MISF connects and strengthens Minnesota's independent schools through exceptional training, resources, and advocacy so they can be student-centered and mission-driven.

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Letter from the President

Dear friends of independent and private education,

Throughout the year, I have the unique opportunity to visit several schools. During a recent trip, I visited St. Mary's School in Morris, led by Principal Joe Ferriero. One key takeaway from this visit was Joe's observation on the importance of being part of a larger effort. He could not have summarized the work of MISF any more succinctly (check out our mission)! Each visit also serves as a reminder of the passion and skills school leaders need to achieve the success they want for their students, staff and community.

As you may know, Michelle Ponsolle is retiring from MISF on June 22, after 8 years of passionate, committed and diligent service to our organization. She has been an integral part of the continued evolution and growth of MISF while building strong relationships with our many stakeholders. We will miss the enthusiasm and positive attitude she brought to MISF each day and wish her a rewarding retirement. If you would like to send a note of thanks to Michelle, her email is mponsolle@misf.org.

We are thrilled to announce that Lisa Vosbeek will join the MISF staff as Director of Development and Programs effective June 18. Lisa comes to MISF from Lifetrack, where she served in leadership roles in development and program management. Lisa is passionate about independent and private education, and her family has a deep connection with several MISF member schools, including St. Mary's (Owatonna), St. Odilia, Cretin-Derham Hall and Academy of Holy Angels. Lisa will work closely with Michelle Ponsolle to ensure a smooth transition and she looks forward to meeting you, our school leaders, partners, funders and friends in her new role.

Thanks to the many schools who have completed their 2018-19 membership renewal already - we are stronger together. If you are not a member and interested in joining our cohort, check out the information and new member incentive offer in this newsletter.

Make sure to mark your calendars for the 2018 School Leadership Conference - September 24-26, 2018, at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. This is a great opportunity to build your network with other school leaders.

We wish you a restful and healthy summer break.
MISF STEM Education Conference  
Tuesday, August 7th, 2018  
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Maranatha Christian Academy ~ Brooklyn Park  

Attend the Conference and earn 6 CEUs.  

Click HERE TO REGISTER NOW!  

Open to all Nonpublic School Educators in Minnesota  
(See member and nonmember rates below)  

Attendance in breakout sessions is limited to the first 25 people who register. Register NOW to be assured of the sessions you want.  

BREAKOUT SESSIONS  
Click here to view descriptions of breakout sessions including recommended grade ranges. You will choose your breakout sessions upon registering. Register early to ensure that you are able to attend the breakout sessions of your choice. Space is limited for each session.  

Don't miss your opportunity to receive a FREE Tech Light Lab kit at the Bringing STEM to Light: Light and Optics at the Elementary Level breakout sessions presented by Colette DeHarpporte, Laser Classroom, LLC.  
Light is a fascinating and familiar topic for children and adults. It's also rich and complex, which is great if you are teaching a graduate level course in Quantum Mechanics. But how do you lay the
foundation for this exciting topic? What do you teach to the youngest would-be scientists? Each participant will receive a FREE kit (valued at $50.00) with Activity Guide to take home. The kit will be used during the sessions to introduce basic activities and work through understanding the basics of light, color, shadows, reflection and refraction. Colette will have two sessions limited to 25 registrants per session. Recommended for grades 3-7. Thank you to the IEEE Photonics Society for their generous donation of the 50 Tech Light Lab Kits.

In addition, Colette will be donating gently used Light Blox and Laser Blox kits, mirrors, lenses, etc. to teachers that will be attending her two sessions.

STEM GRANT FOCUS
Have you considered submitting a STEM Grant but are unsure where to start? The STEM Grant Track provides opportunities to talk with MISF’s STEM Advisory Committee to have your questions answered and help you brainstorm and develop your ideas for STEM Grant projects. Also, you can attend presentations about projects funded by the STEM Grant program, by teachers from Maranatha Christian Academy, Frassati, Bethany Academy, Nativity of Our Lord, St. Alphonsus and Academy of Whole Learning.

