



MINNDEPENDENT

February 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education,

The Minnesota Legislature gaveled in for the 2024 legislative session on Monday, February 12. While it's scheduled to be a "shorter" session than last year, it's safe to say it will be another active session. MINNDEPENDENT maintains an active presence while keeping a watchful eye on legislation that may impact private and independent schools. We will once again press for expansion of counseling services to grades K-6 – an area we have heard from many schools on the growing need in the younger learners. Below is a three pronged summary that drives our legislative strategy.

We advocate with a focused and united voice for the interests of private and independent schools

- **Advocate for...**Inclusion/participation of private/independent school students and staff
- **Protect...**Programs and services that support private/independent school students and staff
- **Defend against...**Legislation that overreaches or infringes on unique missions of private/independent schools



Finally, among the variety of duties I have, visiting schools is right at the top. It's refreshing to see firsthand what schools are doing to challenge students, plan for growth, and inspire their school communities. There's also some spontaneous moments along the journey. I got to meet this little fella at St. John's Lutheran School (Lake City). One of their school families brought him to school to share with the kids. He was quite talkative for a 2 month old!

Thank you for your support of Minnesota's private & independent schools.

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](#)

Share your school's news!

Whether it's a noteworthy student achievement, a remarkable teacher initiative, or a collective success that deserves recognition, we want to share it! Drop us line below.

[EMAIL US](#)

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by

thrivent

North Heights Christian Academy

Thrivent Action Teams to support beautification project

**How would \$250 in seed
money support your
school?**



North Heights Christian Academy used several Thrivent Action Teams in 2023 for their school beautification project.

Thrivent members receive \$250 of seed money for projects called Thrivent Action Teams twice a year to be used as:

- Service Activities
- Fundraisers
- Educational Events

Each ACTION TEAM KIT includes:

- A \$250 Community Impact Card. Think of it as seed money to jumpstart your project.
- Up to 25 T-shirts, and more.

Learn more [Thrivent Action Teams](#)



The 2024 Private & Independent Education Awards



Sunday, April 28, 2024
Mendakota Country Club

MINNDEPENDENT invites you to join us in honoring the remarkable individuals who continually exceed expectations: passionate educators, visionary leaders, dedicated community champions, and quiet, behind-the-scenes rock stars who go above and beyond!

The awards acknowledge their outstanding contributions and celebrate their commitment to private and independent education, and recognize the difference they make in the lives of the students and their school communities.

Watch your inbox and [our website for more information](#). Registration opens soon!

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



Your Partner In
School Safety/Security Incident
& Threat Management

CHIRP-360

*Cyber | Human | Information |
Reputation | Physical*



Our Service:

- ✓ Anonymous-capable Incident Reporting
- ✓ Behavioral/Threat Risk & Management
- ✓ Identify & Implement Mitigation Strategies
- ✓ Continual Evaluation

According to the U.S. Secret Service:

"Threat assessment is the best practice for preventing targeted school violence."

360 Security Services builds directly upon this guidance with a safety/security program that incorporates a transparent model for school security risk management

Empowering Safety and Security in Your School

CURRENT MINNDEPENDENT PARTNERS



LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



SOUTHWEST CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL

If You See Something, Say Something 24 Hours a Day 7 Days a Week



360 Security Services



(833) 205-3360



info@360security.services



www.360security.services

Vocation and Burnout

Professional Development Webinar Wednesday, February 21 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

We begin by looking at what the word vocation means and how to grow in our vocation as non-public school educators. We will also discuss practical ways to grow in our vocation while avoiding burnout. As educators, we tend to be mission-driven, and it can be easy to give and give and give to the point of depletion. This presentation offers practical recommendations for growing in vocation (three tips offered) while avoiding burnout (five tips are offered here). This presentation lasts approximately 75 minutes with time for questions after.

Dr. Pamela Patnode

**Director for Catholic School Leadership Graduate
Programs, St. Paul Seminary at the University of**



St. Thomas.

Dr. Pamela Patnode serves as Director for the Catholic School Leadership graduate program at the Saint Paul Seminary at the University of St. Thomas. Patnode has worked in a variety of educational settings including Catholic schools, private schools, universities, and even homeschooling settings for close to 20 years. She is trained in multiple areas to support students with diverse learning needs, she has authored five books, and she serves as a consultant to the Subcommittee on the Catechism for the United States Conference of Catholic

Bishops (USCCB).

