2023 MNSAA CONFERENCE

LEAD
INSPIRE
TRANSFORM
Shakopee Area Catholic School welcomes MNSAA to our amazing place! Our 80+ staff members are all focused on making sure every learner has a wonderful experience while growing in faith and knowledge. Caring teachers, many dedicated specialists, and small class sizes ensure each learner receives individual attention. We delight in recognizing the unique gifts and talents of each child. Our staff takes great pride in helping each child shine! To learn more visit www.sacsschools.org

ENJOY YOUR DAY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN OUR BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL. WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

THANK YOU! CONFEREE Sponsors

*CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE- HOST *BUSINESS ESSENTIALS- CHECK-IN *LANGER CONSTRUCTION- BREAKFAST *ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY- LUNCH *MINNDEPENDENT- SNACKS *ESCALE ADVISORS- TABLE *CANOPY IT SOLUTIONS- STAGE *FORESIGHT-TECH *GERTEN’S-DECOR *GRAPHIC OPTIONS- PRINT
LEAD

WELCOME TO MNSAA’S 2023 CONFERENCE

Another great school year is underway, and we are thrilled to have you join us for the 2023 MNSAA Conference! Our goal is for you to leave inspired and transformed with new ideas for your work leading your entire school community.

It is an honor to welcome Tasha Schuh, motivational speaker at TILL360 as our keynote speaker. It is an honor to welcome Tasha Schuh, motivational speaker at TILL360 as our keynote speaker. Tasha equips youth and educators to be resilient for their mental and emotional health. The four components of her speech, PATH (Purpose, Attitude, Team, and Hope), helped Tasha be resilient after a life-changing theater accident at age 16, which left her paralyzed from the chest down. She now lives a vibrant, fulfilling life with her husband and manager, Doug. Tasha is also the author of two books and has received many awards, including The National Rehabilitation Champion Award and The Hometown Hero Award. Whether she’s speaking to an auditorium full of students or adults, Tasha’s message empowers people to build resilience to overcome life’s challenges.

INSPIRE

MNSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS GRATEFUL

It takes ample time and planning to bring this fantastic day to you. We thank Shakopee Area Catholic School, especially school administrator, Nikki Giel, for allowing us the opportunity to be part of your school community, and we thank you for this special day of networking and learning together.

TRANSFORM

MNSAA EXISTS TO SUPPORT YOUR FINE WORK

MNSAA was founded in 1976 to accredit, support, and value Minnesota’s nonpublic schools in their unique guiding philosophies and missions. Our agency accredits more schools than any other in our state and is recognized by the State of Minnesota. Large or small, rural or urban, faith-based or independent - MNSAA schools are diverse in the students and families they serve. Our requirements unify schools as accreditation assures the public and stakeholders that schools are meeting high standards of educational excellence and focused on continuous improvement.

2023 MNSAA CONFERENCE RESOURCES

mnsaa.org
Nonpublic schools play a vital role in the educational ecosystem of Minnesota, and the mission of MNSAA is to ensure that the leaders of these schools are well equipped to foster the flourishing of their students, teachers, and community."

Michael Hahn, Ph.D., is the assistant dean of the school of education at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota where he also serves as director of the Catholic school leadership and character and virtue education programs. His research focuses on the future of American Catholic higher education and he received a Theodore M. Hesburgh Research Grant from the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame. He has given numerous academic presentations and taught at the high school, college, and graduate levels. He is a regular contributor to the Association of Catholic Colleges and University, and his writing has also appeared in the Journal of Catholic Higher Education, The American Benedictine Review, America, and Commonweal.
Joel Koski has served as the principal of Christian Heritage Academy in Lakeville since 2019. Prior to moving into an administrative position, he taught at CHA in 4th grade. Joel earned his bachelor’s degree in K-8 Education in Social Studies from Bethel University in St. Paul. He earned his Master's Degree from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Educational Leadership. Joel greatly appreciates the MNSAA standards, serving on teams to visit other non-public schools, and the entire accreditation process.

