

# *MnSTA* *Newsletter*

Volume 68 No. 3 A Quarterly Publication of the Minnesota Science Teachers Association Inc. Spring 2024

## **MnCOSE 2024 Convenes in St. Cloud**

We're headed to Saint Cloud! Join us for MnCOSE24, celebrating 60 years of MnSTA!

This time, we're teaming up with Saint Cloud State University as the site of our 60th Anniversary Conference! SCSU has much to share, a beautiful facility and talented staff to welcome us in. And we all win, as we have reduced our conference costs and will pass that on to you as reduced fees!

We'll start the event Thursday night with an informal reception. Yep, it will be Halloween night! Come as you are, come when you can, and relax with friends new and old. On Friday and Saturday, MnCOSE24 all takes place at the Atwood Center at SCSU, just a short trip from our conference hotels. Easy, close parking on campus is included in your registration. All of our sessions, exhibitors and meals will take place in this one convenient location.

We heard your feedback that you value both longer workshops as well as shorter presentation sessions. We'll include these options on both Friday and Saturday mornings. And - we'll offer SIX presentation sessions on Friday and another THREE sessions on Saturday morning. You'll be able to engage in this mix of nine general sessions as well as several focused workshop opportunities over two days of MnCOSE.

We already have great exhibitors lining up to join us and share their expertise. Our vendors include both commercial providers of educational tools and non-profit organizations to serve you.

Educators across Minnesota are now implementing the new-to-us 2019 standards. Come to learn and come to share what the process looks like in

your world. We'll dedicate particular sessions for sharing by grade and/or content area.

Friday night - don't miss the party! What happens when science educators take over the Underground at SCSU on our 60th Anniversary? Come join us for a fun night of celebration and science. Food and fun await as we spend time looking back to where we've come and looking forward to where we're headed.

We hope you'll reserve your PD funds and mark your calendars NOW for Oct 31 - Nov 2 for MnCOSE 2024! Watch [www.mnsta.org](http://www.mnsta.org) and our socials for all the latest updates!



# President's Message-Jill Jensen



I am writing this newsletter on a train back to Boston after touring the University of New Hampshire with my daughter. This was the second of our three scheduled college tours in the Boston area. Her dream is to go into the field of microbiology and perhaps work at (or run) the CDC one day. While I'm at it, I should mention my older daughter is a freshman at Luther College and declared Chemistry as her major (Yes, my heart is full of pride). A friend of mine asked how sad I was going to be sending my kids away to college. Don't get me wrong, I definitely miss having our family all under one roof but sadness is not what I feel. To be honest, I mostly feel joy and excitement for them. There are so many possibilities in front of them, and so many exciting opportunities that I almost feel giddy.

But what does this have to do with MnSTA? While we know that not every student will pursue a career in science, or have a path that leads them towards a four year degree, we do want every student to feel like the world of possibilities lies in front of them. I believe that the shifts we are making in science education toward phenomenon based, student-centered sense making instruction has the power to push our learners towards a deeper understanding of complex concepts and helps them gain a range of skills that will result in them being better learners and critical thinkers. The science and engineering practices that are embedded in our standards activate skills that go beyond science and provide students with an opportunity to question, analyze and refute/support claims that can be applied to

many content areas.

If you are in the midst of transitioning to this style of instruction, it can feel overwhelming and that nothing is going right. It can also be very tempting to go back to comfortable, teacher directed lessons - I know first hand this feeling. This transition is no small task. I'm sure I've said it before, but taking a step back and reflecting on the progress you and your students have made might help you realize the positive differences in learning and understanding that are happening. While I have definitely had clunky lessons and activities that did not go the way I hoped, I have also seen a lot of growth. My students are engaged in thoughtful conversations, using academic terms to accurately describe complex phenomena. I've also fielded a large amount of questions that get posted on our question board, another sign of engagement and curiosity. Asking questions and having conversations is part of the vision behind 3D teaching and one of the big ideas behind the shift in our new standards.

As with all of teaching, we won't get to see the end result of our efforts or know what impact you've had on students. But I believe in this dream and vision of science education. Just like sending my kids off to college, I have nothing but excitement for what is in our future and the future for our students.

