



April 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education,

Later this month, MINNDEPENDENT will host the [2024 Private and Independent Education Awards](#). This event is a wonderful celebration that recognizes those who elevate, innovate and support private and independent schools across Minnesota. A special thank you to the generous sponsors that invest in our signature annual event – our only event based fundraiser each year. Come join us!

As you begin to fill out your 2024-25 calendars, make sure to add the [2024 STEM Education](#) and [School Leadership](#) Conferences to your “to do” list. These two conferences are exceptional learning and networking opportunities for educators and leaders.

The 2024 Legislative Session continues its brisk pace. Check out this [update from Chas Anderson, MINNDEPENDENT lobbyist](#), on issues and topics circling around the Capitol. MINNDEPENDENT stands as the primary voice for the private and independent school sector – to protect, safeguard and monitor issues that impact our educational sector.

Wonder what types of questions come into the inbox or how MINNDEPENDENT helps schools navigate problems? Most frequent issues and questions include busing/transportation (Can a district set attendance areas for our school?), Shared Time (Can a district enroll home school students in Shared Time but not enroll students from a nonpublic school?), federal title or special education services. Have a question? Not sure if you are getting your equitable services? Just need to vent a little? [Send a note through our “Ask the President” link](#) and we’ll do our best to provide a helping hand.

Thank you for your commitment to private and independent education.

ASK THE PRESIDENT

Have a question about issues like school transportation, Title funds, current legislation, etc.? Want Tim's take on the Twins' upcoming season? Ask the President! Click the button below.

[Ask Tim](#)

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](#)

Sue Furry

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

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The 2024 Private & Independent Education Awards

*Sunday, April 28, 2024
Mendakota Country Club*



**Register today for the
2024 Private & Independent Awards**
**Registration and Social Hour: 4:00 - 5:00 PM Dinner
and Awards: 5:00 - 7:00 PM**

Join us in celebrating rockstar leaders, dedicated educators, behind-the-scenes heroes and community champions who go above and beyond. These awards highlight their exceptional contributions that bring positive outcomes to schools and students. Don't miss this special event! Register today to join us in celebrating their achievements.

REGISTER HERE

2024 Award Recipients



BEHIND THE SCENES
Chad Skally
Holy Spirit Catholic School



**COMMUNITY
CHAMPION**
John & Teri Penshorn
*Heritage Christian
Academy*



PROGRAM
Future Leaders
Hill-Murray School



HONOR TEACHER
Caroline Little
Visitation School



HONOR TEACHER
Kelly Donnelly
Hill-Murray School



LEADERSHIP

Dr. Christine Glomski
Saint John's Preparatory School



LEADERSHIP

Michael Brennan
Holy Family Catholic High School

2024 STEM Grant Award Recipients

INNOVATION GRANTS

Annunciation School, Minneapolis
Avail Academy, Fridley
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Minneapolis
Nativity of Our Lord School, St. Paul
Saint Francis of the Lakes Catholic School, Brainerd
St. Boniface School, Cold Spring
Sunny Hollow Montessori, St. Paul,
United Christian Academy, Bloomington

STARTER GRANT

Most Holy Redeemer Catholic School, Montgomery

COMMUNITY PARTERSHIP GRANT (WE SHARE SOLAR)

West Lutheran High School, Plymouth

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[Read more here](#)

STEM Scoop

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 STEM EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Wednesday, August 7 (8:30am - 3:30pm)



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

Get ready for an exhilarating day of innovation, inspiration, and connection! Come together with other educators, STEM specialists, and school leaders to gain new insights, discover new trends, and bring back innovative ideas that promote imaginative learning and student engagement.

- Expand your knowledge with a variety of 1-hour breakout sessions.
- Learn from 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 CEUs.
- Registration opens in May

The 2024/2025 STEM Grant Program opens in November 2024. All MEMBER SCHOOLS are eligible to apply!

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 15-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**](#)

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR 

STEM Day at the Fair August 22, 2024

SciMathMN will again deliver STEM Day at the Fair in Dan Patch Park on August 22, 2024. More information will be available soon.



nsta

National Science Teaching Association

Featured Free Resources

[Health DataWell](#)

[Teach an Hour of AI with Amazon's Alexa](#)

[Ignite Imagination and Inspire a New Space-Age Generation](#)

[Genome Unlocking Life's Code](#)

[Increase Students Understanding of How the World Works](#)

[Johns Hopkins Wavelengths](#)

Member School News

Congratulations to Cotter Schools Coach Pat Bowlin, the New State Record Holder for Most Softball Wins!

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@minindependent.org**](mailto:office@minindependent.org)

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, April 28:

2024 Minnesota Private & Independent Education Awards

Wednesday, August 7: STEM Education Conference

Monday, September 30 - Wednesday, October 2:
School Leadership Conference

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minndependent.org | info@minndependent.org

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