Mr. Joel Koski
Christian Heritage Academy, Lakeville (Kindergarten-8)

“The accreditation process through MNSAA has provided both my school community and myself with confidence and stability in our curriculum, programming, and future. I appreciate that every non-public school I observe is permitted to maintain its uniqueness in alignment with its mission while adhering to the framework established by the MNSAA standards.”

Justin Vilski currently serves as principal at Crown of Life Lutheran in West St. Paul, MN. He has previously served as principal and teacher at Lutheran schools in Colorado and Utah. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Martin Luther College and a Master’s degree in Education from Concordia University, Oregon. His background in teaching includes everything from Kindergarten through 8th grade with the exception of science in those grades. Justin is committed to assisting all schools better themselves through planning, collaboration, and accountability. Justin joined the MNSAA board in 2023 and is excited to help however he can.

Mr. Justin W. Vilski
Crown of Life Lutheran School, West St. Paul (Kindergarten-8)

“I was very new to MNSAA and the accreditation process when I moved to Minnesota. It seemed very daunting to me. However, whenever I had a question or an issue, the directors and other leaders were there to help me every step of the way. They calmed my fears and helped me lead my school through the process. After witnessing their commitment to education, I knew that I owed it to other leaders and schools to do the same for them. MNSAA has made both me and my school better, and the students and families are reaping the benefits.”
MR. DAVID FREMO
Diocese of St. Cloud, St. Cloud, MN

"I am excited to serve the school communities of MNSAA on the Board of Directors. I believe accreditation provides an opportunity for engaging in education and growth on a comprehensive, systemic scale that provides an authentic basis for discovery and growth. Through dialogue with peer educators, we strive to make teaching and learning meaningful and relevant. Through these encounters, we form a powerful learning community that anchors and enriches our whole state."

David Fremo is the Superintendent of Schools and Director of Catholic Education Ministries for the Diocese of Saint Cloud. He has been in Catholic education for almost 20 years, as a teacher, administrator and program director. He worked previously at Saint John’s Preparatory School in Collegeville, Minnesota, and as well at the College of Saint Benedict in Saint Joseph, Minnesota. He holds a MA in Theology from Saint John’s School of Theology and Seminary, a MS in Educational Leadership and Catholic School Leadership certificate from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. David has a passion for supporting school growth in mission and vitality, especially through the living process of accreditation.

MS. MARTHA LAURENT
Holy Name of Jesus, Wayzata (Preschool-4)

"I am honored and blessed to serve MNSAA member schools and to support progress towards excellence in our schools."

Dedicated to Catholic education and school choice for families, Martha Laurent is the principal of Holy Name of Jesus School in Wayzata. She received her Master’s degree from the University of St. Thomas in Educational Leadership; her Educational Specialist degree is also from UST. Martha is a licensed K-12 administrator in the state of Minnesota. Martha serves as MNSAA’s Vice President, leads onsite accreditation visits, serves on the Annual Progress Report review committee, is the Chair of our governance committee, and speaks regularly at our conference. Martha has supported dozens of schools in meeting MNSAA standards.
CANDIDATES

RECOMMENDED FOR CONTINUED SERVICE TO OUR ASSOCIATION IN 2023-26

MR. TIM SULLIVAN  St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, Hastings, (Preschool-8)

“Accreditation through MNSAA is a challenging, but rewarding experience. It brings our school together to focus on how we can grow stronger to better serve our students and community.”

Tim Sullivan has been involved in Catholic education for over 28 years. In that time, he has worked as a K-8 phy ed teacher, 4th grade classroom teacher, middle school social studies, science, and religion, and as an assistant principal. Since 2014, he has been principal of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Hastings. Tim has served on a number of accreditation teams. He enjoys traveling to different schools across the state and seeing all the incredible things going on in non-public schools.

Board of Directors Considerations

Directors are administrative leaders who represent the various sizes, types, geography, and religious/cultural diversity of our member schools. Each year, schools have the opportunity to nominate leaders at any time. If you or your school community wants make such a nomination, candidates will be considered for the next election.

