



MINNDEPENDENT

October 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education,

The [2023 School Leadership Conference](#) was a smashing success! Thank you to our generous sponsors and presenters who make this annual gathering one of the most unique and rewarding gatherings of the private and independent school leaders. Dates for 2024 will be finalized soon; make sure to place this conference on your professional development calendar for next year. This quote summed it up best, "This was one of the best conferences I have attended as a school leader. The networking and sessions are useful and relevant to our challenges today and in the future. The resort and recreational time available make this a great opportunity to become a better leader!"

Membership renewal is coming to a close, and final reminder invoices will be sent this week. Membership opens up a suite of programs, services and benefits to you and your school community, including access to professional development, STEM grants, and technical assistance in navigating issues with your pupil aids and title funds. If you're not yet a member, but interested in joining MINNDEPENDENT, [reach out to me](#) and let's have a conversation. We've welcomed 22 new school members already this year – come be part of a growing and active membership network.

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 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.](#)

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?

Learn how multi-factor authentication (MFA) works, what risks exist without it, and how to enable it at your school today.

[Click here to read more.](#)

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Major Changes to the College Process in 2023-2024

***FREE webinar for guidance counselors and parents.
Please share with your school community!***

This past year has resulted in some of the most significant changes to the college planning process in decades.

- Admission trends have changed around how colleges admit students
- There are substantial changes to the FAFSA and financial aid that may make college more expensive
- Schools have gone ACT/SAT optional, but not necessarily when they award scholarships

Join us to learn how these changes may impact your students and families, and new strategies to consider to give your student the best opportunity to be admitted and maximize scholarships and financial aid.

If you are a guidance counselor or the parent of a HS student in grades 9-11, this is incredibly important info you will not want to miss. Register today!

WHEN: Monday, Oct. 30 @ 7:30 pm

WHERE: Zoom webinar

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! [Use this link to register](#) in advance.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

INSTRUCTOR:



Cozy Wittman - Education and Partnerships, College Inside Track

Cozy Wittman leads the education and partnerships for College Inside Track, an organization that helps families navigate the college process and ensure they get the best price at the schools they are considering. She is considered a national subject-matter expert on late-stage college planning and educates parents, school

counselors and financial professionals around the country on strategies they can use. In addition to being a featured speaker at conferences and high schools, Cozy is a mom of 5 kids with very different goals for college so she is no stranger to the college search challenge.

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***Are your students dreaming of college?
The path to graduating with less debt
starts now!***

Invite a Thrivent financial professional to deliver a **FREE College Planning 101 workshop** at your school in person or virtual for parents and their students.

CLICK HERE to view a 30 second video of what they can expect from a College Planning 101 workshop.

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Getting Ready for the New Minnesota Science Standards

Self-paced online professional development for MINNDEPENDENT member schools in partnership with Science from Scientists

- **Earn 6 CEUs. This course has also been approved by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.**
- **MINNDEPENDENT will pay the course fee of \$85 for the first 25-member school educators that register for the course**

In this self-paced online course, you'll engage with the Science and Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts – central to MN's new science standards and the Next Generation Science Standards – and explore how they transform science teaching and learning. This course is designed for classroom educators as well as school leaders who support their work.

What participants are saying

"... the online accessibility ... made it fit into my schedule and allowed me to work at my own pace."

"The descriptions of the SEPs and CCCs were awesome [and the] ... handouts helped me to look more deeply at how to implement this more clearly."

"I ... liked the discussions, to see what other educators were thinking."

"I really liked the format of this class because it has a good variety of tasks to complete."

"The handouts that were included [were valuable], because I can not only use them for my benefit but also display them in my classroom."

"The assignments made me think beyond my comfort level, which was very effective in promoting my individual growth in the science standards."

Instructors

Beth Murphy PhD

Beth is the Director of Education for Science from Scientists and MINNDEPENDENT's STEM program manager. Beth has more than 25 years of experience designing, leading, and evaluating science education programs – including professional development for educators in K-12, higher-ed, and out-of-school settings. Beth holds a PhD in experimental physics.

Renee Nesnidal, PhD

Renee is a lead instructor for Science from Scientists (SfS), with over 20 years' experience working in science education at K-12 and college levels. Prior to joining SfS, she worked as a consultant with several Minnesota schools to incorporate more hands-on science, lead science workshops for students and educators, and teach summer STEM camps and in-school enrichment programs for students of all ages. She holds a PHD in atomic physics, specializing in laser and optical engineering.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY](#)

STEM Scoop

MINNDEPENDENT has partnered with the nonprofit Girls Who Code to bring free computer science resources to member school community – no coding experience required and no cost!

When you start a **free Girls Who Code Club**, you'll unlock resources, activities, and community for 3rd-12th graders to unleash their creativity, gain valuable coding skills, and imagine themselves as future tech leaders and innovators. Your Club members will learn how to build websites, applications, and games tackling important topics from climate change to cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

As the Club Facilitator, you'll get access to everything you need below to successfully run your Club, no computer science experience required! Check out a few highlights here:

- Plug-and-play program content for all skill levels and genders, including a library of self-guided video tutorials.
- A Clubs Fund for eligible Clubs to purchase supplies and snacks through an Amazon Wish List.
- Dedicated live help, webinar training, and facilitation guides to support your Club's success.
- Exclusive events like CSEdWeek workshops featuring Girl Who Code's industry-leading partners.
- A flexible curriculum for you to adapt to your unique needs.
- And extra perks like t-shirts and swag for eligible Clubs!

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.



Ignited's Learning Community offers regular opportunities for teachers to meet directly with 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!

Virtual on Wednesday, Oct. 18 (5:00 – 6:00pm PST)

Unlocking the Semiconductor - Industry – Career Pathways

The CHIPS Act opens doors to jobs in the semiconductor industry for early talent. From mobile computing and machine learning to supply chain security, we'll explore what it takes to enter this growing industry with Nader Sehatbakhsh. Lessons we can implement immediately in our classroom that connect students to the skills needed for these jobs will be shared by Jenny Chin.

[LEARN MORE and REGISTER](#)



FIRST® Tech Challenge | Grades 7-12

FIRST Tech Challenge in Minnesota (MN FTC) is part of an international robotics program that includes more than 6400 teams globally. High Tech Kids, in

Teams of up to fifteen students collaborate to build and program a robot that competes on a 12' by 12' field. Each year the challenge is designed to challenge students to think critically and expand their knowledge of the engineering process.

[Read more about the program, including how to start a team and the Challenge season calendar here.](#)



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.



**Discover the Magic for your School Admissions with
Enquiry Tracker this Halloween!**

Ready to create a spooktacular success story for your school's enrollment? As you bid summer farewell and the Halloween spirit awakens, gear up for admissions excellence with Enquiry Tracker.

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

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