To help engage teachers in professional conversations around these changes, we have been hosting free, monthly zoom meetings to our members. These have ranged in topics from guiding productive talk to using nature journaling in your classroom. We have two final meetings left this school year: Thursday April 11th at 6:30 PM to discuss [Beyond Misconceptions: How to Recognize and Build on Facets of Student Thinking](#); and Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30 PM to discuss final reflections on this past school year: what went well, what goals do you have and how else can MnSTA help you. Register for these events at: [https://www.mnsta.org/cgi/page.cgi/Making\\_Sense\\_of\\_SCIENCE\\_23-24.html](https://www.mnsta.org/cgi/page.cgi/Making_Sense_of_SCIENCE_23-24.html)



## Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Osprey Wilds is an accredited Outdoor School in Sandstone, Minnesota. We provide K-12 residential and day-use learning experiences, including environmental, adventure, and team-building classes!

### OUTDOOR SCHOOL TRIPS

#### Overnight

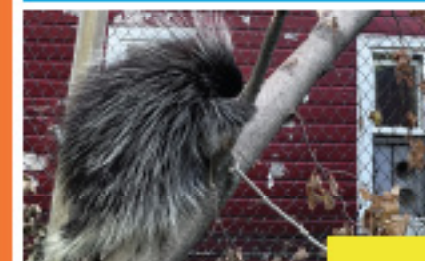
- 3 days, 2 nights
- 6 two-hour classes
- 2 evening classes
- 7 meals

Day Program options available by request



### CLASS SUBJECTS

Ecology  
Wildlife  
Stewardship  
Culture & History  
Adventure Education  
Naturalist Evening Programs  
& more!



### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Funding for K-12 Scholarships is provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Learn more online at [OspreyWilds.org/schools](https://OspreyWilds.org/schools)



Contact us

[schools@ospreywilds.org](mailto:schools@ospreywilds.org)  
320-245-2648



54165 Audubon Drive, Sandstone, MN 55072 | 320-245-2648



Our featured teacher for this edition of our newsletter is Beth Streit. Beth teaches 6th grade earth science and elective engineering courses in the Pillager school district. Over the past 17 years, Beth has also taught high school electives including ecology, environmental science, geology and astronomy.

Beth's teaching style has changed over the years and she now sees herself as a facilitator. She has been very fortunate to work with other amazing teachers in her department and they have been able to work as a team to tackle the move to 3D learning as well as the new state standards. She now focuses most of her class time on discussion, modeling and reflection. They gather and analyze as much local data as possible. Hands-on learning is an important component of her class. She states, "It's a great feeling when students not only gathered the data, but are able to make meaningful connections with what they saw and apply it."

Beth's favorite subjects to teach include geology topics such as astronomy, rocks and minerals and remote sensing. Her students use kites to gather weather data as well as taking aerial images. She uses a rover that collects air and surface temperatures while collecting GPS data points which enables them to map their data.

Beth considers herself a life-long learner and she tries to model that curiosity in her classroom. In recent years she has been able to participate in the GLOBE AREN project which provided kites and a rover for her students to use to explore remote sensing on the school campus.

Last year Beth led a group of 6th graders in establishing the Pillager Conservation Crew. They are supported by Conservation Minnesota. Students have worked on planting a pollinator garden and educating the community about native plants at Pillager's Arbor Day Celebration. She enjoys see how her students have grown as leaders from their involvement in this group. She also enjoys spending time outdoors, gardening, camping and looking for CLR's (cool looking rocks) with her husband and two sons.

"Each day Beth goes above and beyond to provide her students with an exceptional educational experience. If you were to walk into her classroom during the day, you would witness students engaged in hands-on learning and diving deep into real-world scientific curriculum. Beth is a true professional, and her insight is valued by her students and her colleagues." Middle school principal, Wade Mortenson



Beth Streit examining mineral samples with students



Beth in her classroom



Angela Kolonich, Science Education Specialist  
angela.kolonich@state.mn.us

Ziigwan\* – It is Spring! The days are slowly starting to get warmer, and I can already see bright green shoots poking out of the ground, ready for another growing season. I have a garden at my house, and each year I spend some time thinking about which Miinikaanan/seeds that I want to plant. Last year, we planted basil, tomatoes, peppers, and spinach – we called it our pizza garden! We enjoyed harvesting some of our vegetables on Fridays for "make your own pizza" night. One thing that I noticed last year after planting Miinikaanan/seeds was that they did not all sprout at the same time! Even more interesting, the different vegetable plants grew at different rates. No matter what I tried, I wasn't able to get my watermelon seeds to grow. I wonder if it might have been too cold for them. This year, I plan to start them under a heat lamp to see if I can get my watermelon Miinikaanan to sprout, and then grow. Watermelon is one of my favorite summer treats. Do you have seeds that you like to plant each year in your garden – or maybe bulbs that come up every year? One thing that I really love about being outside in the garden, is observing all of the different plants and the individual characteristics that makes each one unique.