In addition to elected Directors, MNSAA Bylaws allow for up to three Associate Directors to be appointed annually by the seated board. Appointed directors come from agencies that are in agreement with the objectives and function of MNSAA and who possess expertise relating to the accreditation of nonpublic schools.
2023 CONFERENCE AGENDA

LEAD, INSPIRE, TRANSFORM

Friday, November 3, 2023
2700 17th Avenue East
Shakopee, MN 55379

7:30 - 8:10A  Registration | Continental Breakfast | Exposition

8:15 - 8:45A  WELCOME! 2023 MNSAA Annual Conference
MNSAA & Shakopee Area Catholic School invitation to an exceptional professional day!

9:00 - 9:50A  Professional Development - Session I

10:00 - 10:50A  Professional Development - Session II

11:00 - 11:50A  Professional Development - Session III

12:00 - 12:45P  Exposition | Networking | Lunch

12:45 - 1:30P  Professional Development - Session IV

1:30 - 1:45P  Prizes and Thank yous

1:45 - 2:45P  KEYNOTE ADDRESS
The Power of PATH: Building Resilience for Mental and Emotional Health
Tasha Schuh, Inspirational Speaker

2:45 - 3:00P  Conference Closing
Thanks for coming! Looking forward to seeing you again in 2024! Watch your email for a conference evaluation and CEUs.

OUR ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS IS MOST SINCERELY GRATEFUL TO OUR GRACIOUS HOSTS!
The support received from the entire Shakopee Area Catholic School community has been richly valued! Our conference would not be possible without the work of the SACS team.

2023 MNSAA CONFERENCE RESOURCES

mnsaa.org
ASSESSING ASSESSMENT: BRING DEFINITION, BALANCE, AND PURPOSE TO ASSESSMENT AT YOUR SCHOOL
Room 219
Ben Tierney | Owner & Head Consultant at Tierney Consulting
Diagnostic, screening, norm-referenced, adaptive, formative... Good heavens, assessment is a lot (I'm impressed you've read this far!). In this high-energy and engaging session, spend a bit of time thinking about how you use assessment in your school or classroom, then walk through a proven process to bring shared definition, balance, and ultimately more purpose to those assessments. If you like the process, it’s one you can take back and share with your team. We spend a ton of time having students take assessments, we owe it to them to spend the time to make sure they are purpose-filled!

LEVELING THE EDUCATIONAL PHILANTHROPY PLAYING FIELD
Room 222
Michael Habeeb | Account Executive at Our Sunday Visitor
Last year, over $70 billion were donated to American schools, but only about 7% of that went to K-12 education. Learn how leveraging OSV’s dedicated team of professionals to run a school annual fund can help you get a bigger piece of the pie.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING FOR THE YOUNGEST LEARNERS
Room 229
Nici Schwartz | Gifted and Talented Coordinator and Teacher at Shakopee Area Catholic School
Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is more important than ever in order to help our students succeed in school and in life. But how do we teach this in our schools? This workshop will give ideas and techniques to teach SEL to the youngest students in our schools. You will be introduced to books, games, activities, and curriculum that can be used in the youngest grades to help your students thrive with SEL!

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING YOUR SCHOOL’S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT
Room 220
Andrew Hilliker | MNSAA Treasurer/Team Chair | President, Stella Maris Academy
Strategies for developing your school’s plan, involving stakeholders, and communicating the plan will be addressed. Recommendations for maintaining your SSP as a living document, incorporating feedback and review of common errors to avoid will be discussed. This is an opportunity for schools anticipating a visit get their questions answered.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE: KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING
Room 223
Paul Bernabei | Director at Top 20 Training
Hectic schedules and countless demands frequently leave us feeling out of balance. This session examines (1) essential aspects of living a balanced life, (2) how our use of time impacts balance in our life, and (3) simple and practical ways of restoring balance and focusing on what is truly important.
The Minnesota legislature passed many new employment laws this session, requiring schools to update their policies and practices. This includes new requirements regarding paid sick leave, parenting leave, pregnancy accommodations, nursing mother protections, discrimination, and paid family and medical leave. Learn about these new laws and what your school needs to do now to comply.