SPONSOR EXHIBITORS
Sponsor exhibitors will be available to showcase the products and services they offer the STEM education community.

REGISTRATION & FEES
- MISF Members: $65
- NonMembers: $175
- Title Funds may be available to cover registration fees. Check with your local school district for more details.
- The conference is for grade K-12 educators from any Minnesota private or independent school. Your school does not need to be a member of MISF to attend.
- Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, afternoon refreshments, and free parking.
- Registration fees are nonrefundable; however, registrations are transferable.
- Payments (Check, Visa or MasterCard) must be received by Monday, August 6th, 2018
- Last day to register is Tuesday, July 31st, 2018

Register Now!

STEM Program Sponsors

3M

SCHOTT FOUNDATION
We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

2018 Seek Student Registration Now Open

**School:** Earle Brown Elementary  
**Dates:** July 9th - July 27th  
**Parent Orientation:** July 2nd at 6 p.m.  
**Address:** 1500 59th Ave. N, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

**CHANGING THE FACE OF ENGINEERING**
* Serving 3rd-5th grade students  
* A FREE 3-week summer enrichment program  
* Exposing students to the world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

Register your future engineer at: [applyseek.nsbe.org](http://applyseek.nsbe.org)

Applications now open for the 2018-19 MN Coding in the Classroom Leadership Cohort
We are in the middle of a coding revolution! Computer science (CS) in the classroom plays an important role in preparing students of all ages for success in a wide variety of areas. In an effort to contribute to this movement Code Savvy is seeking participants for the fourth year of the MN Coding in the Classroom Leadership Cohort, which was honored to receive an MHTA Tekne Award in 2017 for Innovative STEM Education. The purpose of the Cohort is to develop knowledgeable, visionary educators who will help to make Minnesota a world leader in CS education, and to help all students become creators, not merely users, of new technologies.

The Cohort will explore the principles and skills within CS, as well as strategies for integrating CS into any subject area. We will emphasize equitable teaching practices that interrupt and counteract gender and racial gaps in CS, while exploring a variety of coding platforms and resources and gaining insights into the IT industry through site visits and guest speakers. Participants will develop, evaluate and share coding curriculum that integrates CS into academic content areas and meets MN K-12 Academic Standards and CSTA K-12 Standards. Additionally, participants will share their knowledge and resources with at least 10 other educators by creating and delivering professional development related to CS education.

Participants: Any K-12 or community educators who are involved with or interested in CS education are invited to apply. We encourage all experience levels!

Dates: A 2-day kick-off event will be held August 2nd and 3rd, 2018, followed by monthly sessions from September, 2018 - May, 2019, both in-person and online. The Cohort will culminate in May, 2019 with the MNCodes Summit. Most Cohort sessions will take place evenings and weekends - see the preliminary schedule here. Note: A travel stipend is available for those who live 50 miles or more outside the Twin Cities

Stipend & Credit Option: Cohort participants will receive a $500 stipend upon completion of the cohort requirements and will have an option to earn 3 graduate credits through the College of St. Scholastica. The graduate credits will be offered at a discounted workshop rate.

Contact: Please contact us at educators@codesavvy.org with any questions.

See the program flyer for more information!

Interested in changing the course of computer science education in MN? Apply here! codesavvy.org/educators/cohort/

The Bakken Museum
T-Minus Five Days Until Summer Camps Begin!

The Bakken Museum is excited to kick off the 2018 summer camp season next week!

Students will be practicing the skills of innovation - teamwork, problem solving, and creativity while they design and build their own unique take home inventions.

Use the promo code "summer18" when you register and get $35 off your camper's registration.

Sign up today, at thebakken.org/summer-camp, offer ends on 6/18.
Development Lunch & Learn
Seminar/Webinar

"Utilizing Volunteers to Enhance Your Fundraising Efforts"

Tina Palmer, MA, CFRE has worked in the nonprofit sector for more than 20 years with significant leadership experience in fundraising, marketing, communications, management, and board governance. Her areas of expertise include: annual fund, donor acquisition, individual donor cultivation and stewardship, communications and public relations, major and planned gift fundraising, capital campaigns, and event planning.