\* You can learn more about Ojibwe language and access audio files of word pronunciation at The Ojibwe Peoples Dictionary – established by faculty

at The University of Minnesota <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/>

### Minnesota Science Standards

Updates on the Minnesota Science Standards. The final PDF version of our 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science was recently updated to include a missing Physics benchmark that was cut off of the last page. Physics benchmark 9P.4.2.1.2 has now been added to the PDF version of our standards document. The spreadsheet version of the standards has and continues to include this benchmark. If you haven't already, please visit our [Academic Standards, Science Implementation page](#) to download the most recent version of the 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science.

Looking ahead to full Science Standards Implementation. Full implementation of our 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science begins in Fall 2024, and students will take the MCA IV aligned to the new standards in the Spring of 2025. Similarly, updated language to the [Graduation Requirements for Science](#) goes into effect for students entering the 9th grade in the 2024-2025 school year. Please reach out to Angela Kolonich, Science Specialist, if you have any questions.

### MCA Science Assessment update

Get involved with the development of the Science MCA. Every year, through Educator and Community Review Committees, Minnesota educators and community members across the state bring invaluable classroom experience, perspectives from teaching diverse students, and engagement with Minnesota Academic Standards to the test development process. This committee participation ensures that the content and question type align closely with best practices in classroom instruction. Each committee is a separate entity that meets for two to four days. When the committee completes their specific review task, a new committee is formed for the next task in the test development process.

1. Sign up for [MCA Review Committees Database](#). Committee members are selected to participate in various meetings throughout the summer. Your input is vital in the development of items to the new science standards.

2. Preview sets of questions developed for the Science MCA-IV. The [Testing 1, 2, 3 MCA Content Resources webpage](#) under Science Resources now has released examples of Science MCA-IV items and Educator Guides. The purpose of these resources is to give Minnesota education professionals a few



# Department of Education

examples of phenomenon-based, multidimensional items aligned to the 2019 Minnesota Science Standards. The guides include information on benchmark alignment and student response data, to provide context for the online released items.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Finalists Announced  
The review of the Minnesota applications for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for 2024 is complete! This year the applications were for elementary teachers, and next year will be for secondary teachers. The applications include a video recording and a narrative about the practices in science content, instruction, assessment, reflection and leadership. The applications of each finalist will be judged at the national level, and the White House will make the final selection for the 2024 Presidential Award Winner.

The Minnesota State Science finalists for 2024 are:

- Kelly Gibson from Battle Creek Elementary School
- Deanne Trottier from Eagle View Elementary School
- Krista Wyvell-Fink from Rum River Elementary School

Please join us in congratulating our State Science finalists for 2024, and wishing them well as their applications proceed to the national level. Secondary science teachers, please consider applying for 2025! You can learn more about this prestigious award at <https://paemst.nsf.gov/>

## P3 Conference

You're invited — Join us May 9-10th at the P3 Conference!

Terra Nova, Headrush and Northwest Passage High School will once again be offering the Projects, Pedagogy, and Play Conference.

Thursday: Innovative school tours and screening of 'A Cure for the Common Classroom'

Friday: Conference at [Northwest Passage High School](#), (just 25 mins north of St. Paul, MN).

We'd love to have you attend! Would you join us?!

Reasons to make the trip:

Connect with like-minded innovative school educators, many of which are powered by Headrush Learning.

Experience a great example of an innovative school campus via [Northwest Passage High School](#).

Learn from those in the field doing the hard work of building student agency and opportunities through projects, better pedagogy, and play.

[How to Attend the Event:](#)

## WaterWorks

Do you teach 4th - 10th grade Earth Science Standards?

WaterWorks is a fun, fast and FREE three-day workshop for science teachers on drinking water.

July 29-31, 2024, at St. Paul Regional Water Services, 1900 Rice St., St. Paul, MN

Enrich your water curriculum by investigating drinking water quality, chemistry, engineering, community resources, and practice-based activities for your classroom. This three-day, hands-on workshop allows grade 4-10 teachers of science to gather information from expert presenters about how safe, reliable drinking water is delivered to your community as well as drinking water issues facing Minnesota. Meals and resources provided. Choose between two graduate credits or stipend. Join the ranks of over 450 teachers that have participated in WaterWorks! throughout Minnesota over the last 24 years. Funded by the Minnesota Dept. of Health and the American Waterworks Association.