**New Employment Laws that Schools Need to Know**  
Room 231  
Sam Nelson | Attorney at Nelson Law, PLLC

**Unlock Your Leadership Potential: Master the GROW Model**  
Room 232  
Eric Pratum | COO at Bigwidesky

School principals and educational leaders often face recurring challenges, even with strong management skills. In just under 60 minutes, this session equips you with transformative tools like the Inside-Out approach, active listening, and the GROW model to elevate your leadership and empower your faculty and staff. Don't miss out!

**Family Values in a Local Author’s Children’s Picture Books**  
Room 234  
Patrick Mader | Writer and Teacher

Foreshadowing, making predictions, positive messages and more are found in this engaging and entertaining presentation highlighting stories with a rural Minnesota setting. Cleverly hidden pictures by the illustrator, a Christmas story, and the passing of traditions are featured. See how a book is made too!

**Part 1 - Art of Language Series: The Art of Language Development**  
Room 235  
Pamela Patnode | Director of the Catholic School Leadership Graduate Program

How does language develop? What are the Language Arts? How do we improve language skills in a world of texting, artificial intelligence, and diverse learners? Is the "Science of Reading" the only answer? This session walks through the necessary and often overlooked steps needed to develop language in students (and even in ourselves).

**Overview on Individualized Learning Plans for Teachers and Administrators**  
Room 231  
Inna Collier Paske | Principal at St. Pascal Regional Catholic School  
Shea Bruce | Director of Curriculum & Instruction at St Pascal Regional Catholic School

Learn how to create Academic Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) using NWEA MAP test data in our workshop. We'll explore data interpretation, SMART goal setting, and tailored strategies for student success. This session is ideal for educators, administrators, and curriculum coordinators looking to enhance individualized learning plans and boost student achievement.
SESSION II WORKSHOPS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCED SECURITY
Room 219
Andy Kemp | CEO at Kemp Protective Services
Join us for an insightful presentation on bolstering security measures within your school. Discover effective strategies, best practices, ways to safeguard your educational environment and foster a safe, nurturing atmosphere for students and staff. Andy Kemp, CEO of Kemp Protective Services, will present on how his company provides security for two MNSAA schools; Torah Academy and Holy Name of Jesus. You will leave with actionable insights to strengthen your school’s security framework.

BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE LITERACY LEADER
Room 222
Erin Nemetz | Literacy Coach at Groves Literacy Partnerships - Groves Learning Organization
Di Morri, Retention Manager at Groves Literacy Partnerships - Groves Learning Organization
This session showcases five action steps that school and district leaders can take today to begin implementing the science of reading:
- School yourself - deepen your understanding of the Science of Reading and the current state of MN landscape including the MN READ ACT
- Analyze and adjust assessments
- Analyze curriculum and create a MTSS Model
- Redesign schedules
- Provide ongoing professional learning

USING AI IN EDUCATION: TRANSFORMING CURRICULUM AND LESSON PLANNING WITH CHATGPT
Room 220
Matthew Cleary | General Studies Principal at Torah Academy
In this presentation, we will explore the dynamic role of ChatGPT and how it can be used in education. Discover how AI can be a valuable tool for educators in curriculum and lesson planning. We'll look into the benefits, practical applications, and actual examples of utilizing ChatGPT in the education sector.

RESOLVING CONFLICT HEART-TO-HEART
Room 223
Paul Bernabei | Director at Top 20 Training
For most people conflict seldom results in a satisfactory resolution. After examining several habitual but ineffective responses to conflict, this session presents (1) strategies for making conflict situations productive for all involved, (2) a process for preparing for effective conflict resolution, and (3) a simple but practical tool we can use when we have handled a situation in a problematic way.

NAVIGATING YEAR 6 & 7 (SELF-STUDY AND ON-SITE VISIT)
Room 229
Mary Adrian | MNSAA Board Member
Martha Laurent | MNSAA Board Member
As a school leader are you approaching the end of your accreditation cycle; do you have questions about how to best prepared for your self-study and on-site visit?

If so, this session will provide useful information and tips to make that a successful process for you and your school community.

