June 2025 Newsletter

Dear friends of private and independent education,

A song by The Beatles titled "The Long and Winding Road " perfectly summarizes the journey over the last several months for private and independent schools and the actions at the Minnesota legislature.

We are thrilled to share some welcome and refreshing news - last night, the MN House of Representatives and MN Senate passed the E-12 Education bills**. The final bills fully protect funding for nonpublic pupil aids and transportation services**. This is a massive win for our students and families. A special thank you to everyone who contacted their legislators and shared how important these services are to their school communities. Thank you to the talented team at **Park Street Public**; Chas Anderson, Sonja Mydels, Jill Sims and John Elizandro for coordinating all of our advocacy and lobbying efforts. In addition, we are grateful for the strong collaboration and partnership with our friends at the **Minnesota Catholic Conference** to ensure all voices of Minnesota's nonpublic school community were heard.

Rest assured, MINNDEPENDENT will continue to carry forward our commitment to **advocate with a focused and united voice for the interests of private and independent schools, ensuring that local and state policy makers will understand and support policies and practices that strengthen Minnesota's private and independent schools**. Our success is a result of the vibrant and diverse membership of 181 schools across Minnesota.

If you are not a current member of MINNDEPENDENT, **now is the time to join**. For many schools, the prospect of starting the school year without busing or nursing services was daunting. Consider the significant resources that were protected thanks to the work of MINNDEPENDENT and our partners to safeguard these vital services. Joining MINNDEPENDENT increases the strength of our voice and adds additional "horsepower" of our advocacy efforts. **Reach out and let's talk membership** – your school will benefit richly and gains access to resources, professional development opportunities and potential STEM grants and program resources.

Please take a few minutes to complete our annual

ASK THE PRESIDENT

Have a question about issues like school transportation, Title funds, current legislation, etc.? Want Tim's take on the Twins' hitting woes? 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

Hats & Mittens is a nonprofit committed to providing hats and mittens for local children in need. Learn more and get involved!

membership survey and needs assessment. This ensures MINNDEPENDENT is meeting the needs of your school communities and delivering on our member promise.

Finally, none of our work would be possible without the generosity of donors, funders and sponsors. Please consider **making a gift** to ensure MINNDEPENDENT is always ready to stand up for our private and independent school communities. Our fiscal year ends on June 30!

Thank you for your continued support of private and independent education.

Tim BenzPresident

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

Member Survey & Needs Assessment

It's time for MINNDEPENDENT's annual **member survey and needs assessment**. We ask all members to complete this brief survey to ensure we are meeting the needs of your school community and assist in planning our programming for the coming years. Not a current member? What are you waiting for? It's time to get on board – remember everything MINNDEPENDENT does on behalf of nonpublic schools is critical and an expanded membership provides important "horsepower" to our advocacy efforts. Get connected to our network of 181 member schools. Having a unified voice for our nonpublic school community has never been more important. **Send me a message and let's discuss membership** – you can't afford not to be a member.

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by

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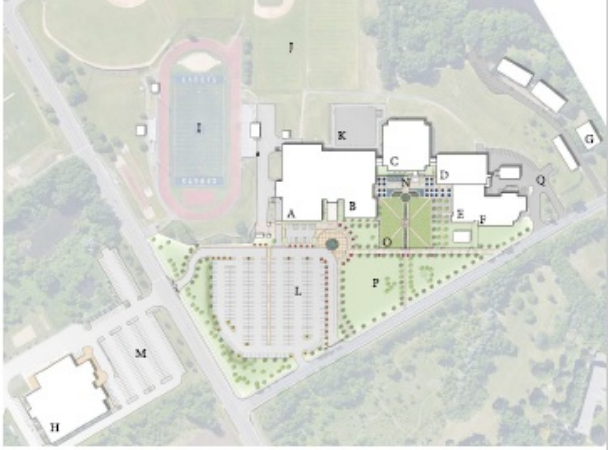

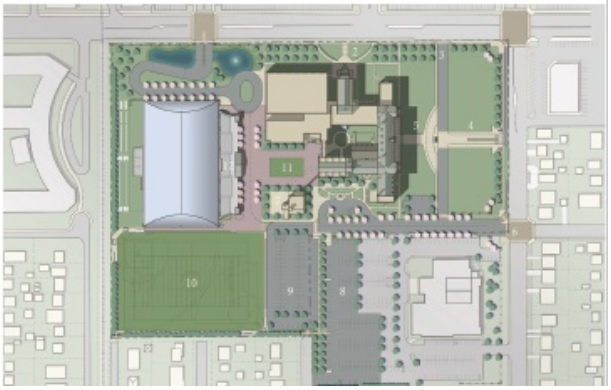

2025 STEM EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Wednesday, August 13
8:00 am - 3:30 pm
Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove

Get ready for an exciting day filled with innovation, inspiration, and meaningful connections!

Come together with other educators, STEM specialists, and school leaders to gain new insights, discover new resources, and bring innovative ideas back to your school to promote imaginative learning and engagement for your students.