WaterWorks Application and information at: <https://cgee.hamline.edu/cornerstone-programs/professional-development-and-graduate-programs/teacher-institutes/waterworks>

Other opportunities include its acclaimed Summer Teacher Institutes! These are FREE, three-day, field-based professional development opportunities designed to increase teachers' science content knowledge and investigation skills.

Sign up and learn more at the links below:

[St. Louis River and Estuary Institute - Duluth, MN | June 24-26](#)

[Mississippi River Delta Institute - New Orleans, LA | July 8-10](#)

[Mississippi River Institute - Minneapolis and St Paul, MN | July 22-24](#). This year's Mississippi River Institute includes a tour of a wastewater treatment plant!

All 3 institutes include:

- Three full days of experiential instruction and lunch
- 18 continuing education units (CEUs)
- The option to purchase two graduate credits at a reduced rate.

All educators are welcome to apply!

For questions please contact Sara Robertson at Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education: [srobertson01@hamline.edu](mailto:srobertson01@hamline.edu)

# Contacts and Resources

## Free resources for teaching how science works

[Decoding Science](#) is a free interactive resource from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and medicine. It's all vetted by experts and ready to use in your classroom.

A 90-second video on how science works  
Clear answers to challenging questions  
Stories from real-life scientists  
And more...

## PLT "Explore Your Environment" K-8 Activity Guide Released

Project Learning Tree (PLT) released a new curriculum guide to engage kindergarten through grade 8 students in exploring their environment. Fifty field-tested, hands-on activities integrate investigations of nature with science, math, English language arts, and social studies.

Educators can obtain a copy of PLT's Explore Your Environment: K-8 [Activity Guide](#) directly from [PLT's Shop](#), from Amazon and other places where books are sold, or by attending a local PLT professional development workshop conducted by PLT's 50-state network of 75 coordinators and 1,000 facilitators across the country. [Minnesota PLT site](#)

## Student Programs, Awards and Competitions

### Science and Engineering Competitions

- [Science Bowl](#) – middle and high school
- [Minnesota Science Olympiad](#) – middle and high school
- [Science and Engineering Fair](#) – middle and high school
- [FIRST Lego League, FIRST Tech Challenge, FIRST Robotics](#)- All grades
- [Supermileage Challenge](#) - High school
- [Real World Design Challenge](#) - High school
- [Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision](#) - Classroom based for all grades
- [NSTA Angela Award](#) – girls grades 5 – 8
- [MN Scholars of Distinction](#) – high school
- [National Youth Science Camp](#) – two high school seniors are selected as MN delegates

### Minnesota Programs and Competitions

Many competitions, out-of-school programs and field trip opportunities are listed in the [Reach for the Stars Catalog of Programs and Activities](#).

### MDE Science Contacts:

Angela Kolonich, Science Content Specialist

[angela.kolonich@state.mn.us](mailto:angela.kolonich@state.mn.us)

Jim Wood, Science Assessment Specialist

[jim.wood@state.mn.us](mailto:jim.wood@state.mn.us)

Judi Iverson, Science Assessment Specialist

[judi.iverson@state.mn.us](mailto:judi.iverson@state.mn.us)

Sarah Carter, STEM and Computer Science Specialist [sarah.carter@state.mn.us](mailto:sarah.carter@state.mn.us)

Send submissions for the Science Update to Angela Kolonich [angela.kolonich@state.mn.us](mailto:angela.kolonich@state.mn.us)

### Other Minnesota Links:

Minn. Dept. of Education [Science Page](#)

Minn. Science Teachers Association [mnsta.org](http://mnsta.org)

[Frameworks](#) for MN Science and Mathematics Standards

Get – [STEM](#) Connections between schools and businesses

Mn-STEM STEM programs and [resources](#) for families, schools and community  
Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge environmental education [resources](#)

[Minnesota Academy of Science](#): Science Fair, Science Bowl and other competitions  
Mn DNR Education website: [Curriculum, professional development, posters, etc.](#)

[Youth Eco Solutions \(YES!\)](#) – Statewide, youth-led program for hands-on eco related projects



Bringing Science Supplies and Living Specimens Directly to You Since 1936!

Trans-Mississippi Biological Supply

Amoeba

101 Isanti Parkway NE  
Suite F, PO Box 511  
Isanti, MN 55040

763-444-9673  
[www.tbms.com](http://www.tbms.com)  
Email: [tbms@tbms.com](mailto:tbms@tbms.com)



Contact Us  
Today!



## ESTEP Summer

Boot Camps for 6th Grade Teachers

### SUMMER 2024 Boot Camps

Bemidji (June 17 - 21)

North Metro (July 8 - 12)

Rochester Area (July 22 - 26)

Register Here!

