



MINNDEPENDENT

August 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education,

Registration is OPEN for the [2023 School Leadership Conference](#), the annual gathering that brings together leaders from across MINNDEPENDENT member schools. This year's conference offers amazing presenters and topics that cover the spectrum of technical, topical and inspirational. [Read more about this year's sessions and presenters, and register here](#). We hope to see you on September 25.

Thanks to those that have renewed their membership in MINNDEPENDENT for the 2023/24 year. If you need another copy, or are missing your renewal invoice, [please let me know](#) and we'll send a duplicate copy for payment. Since July 1, MINNDEPENDENT has welcomed 16 new school and associate members. New members include Alexandria Community Christian School, Mankato Christian Academy, Mountain Lake Christian School, North Heights Christian Academy, St. Hubert's Catholic School (Chanhassen), St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran School (St. Peter), and associate members Mike Gerard (Diocese of Winona-Rochester), and Carly Kortuem (Que Tal Language Program, Plymouth).

The deadline for EANS funds is September 30, 2023. If you still have remaining funds to spend, or want to ensure that your balance is current, contact Anita Tayson (anita.tayson@state.mn.us) at MDE for further information.

Thank you for your support and commitment to private and independent education, and 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

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Is Competition in the Classroom Healthy?

Competition in the classroom can be a useful character-building tool. However, it can also lead to unhealthy results. Here's how to avoid the pitfalls.

[Click here to read more.](#)

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

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. We hope to see you there!

Earn 6.75 BOSA-Approved CEUs

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

CONFERENCE FEES

One Day: \$270
Two Days: \$360

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: \$270

Two Days: \$270

(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

Early bird prices end September 5.

Regular price is \$300 for one day, \$400 for 2 days.
First time attendee price is \$300 for one or two days.

REGISTER HERE

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STEM Scoop



#YouBelongInSTEM at STEM Day at the Fair
Thursday, August 24th | Dan Patch Park
FREE with fair admission!

STEM Day is always the best day of the summer! On the opening day of the Minnesota State Fair, August 24th, SciMathMN invites Minnesotans to celebrate and explore the wonders of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) through hands-on learning, interactive STEM experiences, and interaction with nonprofit STEM education providers, student groups and local businesses.

Visit Dan Patch Park for a celebration of STEM, including a performance stage and more than 30 exhibitors providing hands-on and interactive opportunities to explore, discover, create, and be inspired. See how everyday objects, systems, and buildings are driven by science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

ACTIVITIES

- Drive robots
- Computer coding
- Build mini-wind turbines
- Explore artificial intelligence
- Practice pipette skills
- Build model State Fair buildings
- And SO much more!



High Tech Kids is happy to be able to offer the following Minnesota Team Grant opportunities!

- 2023-2024 BOSTON SCIENTIFIC GRANTS ([Learn More](#))
- 2023-2024 3M ROOKIE GRANTS ([Learn More](#))
- 2023-2024 WESTERN DIGITAL GRANTS – Olmsted County Only ([Learn More](#))



Code Savvy Experience: Byte-Sized Challenge

Student's day-to-day schedules are so busy. Between classes, sports, music lessons, and spending time with friends and family, it can be really hard to find time for any additional learning activities.

Code Savvy wants to ensure that all students (and teachers) have access to computer science education throughout Minnesota, so in partnership with the folks at [Thomson Reuters](#) we created the Byte-Sized Challenge to meet students where they already are.

The Byte-Sized challenge consists of 16 - 40-minute lessons, which can be delivered over 8-10 weeks, directly in the classroom. They provide the curriculum, hardware (Micro:Bits), industry mentors, and snacks - teachers provide the classroom oversight, guidance, computers/chromebooks, and the relationships with their students.

The lessons can be implemented whenever it is convenient for the teachers, and training and onboarding is all virtual for accessibility.



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!](#)



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](#)

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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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