Bring your questions. There will be plenty of time for conversation.
Providing Meaningful and Just Right Feedback.
Room 231
Maureen Sackmaster Carpenter | Curriculum Leader and Coach

According to John Hattie, feedback significantly impacts student learning. In this session we will be looking at student work and determining possible teaching points to move students forward. We will also learn how to support students in understanding and articulating their next steps.

Completed Your School's Strategic Plan, Now What?
Room 232
Casey Breen | Lead Coach at Escale Advisors

This session draws upon Patrick Lencioni's Advantage model for organizations to be "Healthy" and "Smart". MNSAA's School Strategic Plan framework and structure brings great "smartness" to our schools. In this session we will address the equal importance of working as a "true team" of leaders, managers, & doers to execute strategic plans with fidelity and organizational alignment - in a "healthy" way.

We address our teachings on the importance of strengthening and growing the leadership capacity of and around the head of school/principal. We provide a framework around "meeting types" and how they are to be "driven by" the School’s Strategic Plan. This one-two punch will take their continuous improvement to the next level - bringing fulfillment and joy where many of today’s school leaders suffer from being overwhelmed, exhausted, and feeling stuck.

Part 2 - Art of Language Series: Dyslexia and Dysgraphia: What Educators Need to Know
Room 235
Pamela Patnode | Director of the Catholic School Leadership Graduate Program

This informative session will teach you the signs to watch for with dyslexia and dysgraphia, the myths to ignore, and the session includes simulation exercises that help you to know what it’s like to have dyslexia and dysgraphia. You will leave this session with greater knowledge and understanding.

Utilizing the Power of PATH in Your School
Music Room
Tasha Schuh | Inspirational Speaker at TILL360

In today’s world, it is important to be proactive in helping students and staff with their mental health. This session will be interactive, informative, and impactful as it gives attendees tangible ways to inspire and motivate students and staff to improve their mental and emotional health. There will also be a time of Q&A at the end.

Individual Learning Plans: What Do Administrators Need to Know
Media Center
Inna Collier Paske | Principal at St. Pascal Regional Catholic School

Unlock the power of Individual Learning Plans as an administrator. Learn the essentials for successful implementation and harness NWEA MAP data to drive targeted academic success for your teaching team.
SESSION III WORKSHOPS
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A RENEWING OF VOWS: STRENGTHENING OUR VOCATION IN SCHOOLS
Room 219
Peter Pisano | Owner of Manifold Public Design
This 50-minute session will provide participants with the essential conditions—time, space, and community—to reconnect with their passion for teaching, learning, and leading in educational environments. Through a restorative circle format, attendees will have an opportunity to rediscover their calling, rejuvenate their relationship with it, and reemerge, ready to "share the yoke" of their vocation once more.

LEVERAGING AI TECHNOLOGY TO OPTIMIZE EFFICIENCY
Room 222
Wyayn Rasmussen | Consultant at Northshore Learning
Carly Kortuem | Executive Director at Qué Tal
This introductory presentation aims to demystify Artificial Intelligence (AI) and highlight its potential benefits for teachers and administrators. We will delve into the ways in which AI can help you save time, reduce costs, and enhance your lesson planning, differentiation and communication efforts. By the end of this session, you will gain practical insights and feel empowered to leverage AI to improve your planning and communication and drive your mission forward in achievable ways.

TRANSFORMING FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY KNOWLEDGE FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3 AND UP
Room 220
Maggie Rowan | Literacy Coach at Groves Literacy Partnerships - Groves Learning Organization
This session provides information on:
1. Identifying intermediate students who would benefit from reading interventions
2. Summarizing best practices in intermediate reading interventions
3. Identifying the unique challenges faced by intermediate students and navigating those hurdles

MANAGING STRESS FROM THE INSIDE OUT
Room 223
Paul Bernabei | Director at Top 20 Training
Although stress is necessary for a healthy life, chronic stress is a destroyer of life. This session focuses on how stressors come from outside and inside ourselves, how our thoughts can increase stress, and practical ways to minimize unhealthy stress.