<http://bit.ly/47MQ8zD>



## ESTEP Summer

Boot Camps for High School Earth Science Teachers

### SUMMER 2024 Boot Camps

Physical Geology/Systems at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (June 17 - 21)

Meteorology and Climate at St. Cloud State University (June 24 - 28)

Hydrology (Rocks and Waters) at MSU Mankato (July 15 - 19)

**NEW!** Earth Systems at TBD METRO AREA (July 22 - 26)

Register Here!

<https://bit.ly/3StJfib>



Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).



The Minnesota Science Teachers Association

## Professional Learning Opportunities '23-'24

MnSTA is excited to announce our professional learning opportunities for members this school year. Highlights include:

- Monthly virtual offerings
- Tools to support NGSS
- Free for members
- CEU's available
- Come to all or any that fit your schedule



Registration can be found at: [Mnsta.org](http://Mnsta.org)

Once you are registered, you will be sent the zoom link for that meeting

Stay tuned .... In Depth, Content Specific Conversation Dates coming soon!

Date and Time	Topic
September 14th 4:00 PM	How can I foster curiosity and learning in my classroom? Through talk!
October 12th 3:45 PM	How can I get my students to learn science by productively talking with each other?
November 16th 7:00 PM	How can I promote equitable sensemaking by setting expectations for multiple perspectives?
December 14th 4:00 PM	Practices should not stand alone: How to sequence practices in a cascade to support student investigations
January 11th 4:00 PM	Prompts for Integrating Crosscutting Concepts Into Assessment and Instruction
February 15th 7:00 PM	Engaging students in computational thinking during science investigations
March 14th 6:30 PM	Using Nature Journaling to identify meaningful local phenomena and support the infinite range of student sensemaking
April 11th 6:30 PM	Beyond "misconceptions": How to recognize and build on Facets of student thinking
May 15th 6:30 PM	Year-end wrap up, conversation with MnSTA leadership

Questions: contact us at: [jill.jensene@charter.net](mailto:jill.jensene@charter.net)





**ATTENTION: SCIENCE TEACHERS GRADES 4-12!**

Student scholarship opportunity for outdoor learning on the North Shore.

Thanks to funding partners, Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, located in Finland, Minnesota, is offering scholarships to schools.

**DOES YOUR SCHOOL QUALIFY?**

Your school may qualify for scholarships at either the school-wide or individual student level. Scholarships can be used for tuition, lodging, and meals for 3 days/2 nights or 5 days/4 nights for students in grades 4-12, for groups from 15 to 350 people. School year and summer programming is available.

**ABOUT WOLF RIDGE**

Wolf Ridge is an accredited residential environmental school located on the North Shore featuring a nationally recognized curriculum that aligns with state academic standards, Common Core, and Next Generation Science Standards. Instructors involve students in the direct observation, inquiry, and exploration of wild forests, wetlands, lakes, and streams.

Features include:

- 2,000-acre classroom on the North Shore
- 68-acre field station on Lake Superior
- 18 miles of hiking and ski trails
- Multiple lakes and streams
- Dining hall with produce from our organic farm
- Indoor rock-climbing walls and outdoor ropes courses



**INTERESTED?**

Please reach out to Wolf Ridge K-12 Program Coordinator Emily Pavlisich (scheduling@wolf-ridge.org or 218-353-7414, ext. 107) with questions or to find out if your school is eligible for scholarships. Learn more at [wolf-ridge.org/programs/educators/k-12-class-trips](http://wolf-ridge.org/programs/educators/k-12-class-trips).






**LOOKING FOR SUPPORT FOR ELEMENTARY SCIENCE?**

*Minnesota Science Teachers Association has an offer for you.*

**NEW**

**MNSTA IS OFFERING A \$75 BUILDING MEMBERSHIP TO COVER ALL TEACHERS IN YOUR BUILDING**

All teachers receive access to the monthly newsletter and online resources as well as member rate for the annual conference.

**TO LEARN MORE:**

*Metro:*  
[Lee.Filipek@district196.org](mailto:Lee.Filipek@district196.org)

*Out-state*  
[kandy.nolesstevens@smsu.edu](mailto:kandy.nolesstevens@smsu.edu)



It is our mission to: stimulate, coordinate, and improve science teaching and learning for all.

