of Christians School (St. Augusta), Cathedral Jr/Sr High School (St. Cloud). Since July 1, MINNDEPENDENT has welcomed 21 new member schools and 2 associate members. [Contact me](#) if you are interested in becoming a member, and to learn about new member incentives.

The deadline for EANS I is September 30, 2023. Any questions on your allocation and available funds should be directed to anita.tayson@state.mn.us.

We wish you a safe and rewarding 2023-24 school year. Thank you for your support of private and independent education.

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](#)

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,



Tim Benz, President

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



Grow Your Enrollment in 5 Easy Steps

Get the free email course that will show you how to use your website to clarify your message and grow your school's admissions.

[Click here to read more.](#)

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



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

The School Leadership Conference is the premier gathering of private and independent school leaders from across Minnesota. Join the more than 65 school leaders who have already registered for three days of learning, networking and inspiration.

Registration ends on Tuesday, September 19th. Reserve your spot now!

Earn 6.75 BOSA-Approved CEUs

[Conference Agenda](#)
[Presenter Biographies](#)

CONFERENCE FEES

One Day: \$300
Two Days: \$400

Cost includes lodging, all resort fees, meals and conference materials

Day only: \$105

Cost includes Tuesday lunch or Wednesday breakfast, and conference materials

FIRST TIME ATTENDEE COST

One Day: \$300

Two Days: \$300

(special pricing! Two night for the price of one.)

Cost includes lodging, all resort fees, meals and conference materials

Day only: \$105

Cost includes Tuesday lunch or Wednesday breakfast, and conference materials

REGISTER HERE

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Financial Clarity for All (Staff, Teachers & Parents)

Invite a Thrivent financial professional to provide **FREE, Financial Education** before or after school, or even during lunch. Workshops run 30 - 60 minutes, nothing sold, pure financial education.

Click here to see Thrivent's workshop brochure.

To schedule a workshop at your school contact:

*Sue Furry, sue.furry@thrivent.com, 651-666-8695 or
Bruce Plautz, bruce.plautz@thrivent.com, 920-851-7298*

The logo for Thrivent, featuring the word "thrivent" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. A small red heart icon is positioned above the letter "t".

STEM Scoop



Intermediate Scratch PD

Virtual on Monday, September 30 (8:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT)

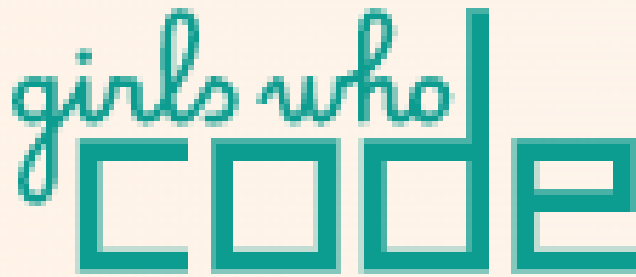
What You'll Learn

- Advanced Scratch coding techniques
- Creative project ideas for diverse subjects
- Assessment strategies for Scratch-based assignments

Takeaway

Materials and resources to support you in Scratch integration

[LEARN MORE](#)



Start a Girls Who Code Club and you will get access to free curriculum and activities for 3rd-12th graders to unleash their creativity, gain valuable coding skills, and become future tech leaders and innovators.

- ***While it's girls-focused, all genders are welcome to join, and you can name your school's club anything you like!***

Club participants build websites, applications, and games tackling important topics from climate change to cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, and Club Facilitators get everything they need to oversee their Clubs - including a \$300 Club fund - no computer science experience required!

Sign up at girlswhocode.com/clubsapply to get started!

Remember to affiliate with MINNDEPENDENT when asked for your Community Partner on the application.



STEM Educator Workshop - Supercharging Student Engagement with the

Science of Human Attention

Virtual on Thursday, September 28 (10:30 AM - 12:00 PM CDT)

Student attention can be slippery to pin down. It flows and ebbs throughout the day, week, and semester. Sometimes, when we need to capture it most, it also becomes the most vaporous and difficult. So, what are the mechanics behind human attention? Are there ways we can capture it consistently? And how can we use it in our face-to-face and virtual classrooms?

[LEARN MORE](#)



industry professionals to learn about their careers and to explore strategies to bring industry into their classrooms. Join us for topics from electric vehicles and semiconductors to water stewardship and biotechnology!