Tina has served in leadership positions at local and national organizations, including Scholarship America, Volunteers of America, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Avivo, and Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. She is currently the Senior Philanthropy Officer for Fairview Southdale Hospital. Distinguished achievements include leading the capital campaign efforts to raise $40 million for the new Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul and participating on a team raising more than $100 million for the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund to benefit the children of 9/11 victims.

She has held the title of Certified Fund Raising Executive since 2003 and has a Master's Degree in Philanthropy and Development from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

Seminar/Webinar Content

Fundraising is HARD work... you can't do it alone! As School Leaders and development professionals, you have limited staff and funding resources. Tapping into your volunteers will enhance your work and make you significantly more successful. During this session, we'll talk about specific opportunities to build and utilize a Development Committee, as well as other volunteers (including students and parents) to grow contributions at your school. Samples of volunteer job descriptions will be provided, as will lists of resources to help educate you, your school's leadership, and your volunteers on how to be effective in your fundraising efforts.

Take advantage of this opportunity to earn CEU Credits!

Seminar Cost

- MISF member school staff: FREE* for first staff; $25 per person for additional staff. (Click here to see if your school is a member of MISF.)
- Nonmember school staff: $65 per person
- Registration for the Seminar includes a lunch and all presentation materials

Webinar (Space limited)

- MISF member school staff: FREE
- Nonmember school staff: $25

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!
Register through Sunday, June 17th!

*CANCELLATION/NO-SHOW POLICY: Registration fees paid are nonrefundable; however, they may be transferred to another staff member (including board members, committee members, volunteers, or any individual affiliated with your school community). Cancellations for unpaid registrants who notify MISF less than 48 hours of the seminar or do not show up to the event will be charged as follows: MEMBERS - $20; NONMEMBERS - $25.

Renew your school's MISF membership today!

The renewal period for MISF membership for 2018-19 is now open. We are grateful to have you as a partner among our 156 member schools and look forward to our continued partnership.

The annual renewal and data gathering provides important updates for our advocacy and fundraising efforts, including:

- School contact information
- Science House membership
- Student demographic information

If you would like to preview the renewal questions prior to completing the form online, click here.

Click here to renew your membership.

If you have questions about membership renewal, contact us at office@misf.org. We look forward to serving you in the 2018-2019 school year!

Not an MISF Member School? Join Us!

We are offering a new member incentive to all schools interested in joining MISF.

Some of the ways you and your school community benefit by connecting to MISF and our extensive network include:

- Access to all materials and resources from our professional development offerings (conference and seminar/webinars), including previous programs and conferences
- Member only-access to our Law Guide and Directory of Programs and Services for Nonpublic Schools - updated annually
- Opportunity to attend the School Leadership Conference - our highest rated program annually - and a unique gathering to connect and network with more than 70 other private schools leaders
- Provide relevant and timely information regarding nonpublic pupil aids and title programs
- Access to member-only STEM grants, programs and periodic in-kind donations

To learn more about this special offer send an email to tbenz@misf.org

School Bus Replacement Grants

MPCA seeks diesel school bus owners from private, public, and nonprofit sectors to apply to this grant
opportunity to partially fund diesel school bus replacement in Minnesota. The grant reduces diesel emissions from older diesel engines to improve air quality and public health by removing older diesel buses and replacing them with new, cleaner buses.

Projects funded will: 1) reduce diesel emissions in Minnesota; 2) fund a variety of school buses from around the state; and 3) fund a mixture of fuel technologies.

[Read more about this opportunity on the MPCA Website.](#)

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**Save These Dates**

June 4: MISF Membership Online Renewal Opens  
June 19: Reading in Science Workshop  
June 21: Development Seminar/Webinar  
August 7: STEM Education Conference  
September 24-26: School Leadership Conference

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