## Why Join MnSTA?

• Keep up with the latest developments in science education



• Network with peers from around the state

• Help us advocate for science education at the district and state level



Join at [mnsta.org](http://mnsta.org)



**Meet President-elect Haley Kalina. A full biography will appear in our summer newsletter.**

## Keep Your MnSTA Profile Up-To-Date

MnSTA does its best to keep you abreast of everything happening in science education in Minnesota. We do this via several outlets including:


- MnSTA Website [www.mnsta.org](http://www.mnsta.org)
- Instagram @mnscienceteachers
- MnSTA Facebook and Twitter pages (@MnSTA1)
- Weekly Digest of postings (sent via email)
- Updates from MDE Science Specialist Angela Kolonich (newsletter)
- Quarterly Newsletter (availability announced via email)
- Occasional email messages to all members

The best way to make sure you are receiving email notices and all of the above information, please make sure that MnSTA has your correct email address, mailing address, and your permission to send this information to you. Your profile also contains information about your school, disciplines you teach, and the grade levels you work with. These can all be updated at any time.

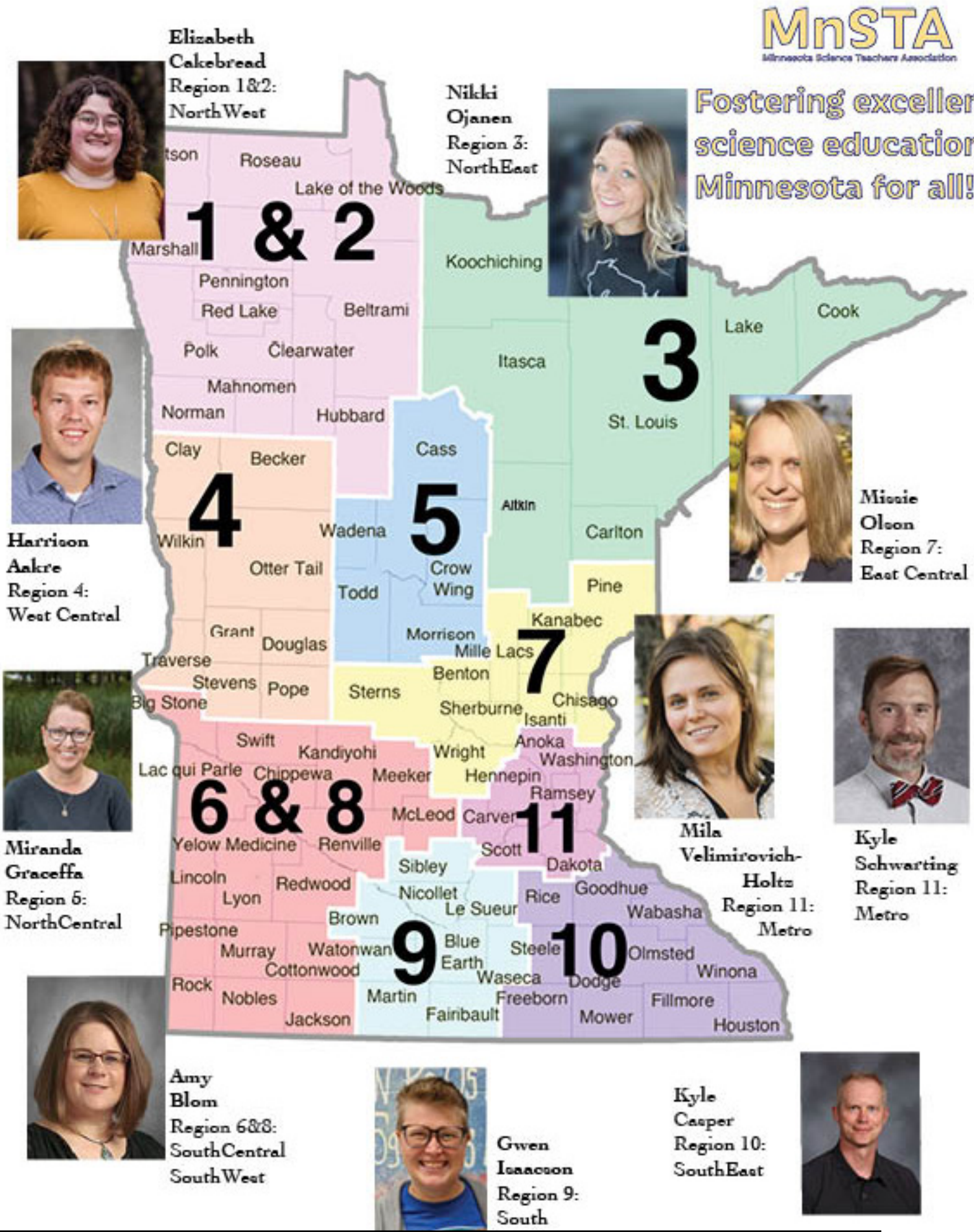
You can update your MnSTA profile by going to the MnSTA website ([www.mnsta.org](http://www.mnsta.org)) and logging in. Click on the My Profile link. You will then see links to Update Profile, Update Addresses, Update Photo, and Change Password. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact MnSTA.