- 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.
- Immerse yourself in hands-on experiences to regain student perspectives
- Earn 4.75 BOSA approved CEUs

VIEW THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS HERE

Keynote Address

Minnesota Made: Connecting STEM and CTE for Real-World Learning

What if your STEM lessons could unlock career paths your students never imagined? Join Tim as he explores how integrating Career and Technical Education (CTE) in all grades can elevate STEM learning, making it more relevant and purpose-driven. Discover how real-world connections not only deepen engagement but also open doors to future opportunities. Together, we'll celebrate the powerful work you're already doing to inspire the next generation of innovators, makers, and problem-solvers.

Tim Barrett

Trade & Industry Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education
Tim is the Trade & Industry Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). He and his colleagues support teachers across Minnesota who provide Career Technical Education (CTE) programs for middle and high school students. CTE provides opportunities to explore high-demand career options and gives students the technology and skills needed to succeed in adulthood. Before joining MDE, Tim acquired extensive workforce development experience during six years as the Director of STEM Education & Workforce Development with the Minnesota Tech Association (formerly MTHA). Over his career, he has organized and delivered professional development ranging from classroom engagement and STEM integration to the use of data and technology.

Conference Schedule

8:00 - 8:30 AM - Registration and Breakfast

8:30 - 9:15 AM - Welcome and Keynote

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM - Session One

10:50 AM - 11:50 AM - Session Two

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM - Lunch

12:50 PM - 1:50 PM - Session Three

2:10 PM - 3:15 PM - Session Four & Conference Evaluation

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM - Pick up CEU certificates

COST ***REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!***

Member Schools
$50 Early-bird registration (through June 20, 2025)
$75 Regular registration (after June 20, 2025)

Nonmember Schools
$100 Early-bird registration (through June 20, 2025)
$150 Regular registration (after June 20, 2025)

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

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STEM Scoop

STEMFest 2025 is the perfect event for all science lovers and tech enthusiasts!

Get ready to participate in hands-on experiments, interactive workshops, and engaging presentations. Meet professionals in the field and discover the latest innovations in STEM. Don't miss out on this FREE exciting opportunity to explore the world of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Please register by June 21, 2025 if possible

Voices of Gen Z: Perspectives on STEM Education and Careers | *Gallup & Walton Family Foundation*

This report highlights Gen Z's attitudes toward STEM education and career pathways, revealing both enthusiasm and barriers to entry. Insights can inform how schools and employers support future-ready talent in STEM fields.

What Does It Really Mean to Integrate STEM?

"True STEM integration isn't just about including all four subjects in a lesson: It's about purposefully connecting them in a way that makes learning more authentic and meaningful for students," contend the authors of the latest Research Worth Reading blog post. They present the findings from three studies that can help you bring more authentic STEM integration into your classroom.

Read More

STEM Day at the Fair 2025

STEM Day at the Minnesota State Fair brings together several dozen STEM education providers, leading Minnesota corporations, award-winning teachers, and thousands of families to explore and celebrate all things STEM. It's an opportunity for youth and their families to take time to play, learn, and discover in ways that might surprise and delight them.

This year's theme is You Belong in STEM, assuring everyone that they have a place in the STEM community and in a STEM career. We will be celebrating the diversity of roles and individuals in STEM today and the opportunities for tomorrow.

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025

Location: Dan Patch Park, Minnesota State Fairgrounds

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- **Feel more in control of your money!**

Introduction to Money Canvas (3 min.)

Register for your first Money Canvas session below and include Minndependent as how you learned about Money Canvas in your registration.

Learn more and register for Money Canvas

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MINNDEPENDENT
Preferred Partnership Spotlight

https://www.cognia.org/

We know schools because we are in schools.

Melissa Kaczmarek
Director Midwest Region
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- **Benefits of Membership**
- **STEM Certification**

Preferred Partnership Program

This exclusive program recognizes the top 30% of our partners who have demonstrated a strong commitment to our mission and member schools. By partnering with Preferred Partners, schools can access a comprehensive ecosystem of trusted resources to provide the best possible products and

services to their communities.

Member School News

Saint Helena Catholic School · Follow
June 3 at 11:32 AM ·

🎓💗 A Full-Circle Moment at Saint Helena 💗🎓
As we celebrated the graduation of our Class of 2025 this week, our kindergartners were also busy writing letters to their 8th grade buddies.

At Saint Helena, our Buddy Program is more than just a tradition; it's a beautiful bond that grows across grades, reminding us that faith, friendship, and community are at the heart of everything we do.

To our graduates: thank you for being leaders, role models, and friends. You'll always have a home here. 💙💛

#Graduation2025 #SaintHelenaBuddies #CatholicSchoolTraditions #FaithAndFriendship

36 2 shares

What a great tradition!

From Saint Helena's Facebook page

Important Dates to Remember

Wednesday, August 13, 2025
STEM Education Conference
Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove

Monday, September 22-Wednesday September 24, 2025
School Leadership Conference Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort

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