- **MINNDEPENDENT Members attend FREE of charge**
- **Nonmembers: \$100 (check with your LEA about using Title Funds for fees)**

[Read more here](#)

REGISTER TODAY

STEM Scoop

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 STEM EDUCATION CONFERENCE
Wednesday, August 7 (8:30am - 3:30pm)

HOST MEMBER SCHOOL



HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
15655 BASS LAKE ROAD, MAPLE GROVE, MN 55311

We encourage member school educators to consider submitting a proposal to present at the STEM conference. The request for proposal form will be sent out in the Feb. newsletter with a submittal deadline at the end of March.

Questions: Lisa Vosbeek, lvosbeek@minndependent.org



Full Curriculum + Scientist-led Visits Pilot Opportunity

Science from Scientists (SciSci) just released an opportunity for MINNDEPENDENT schools to participate in their Grade 2 spring pilot at a discounted rate. The pilot includes classroom teacher curriculum plus classroom visits from SciSci Scientist Educators to create a seamless and dynamic science experience for students.

Key Benefits:

- **Minimal Prep Time:** Teacher-led lessons with minimal preparation required.
- **No Special Training Needed:** Accessible for all teachers.
- **All Materials Provided:** Hands-on, minds-on learning.
- **Engaging and Equitable:** Designed to engage all students.
- **No Inventory or Storage Hassles:** No need to store kits.
- **Integrated Literacy and Math:** Enhances core academic skills.
- **SciSci Educators Involvement:** We lead the intensive, hands-on lessons.

Perfect For Schools Who:

- Find it challenging to provide two hours of science curriculum each week due to numeracy and literacy priorities.
- Have unused science kits that require too much prep time.

Learn More:

Space is limited. This special Grade 2 science curriculum pilot is available for a small fee. Please contact Samantha Nienow (snienow@sciencefromscientists.org) by Feb 23rd to learn more details about pilot options available in April and May.

Get to Know

STEMscopes™
MATH

Scan or click to register.

Meet the speakers!

Pamela Richards is a National Math Academic Specialist serving the North Region. With a master's in education from Hamline University, Pamela is an expert in K-12 Math and Science content and a Master Teacher with 30+ years of educational content development, academic team leadership, and teaching history.

Shawn Wigg is an innovative and forward-thinking executive leader, curriculum developer, and instructional leader with a comprehensive 15-year background in education. Experienced in driving positive change, developing curriculum, and implementing efficient systems to enhance educational experiences and outcomes for students.

Igniting the Standards of Mathematical Practice in Every Lesson
April 16, Tuesday | 9:00 AM-9:30 AM, 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

Problem Solving in a Thinking Mathematics Curriculum
May 14, Tuesday | 9:00 AM-9:30 AM, 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

Scaffolding Students UP Instead of Watering Math DOWN:
Improving Accessibility
June 11, Tuesday | 9:00 AM-9:30 AM, 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

[Register for FREE Webinars](#)

Mechatronics, Automation, and Robotics (MAR) Workshop *focusing on Industry 4.0 trends and Industry 5.0 prospects*

- Gain insights into Industry 4.0 trends and explore Industry 5.0 prospects.
- Connect with industry insiders, tapping into seasoned professionals' expertise.
- Engage in sessions led by experts covering digitization, smart workforce solutions, flexible manufacturing, and cybersecurity.
- Elevate teaching with real-world examples and practical tips.

Who: Secondary educators and administrators

When: March 1, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: Van Meter Training Facility, Cottage Grove, Minnesota 55016

Cost: FREE w/ lunch provided.

[LEARN MORE and Register](#)



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! [**WATCH this short 15-minute video to learn more about Girls That Code free clubs.**](#)

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!

Sign up to access Girls Who Code's Club resources at girlswhocode.com/clubsapply and list "MINNDEPENDENT" as your Community Partner to get started!

GIRLS WHO CODE 2024 Summer Programs (Share with high school students)

Summer is (almost) here, and that means now is the perfect time to stay tuned to [Girls Who Code's 2024 Summer Programs](#). Whether a coding novice or an advanced programmer, Girls Who Code's free Summer Programs offer opportunities for high school girls of all experience levels, with the application set to open on January 18th.

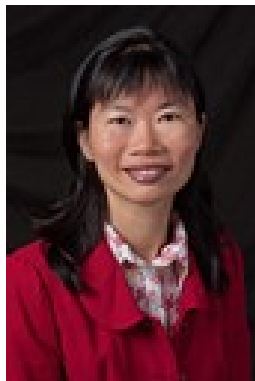
Application deadline is March 22, 2024.