MnSTA, Inc. is an IRS 501 (c) (3) Charitable Educational Corporation, incorporated as a tax exempt, non-profit organization with the Minnesota Secretary of State. Donations and dues are tax deductible charitable contributions for itemized deductions on IRS form 1040 Schedule A. The newsletter is an exempt program service provided to the membership. A membership form is found on the last page





**Fostering excellent science education in Minnesota for all!**



**Elizabeth Cakebread**  
Region 1&2: North West

**Nikki Ojanen**  
Region 3: North East

**Harrison Aakre**  
Region 4: West Central

**Miranda Graceffa**  
Region 5: North Central

**Amy Blom**  
Region 6&8: South Central South West

**Gwen Isaacson**  
Region 9: South

**Mila Velimirovich-Holtz**  
Region 11: Metro

**Kyle Casper**  
Region 10: South East

## MnSTA Board Directory

Below, you will find information about your MnSTA Board Members. The listing includes the board member's school (or organization), mailing address, work phone, FAX number, and e-mail address. The board wishes to make itself as accessible as possible for our members. Please feel free to contact your discipline representative, regional representative, or executive board members if you have ideas, concerns, or wish to help with the mission or operation of MnSTA. We are always looking for members who wish to serve MnSTA as Board Members, Non-Board Service Chairs or Members, and as Committee Chairs or Members.

### Executive Board:

Exec. Secretary	Karen Maier	St. Cloud Area School Dist. 472	1000 44th Ave N. St. Cloud MN 56303
	320-370-7958	karen.maier@isd742.org	
President-Elect	Haley Kalina	Alexandria Public Schools	510 McKay Ave N. Alexandria, MN 56308
	320-762-7900	haleykalina@gmail.com	
President	Jill Jensen	Scott Highlands Middle School	14011 Pilot Knob Rd. Apple Valley, MN 55124
	952-423-7581	president@mnsta.org	
Treasurer	John Olson	Metropolitan State Univ.	700 E. 7th St. St. Paul, MN 55107
		treasurer@mnsta.org	
DOE Science Specialist	Angela Kolonich		angela.kolonich@state.mn.us

### Discipline Directors:

Biology	Michelle Housenga	Minneapolis Washburn HS	201 West 49th St. Minneapolis, MN 55419
	612-720-5705	Michelle.housenga@mpls.k12.mn.us	
Earth Science	Dana Smith	Bemidji Middle School	1910 Middle School Ave. NW Bemidji, MN 56601
	218-333-3215	dana_smith@isd31.net	
Chemistry	Shelly Munoz	Pierz Healy HS	112 Kamnic St. Pierz, Mn 56364
	320-468-6485	ShellyMunoz316@gmail.com	
Elementary/Greater MN	Robin Knutson	Forestview Middle School	12149 Knollwood Dr. Baxter, MN 56425
	218-454-6123	robin.knutson@isd181.org	
Elementary/Metro	Kelli Ellickson	Cedar Park Elementary STEM School	7500 Whitney Dr. Apple Valley MN55124
Higher Ed	Vacant		
Informal Ed	Caitlin Potter	Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve	2660 Fawn Lake Dr. NE E. Bethel 55005
		caitlin@umn.edu	
Alternative Ed.	Jess Paulson	Sciences Academy	8008 83rd St. NW Maple Lake, Mn 55358
	952-852-0129	jpaulson@jgesa.org	
Physics	Jason Hall	Academy of Holy Angels	6600 Nicollet Ave. Richfield, MN 55423
		jhall@ahastars.org	
Indigenous Science	Hillary Barron	Bemidji State University	1500 Birchmont Dr. Bemidji, 56601
	218-428-2689	hilliary.barron@bemidjistate.edu	
Private Schools	Open		