Demystifying Careers in Industry:

Bioinformatics

Virtual on Thursday, Sept. 21 (5:00 – 6:00pm PST)

What does it really take to confidently work in industry today? Through the lens of his work in bioinformatics, **Atet Kao** takes us on a journey to demystify the actual skills needed by industry professionals, and Svea Anderson helps us directly connect this to our classrooms. Industry Leader: Atet Kao, Teacher Leader: Svea Anderson

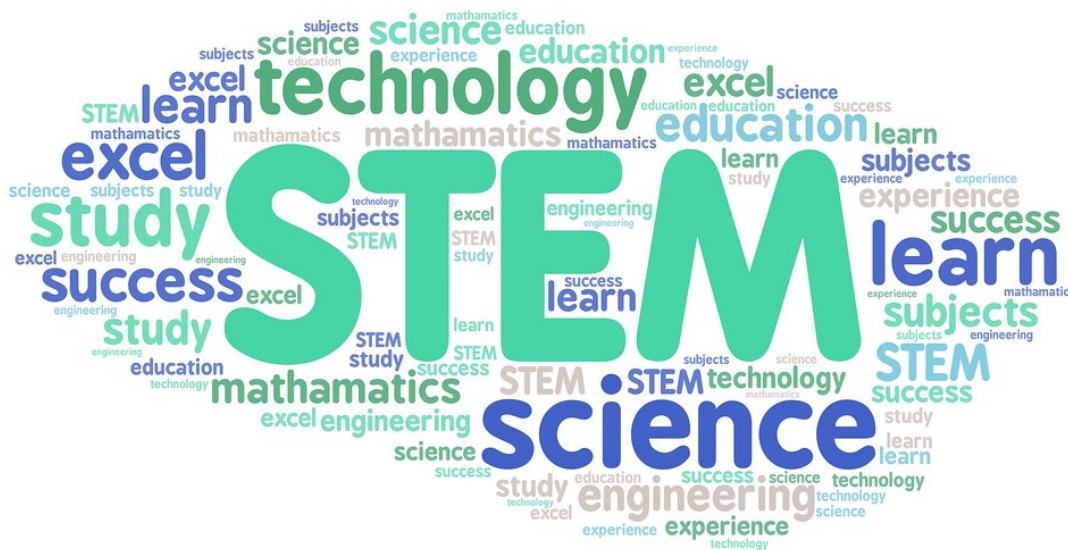
[LEARN MORE and REGISTER](#)

Realities of Electric Vehicles with Miss GoElectric

Virtual on Thursday, Oct. 5 (5:00 – 6:00pm PST)

Laycee, AKA **Miss GoElectric**, discusses how a mindset change around transportation is coupled with new technologies for a positive environmental and social impact. We'll also find ways we can implement these ideas into our classrooms with hands-on kits available from **RAFT**. Industry Leader: Laycee AKA Miss GoElectric, Teacher Leader: Chase Davenport with RAFT.

[LEARN MORE and Register](#)



[Click here for a list of STEM resources.](#)

2023-2024 Reach for the Stars Catalogue Now Available!

Looking to ignite your students' passion for learning? Explore the 2023–2024 Reach for the Stars catalogue with more than 130 high-quality academic enrichment programs,



competitions, events and activities for Minnesota K-12 students!

It is available as a FREE download either as a full-color or text-only PDF at www.synergyexchange.org/reach-for-the-stars.



Valuable Tax Benefits by Saving Back-to-School Receipts

Back-to-school time can also be tax savings time for Minnesota families who save receipts on school supply purchases. The Minnesota Department of Revenue reminds parents and caregivers to save receipts on school supply purchases to claim valuable K-12 tax benefits when filing their taxes next year. In addition, due to changes made during the legislative session, **over 31,000 more Minnesota families will be able to claim the credit this year.**

[Read more and share this link with parents in your school community](#)

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



Welcome to the Future of School Management with Enquiry Tracker!

Are you ready to take your school's enrollment success to new heights this year? As you bid farewell to the sun-soaked days of summer, it's time to gear up for an exciting academic recruiting season with Enquiry Tracker as your remarkable companion.

[Read more.....](#)

Important Dates

September 25-27, 2023:

School Leadership Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

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