[LEARN MORE and Apply](#)

Charting the Course: Generative AI Strategies for K-12 Educational Leaders

**Professional Development Webinar
Thursday, March 21 | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm**

Generative artificial intelligence (AI), such as chatGPT, can produce texts, videos, photos, presentations, research, and many other projects. This session focuses on educational applications and examples of generative AI as well as ethical considerations in the K-12 classroom. Participants will learn about the promises and pitfalls of integrating generative AI in education. Specific discussions include guidelines for educators, assignment implications, AI-generated content detection, and future impacts. Through collective brainstorming, participants will generate resources, tools, instructional strategies, and practical examples of utilizing generative AI for educational purposes.



Chientze Candace Chou, Ph. D Professor and Doctoral Program Director, Department of Educational Leadership University of St. Thomas

Dr. Chou is a professor of learning technologies and a Fulbright Scholar. She specializes in the pedagogical applications of emerging educational tools and technology integration to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. She created the Learning Technology Leadership and Innovation certificate, which equips visionary leaders with the knowledge and skills to lead equitable learning initiatives and foster creativity in learning environments. Her past leadership role also includes serving as the chair for the Special Interest Group (SIG) in Technology as Agent of Change in Teaching and Learning (TACTL) with the American Educational Research Association (AERA). She has over forty publications in peer-reviewed journals, conferences, and book chapters. Dr. Chou provides consultation and workshops on technology integration for K-12 schools, higher education institutes, and learning professionals in organizations. She has designed and implemented online and blended learning for over two decades.

Dr. Lanise Block

Founder & CEO Sankore Consulting

Dr. Lanise Block is a professional educator who has long been devoted to the ideals of social justice, service, inclusion, and digital innovation and armed with a B.A. in history, an M.A. in teaching (Drake University), graduate certificates in learning technologies, e-learning, and teaching online, and an Ed.D. in critical pedagogy (University of St. Thomas), as well as nine distinct certifications and micro-credentials.

Dr. Block served in the Minneapolis Public Schools System for 21 years as a social studies teacher, technology integration specialist, and high school program coordinator. She also held the post of strategic project administrator for the office of the Superintendent of the Minneapolis Public Schools for two years; additionally, she was appointed Social Studies Content Lead K-12 for the district.



Dr. Block is an adjunct graduate professor of education at the University of St. Thomas, Hamline University, Augsburg University, and Metropolitan State University. With several technology integration publications and national professional conferences under her belt, Dr. Block founded Sankore Consulting in 2017 with the aim of serving her community as a leader in design thinking, strategic planning, equity, and inclusion who lifts as she climbs.

Dr. Block has publications of her technology integration research and has presented at conferences nationally. Her research interests include the digital divide, advocacy, and inclusion.

In addition, Dr. Block was awarded the Education 2.0 Outstanding Leadership Award in recognition of her contributions to the field of education and learning in 2022. She was also featured in the 2022 Top 100 Innovators and Entrepreneurs Magazine.

- **MINNDEPENDENT Members attend FREE of charge**
- **Nonmembers: \$100 (check with your LEA about using Title Funds for fees)**

REGISTER HERE

Member School News



St. Odilia School



St. Odilia School

29 minutes ago · 🌐

Do you wake up with Fox 9 News? This morning, our middle school robotics teams did! They arrived to school at 6 AM this morning to be interviewed by Fox 9 for making it to state for the [High Tech Kids](#) First LEGO League Challenge, which will be held at Roy Wilkins Auditorium this coming weekend! Way to go Knights! We are so proud of our all our students involved in robotics. Good luck to the three teams advancing to the State competition this weekend (Popper Rockers, Donut Fam... [See more](#)



Share your school's news and accomplishments

Let's celebrate and amplify the spirit of excellence that defines private and independent schools in Minnesota. Whether it's a noteworthy student achievement, a remarkable teacher initiative, or a collective success that deserves recognition, we want to share it! Please send your submissions to office@mindependent.org

Important Dates to Remember

Wednesday, February 21:

Professional Development Webinar: Vocation and Burnout

Thursday, March 21:

Professional Development Webinar: Charting the Course: Generative AI
Strategies for K-12 Educational Leaders

Sunday, April 28:

2024 Minnesota Private & Independent Education Awards

Monday, September 30 - Wednesday, October 2

School Leadership Conference

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!