LET’S GATHER AROUND THE TABLE--TABLETOP EXERCISES THAT WORK!
Room 229
Randy Johnson | Director; Training and School Safety at Minnesota Department of Public Safety/Minnesota School Safety Center
This session will present a hands-on methods and tools for engaging school safety planning for all-hazards incidents that may impact a learning community. The process of developing and facilitating Table-Top Exercises (TTX) provides a low-risk/high value collaborative learning experience for school and public safety officials to test and evaluate their Emergency Operations Response Plans.

(The TTX can be designed to be an involved and detailed process, or a brief discussion at any educator team meeting. The session will explore and incorporate the various TTX methods you may utilize to to develop and facilitate TTX in your own context, and provide tools to bring home to your own school family table.)

mnsaa.org
CULTURAL COMPASS: HARMLESS THE POWER OF YOUR CULTURE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD
Room 231
Eric Pratum | COO at Bigwidesky
Navigating today’s rapid changes, leaders seek to lead thriving organizations and teams. However, many address only symptoms of problems, not root issues. Despite trying various strategies, positive results are fleeting. The solution? Delve deep into what truly drives effectiveness. Harness culture’s power, understand your organization’s essence, and align your leadership practices. By doing so, we can pave the way for innovative powerhouses, retaining top talent, and becoming industry magnets.

RETHINKING HOMEWORK?
Room 234
Sean Slaikeu | Principal at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School
In this session Sean will present some findings about the practices of Homework from his principal EDS thesis paper and how homework has other impacts on students other than just a grade. Are we using homework practices from generations ago? Do we need to reframe the lens in which we view homework? In this session we will start a conversation about homework and the impacts it has on the classroom, the students, teachers, and parents. The goal of this session is to think and discussion our homework practices as a whole and bring that discussions back to your schools.

DREAMING BIG FOR YOUR SCHOOL’S STRATEGIC PLAN, WHILE KEEPING YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND
Room 232
Casey Breen | Lead Coach at Escale Advisors
We will be focused on frameworks/tools to help MNSAA schools ensure Quality Expectations in the development and evolving of their "living" School Strategic Plan. We provide tools that in particular allow the Visionary aspects of their plans to be Reasonable, Connected, & Supported.

We draw from Michael Porters work on strategy in using the School's Strategic Plan as the center of an "always on" Strategy System. A Strategy System driving year-over-year, quarter-over-quarter, and week-over-week Plan Execution leading to Operational Vitality and School Growth... all focused on bringing students to their highest level of academic achievement.

GROWING AS EDUCATORS WHILE AVOIDING BURNOUT
Room 235
Pamela Patnode | Director of the Catholic School Leadership Graduate Program
Are you exhausted? Although the world of education can be deeply fulfilling, it can also be exhausting. How can we grow as educators while avoiding burnout? This session will uplift you, affirm your vocation, and give you practical tips for growing as an educator and finding joy.

UTILIZING THE POWER OF PATH IN YOUR SCHOOL
Music Room
Tasha Schuh | Inspirational Speaker at TILL360
In today’s world, it is important to be proactive in helping students and staff with their mental health. This session will be interactive, informative, and impactful as it gives attendees tangible ways to inspire and motivate students and staff to improve their mental and emotional health. There will also be a time of Q&A at the end.

mnsaa.org
LEADING YOUR SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD TO SUCCESS: AN ASSET, NOT A BURDEN
Room 223
David Sorkin | Head of School at St. Hubert Catholic School
The goal for school advisory boards is to help school leaders further realize the mission of the school, and partner with stakeholders to drive the school forward toward strategic success. Unfortunately, school advisory boards can become ineffective for school leaders. Members can push personal agendas that may conflict with the direction of administration, they may want to complain about a teacher or discuss what happened in the parent pickup line, or the advisory board may lack strategic focus. In this session, participants will discuss and learn strategies to effectively lead school advisory boards by focusing on seven principles of effective advisory school boards, along with the roles and responsibilities of advisory board members. The result of an effective advisory school board is that the advisory board becomes a significant asset to the principal, not a burden.