### Region Representatives:

Region 1&2: North	Elizabeth Cakebread	Ada-Borup-West School	604 W. Thorup Ave. Ada, MN 56510
	218-784-5300	elizabethc@ada.k12.mn.us	
Region 3: Northeast	Nikki Ojanen	Cloquet Middle School	2001 Washington Ave. Cloquet, MN 55720
	218-879-3328	nojanen@isd94.org	
Region 4: Westcentral	Harrison Aakre	Alexandria Area High School	4300 Pioneer Rd. Alexandria, MN 56308
	haakre@alexschools.org		
Region 5: Northcentral	Miranda Graceffa	Crosslake Community School	36972 Cty Rd 66 Crosslake, MN 56442
	218-330-6154	mgraceffa@crosslakekids.org	
Region 6&8 Southcent	Amy Blom	Edgerton Public	423 1st Ave. W. Edgerton, MN 56128
	507-442-7881	ablom@edgertonpublic.com	



# MnSTA Board Directory

Region 7: Eastcentral	Missie Olson 320-274-3341	Becker High School molson@isd726.org	12000 Hancock St. Becker, MN 55308
Region 9: South	Gwen Isaacson	Loyola Catholic School gisacson@loyolacatholicschool.org	145 Good Counsel Dr. Mankato, MN 56001
Region 10: Southeast	Kyle Casper	Rochester Public Schools	615 7th St. SW Rochester MN 55902
Region 11: Metro	Mila Velimirovich-Holtz	University of Minnesota velim002@umn.edu	2088 Larpenteur Ave. W. St. Paul, MN 55113
Region 11: Metro	Kyle Schwarting 651-423-7740	ISD 196 kyle.schwarting@district196.org	3455 153rd St. W Rosemount, MN 55068

## Ancillary Positions:

Database	Mark Lex marklex@umn.edu			
Webmaster	Eric Koser W: 507-387-3461 x 322	Mankato West H.S. F: 507-345-1502 webmaster@mnsta.org	1351 S. Riverfront Dr.	Mankato, MN 56001
Newsletter	Jerry Wenzel jerrywenzel@brainerd.net			
Social Media Coord.	Dan Voss dcvoss1@gmail.com			
NSTA Dist. IX Director	Angela Osuji 612-668-3400	Washburn High School Angela.Osuji@gmail.com	201 W 49th St. Minneapolis, Mn 55419	
Conference Coordinator	Eric Koser W: 507-387-3461 x 322	Mankato West H.S. F: 507-345-1502 ekphys@gmail.com	1351 S. Riverfront Dr.	Mankato, MN 56001

## Events Calendar

If you have events you want placed on the calendar, send them to the editor - see page 2 for deadlines, address, etc.

## Conferences / Workshops

MnCOSE '24: Nov 1-2, 2024 St. Cloud

<b>MnSTA Membership Application Form</b>			
<small>Join the Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA), the professional organization whose primary goal is the advancement of science education. Mail this form along with your check to: MnSTA Treasurer, 24405 Iceland Path, Lakeville, MN 55044</small>			
Home		School/Organization	
Name (First, MI, Last)		Name	
Address		Address	
City	State	Zip code	City
Phone number		Phone number	
Preferred email address		School district # (enter "P" if Private, "A" if Alternative, "C" if Charter)	
Second email address			
Rates		Discipline and Grade Level	
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Membership ..... \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> First Year Teacher ..... \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Retired Teacher ..... \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-service Student ..... \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary School Building ..... \$75 <small>Includes all teachers in the building</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership: to age 35 ..... \$400 age 36-50 ..... \$300 over 50 ..... \$200		<input type="checkbox"/> Biology <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Science <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sci <input type="checkbox"/> Life Science <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Science <input type="checkbox"/> Physics <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (PreK-2) <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (3-6) <input type="checkbox"/> Middle/Jr. High School (6-9) <input type="checkbox"/> High School (9-12) <input type="checkbox"/> College/University <input type="checkbox"/> Informal Ed	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing/Past Member  A joint MnSTA - NSTA membership is available through NSTA ( <a href="https://www.nsta.org">https://www.nsta.org</a> )		<b>MnSTA Photo Release Statement</b>  <small>By becoming a member of the Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA) or by attending any MnSTA-sponsored event, you are granting permission for the use of your image for MnSTA promotional purposes without compensation. If you have questions regarding this policy, please contact <a href="mailto:membership@mnsta.org">membership@mnsta.org</a></small>	
Privacy Information			Teacher Leadership
Who can view your School/Organization Profile? <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Administration only  MnSTA keeps you informed about the events and issues impacting science education in Minnesota through its website and an email Digest of those website postings, and periodic informational emails.  Do you consent to receive email communications from us? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			<input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me regarding additional involvement and/or potential leadership opportunities with MnSTA