LIFELONG LEARNING: THE VALUE AND NECESSITY OF ADMINISTRATOR CREDENTIALS
Room 220
Michael Hahn | Assistant Dean of the School of Education at St. Mary’s University of Minnesota
This session will provide participants with an understanding of MNSAA policy 4350, the requirement concerning administrator credentials. Even when school leaders understand the rationale for this policy and see how it is intended to benefit their schools, the time demands and financial constraints can present obstacles for school leaders to meet this requirement. This session is intended to provide information about various graduate education programs and pathways that will allow school leaders to meet this requirement. There will also be time for participants to share with each other their questions and suggestions. This session is idea for school leaders who are considering continuing their own education as well as leaders who have earned advanced degrees and want to share with others how they managed to do it.

CONSULTATION IN ESEA TITLE PROGRAMS: WHY, HOW, AND WITH WHOM?
Room 231
Alicia Waeffler | Student Access and Opportunity Supervisor at MN Department of Education
Join MDE’s ESEA Nonpublic Ombudsman to learn more about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Explore the requirements and possibilities in these district-managed programs for nonpublic school students and staff. Review the consultation timeline and requirements, allowable uses of funds, developing a plan for services, and how to handle unspent funds.
Minnesota has had a rich sports heritage. Our state’s remarkable athletes have overcome adversity and given back to their schools, sports, and community. Learn about the role of athletes from a variety of sports in a wide range of eras in the Olympics.

Discover Minnesota Gold!
Room 234
Patrick Mader | Writer and Teacher
Minnesota has had a rich sports heritage. Our state’s remarkable athletes have overcome adversity and given back to their schools, sports, and community. Learn about the role of athletes from a variety of sports in a wide range of eras in the Olympics.

Question and Answer Panel on Licensing and Best Practices in Early Childhood Education
Room 235
Kay Hannon | Director of Early Learning at Ascension Academy
Most administrators and many teachers are trained to in K-8 but early childhood is a different field entirely. This session will give you the opportunity to learn more about everything from licensing requirements to best practices in class management and teaching. We will also touch on hiring and enrollment ideas. In this interactive session, attendees will be invited to bring their questions and share their experiences as we delve into the field of early childhood education and how to support our staff and improve our programs.

SEL SOS!
Media Center
Joe Beckman | Speaker and Author at TILL360
Imagine - a classroom of excited students hungry to learn from an equally excited educator about the importance of self-regulation, self-awareness, empathy, resilience and more! THIS IS POSSIBLE! In this dynamic breakout participants will walk away with both a framework AND practical solutions that will unleash buy-in from staff, increase engagement from students, and help create a school community where social and emotional learning skills can flourish.

Individual Learning Plans: What Do Teachers Need to Know
Room 232
Shea Bruce | Director of Curriculum & Instruction at St Pascal Regional Catholic School
Empower your teaching journey with Individual Learning Plans. Discover the key strategies to effectively implement ILPs, leverage the NWEA MAP learning continuum, and create personalized success pathways for your students.

2023 MNSAA Conference Resources
mnsaa.org
2023 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

MARY ADRIAN
MNSAA BOARD MEMBER

JOE BECKMAN
SPEAKER & AUTHOR AT TILL360

PAUL BERNabei
DIRECTOR AT TOP 20 TRAINING

CASEY BREEN
LEAD COACH AT ESCALE ADVISORS

SHEA BRUCE
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION AT ST. PASCAL REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

MATTHEW CLEARY
GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL AT TORAH ACADEMY

MICHAEL HABEEB
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE AT OUR SUNDAY VISITOR

MICHAEL HAHN
ASSISTANT DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION | MNSAA BOARD MEMBER

KAY HANNON
DIRECTOR OF EARLY LEARNING AT ASCENSION ACADEMY

ANDREW HILLIKER
PRESIDENT AT STELLA MARIS ACADEMY | MNSAA BOARD MEMBER

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2023 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

RANDY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR; TRAINING AND SCHOOL SAFETY AT MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY/MINNESOTA SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER

CARLY KORTUEM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT QUE TAL

PATRICK MADER
RETIRED TEACHER: AUTHOR OF CHILDREN’S BOOKS AND MINNESOTA OLYMPIANS

SAM NELSON
ATTORNEY AT NELSON LAW, PLLC

INNA COLLIER PASKE
PRINCIPAL AT ST. PASCAL REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ANDY KEMP
COO AT KEMP PROTECTIVE SERVICES

MARTHA LAURENT
MNSAA BOARD MEMBER

DI MORRI
RETENTION MANAGER AT GROVES LITERACY PARTNERSHIPS - GROVES LEARNING ORGANIZATION

ERIN NEMETZ
LITERACY COACH AT GROVES LITERACY PARTNERSHIPS - GROVES LEARNING ORGANIZATION

PAMELA PATNODE
DIRECTOR OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP GRADUATE PROGRAM AT SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

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2023 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

PETER PISANO
OWNER OF MANIFOLD PUBLIC DESIGN

ERIC PRATUM
COO AT BIGWIDESKY

WYAYN RASMUSSEN, ED. D.
CONSULTANT AT NORTHSHORE LEARNING

MAGGIE ROWAN
LITERACY COACH AT GROVES LITERACY PARTNERSHIPS - GROVES LEARNING ORGANIZATION

MAUREEN SACKMASTER CARPENTER
CURRICULUM LEADER AND COACH

TASHA SCHUH
INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER AT TILL360

NICI SCHWARTZ
GIFTED AND TALENTED COORDINATOR AND TEACHER AT SHAKOPEE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SEAN SLAIKEU
PRINCIPAL AT SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

DAVID SORKIN
HEAD OF SCHOOL AT ST. HUBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TIM SULLIVAN
PRINCIPAL AT ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL

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DISCOUNTED RATE FOR NEW MEMBERS

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MNSAA HOPES YOU LEAVE INSPIRED BY THIS YEAR’S SPEAKERS AND NETWORKING AT THE 2023 CONFERENCE: LEAD, INSPIRE, TRANSFORM
WHO MAY SEEK ACCREDITATION?
MNSAA is a Minnesota based organization that is recognized by the State of Minnesota as an accrediting agency. MNSAA accredits MN nonpublic schools that have been in existence for at least two years and have 501c3 nonprofit status. Nonpublic schools are private institutions of learning in which a resident may legally fulfill our State Compulsory Instruction Law. They are institutions of learning that have one: unified mission, administration, consistent curriculum, and local governing authority.

WHY SEEK ACCREDITATION?

CREDIBILITY
Delivers recognized credibility of the quality of the school’s program in the eyes of stakeholders and the public.

VALIDATION OF EXCELLENCE
Offers objective outside validation that a school has met high standards of excellence and is actively seeking a quality education program.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
Provides for long-range strategic planning focused on student achievement and ongoing school improvement.

ACCOUNTABILITY
Provides local and ongoing accountability as schools provide annual reports identifying progress achieving goals, new opportunities or obstacles to growth, communication with stakeholders, and monitors the progress of its learners.

WHAT ARE MEMBERSHIP COSTS?
Member schools of MNSAA pay annual dues reflective of the number of students enrolled. The cost to schools is a flat rate of $250 plus $2.45 per student. Our Annual Conference is supported by a registration fee. There are additional expenses associated with renewal and onsite visits. Reasonable fees for services and benefits are possible because MNSAA utilizes the generosity and talent of volunteers from our membership.

OVERVIEW OF OUR ACCREDITATION
MNSAA enhances the quality of education through a process of self-evaluation and ongoing improvement. An essential and vital principle is that our schools are evaluated in terms of how well they are guided by their own mission. Respect is given to the differences that exist among accredited schools. We subscribe to a traditional accreditation process in which every 7 years member schools are required to complete an extensive self-evaluation based on MNSAA standards. As a result of this reflection, a school develops a visionary strategic plan for improvement.

MNSAA ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:
- Mission & Philosophy
- Teaching & Learning
- Climate for Learning
- Communications & Relations
- Personnel
- Leadership & Governance
- School Strategic Plan

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