ANNUAL RETROSPECTIVE & OUTLOOK

2021 Accomplishments & 2022 Outlook

Silver Linings of Virtual Events

Student STEM Poetry

FORSE & Relentless Academy Partnership

Note from MAS President Dr. Cindy Ward-Thompson

Growing our Website into a MN STEM Resource Hub

2022 Program Calendar

2021 Accomplishments & 2022 Outlook

Together, we accomplished so much during 2021, a year of unprecedented challenges. We served more than 800 students from 93 schools across Minnesota. We grew our FORSE (Fostering Opportunities and Relationships in STEM Education) program to impact more than 300 students.

In 2022, we will drastically expand our FORSE program to serve 1,000+ female and BIPOC students! We will continue to excite and engage Minnesota STEM students with our Science Bowl, Science Fair, and STEM research symposiums. We are so grateful to have your support and proud to have you in the MAS community as we work together in our mission of engaging Minnesotans of all backgrounds in STEM.
Silver Linings of Virtual Events

"Changes made to accommodate the online format resulted in increased communication among team members, which helped students discover when to be confident in themselves, and when to reach out to and trust another team member."

Amanda Laden
SCIENCE BOWL COACH, WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL

Adapting our 2021 programs to virtual events presented logistical hurdles. However, through the ingenuity of our program directors, volunteers, and participants, we maintained important aspects of networking and camaraderie in our online events. Additionally,

- Schools in greater Minnesota did not face travel issues
- Lower overhead costs enabled us to reduce fees
- Science Bowl coaches observed unexpected benefits to the virtual format (see sidebar)
- We offered Science Fair and JSHS participants a wide range of STEM workshops, listening sessions, and films
- Science Fair and JSHS students were able to view and provide feedback on other participants' presentations
- New colleges from other Midwestern states participated in the Winchell Research Symposium

Wayzata High School 2021 Science Bowl champs celebrated on Zoom

SELECTIONS FROM OUR SCIENCE FAIR STEM POETRY CONTEST

Visit mnmas.org/community-blog/2021-stem-poetry to read more!

- Science changes what we think
  explains what happens around us
  challenges how we act
  helps us learn.
  Science is fun.
  - Elizabeth, Rochester

- You don't have to be great
  You don't have to know everything
  You don't have to have fancy equipment
  You may even like it
  SCIENCE IS FOR EVERYONE!!!
  - Quinn, Rochester

Inquisitive minds Changing the world through science
One step at a time - Kyla, Eden Prairie

YOUR support sustains our programs!

Make a one-time donation or establish a recurring gift at mnmas.org/contributions
"MAS was integral in the kids walking away with an experience that educated them and built their confidence in STEM."

Nicoshia Wynn, FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, RELENTLESS ACADEMY

Students Dive into Summer STEM Learning through FORSE Partnership

From sprouting bean seeds to building solar ovens for cooking s'mores, 2021 summer campers at Relentless Academy were immersed in engaging, relevant, hands-on STEM learning. We were thrilled to partner with the Brooklyn Center non-profit through our FORSE program. The partnership included creating and facilitating exciting STEM curriculum as well as recruiting volunteers to work closely with students.

Nevaeh, a fifth grade camper, reflected "I didn't think I could dissect a frog, but I was really good at it! [Volunteer] helped me name the organs and things inside the frog and told me I'm going to impress everyone in my class when I do this at school and I can't wait for that!"

I've seen firsthand the impact of MAS on my students. During my six years as an educator in Bagley, Minnesota, I saw kids who hated science fall in love with project-based learning, find success in science fair, and turn into amazing adults who support science. In 2022, I hope to help MAS develop more stable funding sources, increase representation of historically marginalized communities, and build on the successes of the past.

- Dr. Cindy Ward-Thompson, MAS President
Growing our Website into a Minnesota STEM Hub

At MAS, we believe that everyone deserves opportunities to engage in STEM learning. In 2021, we prioritized developing our website to serve as a tool for Minnesotans to learn about and engage in STEM in their communities. Work this year focused on:

- Continuously updating our STEM resource hub (mnmas.org/mas-resources) with student opportunities, curriculum resources for educators and families, community science projects, museum guides, ideas for STEM learning at home, and more
- Developing a statewide, interactive Minnesota STEM map
- Forming a STEM Educators' Hub for teachers to connect and learn
- Compiling culturally relevant online STEM content for our FORSE partners to use in their classrooms (including curriculum, virtual field trips, and career talks)
- Utilizing our monthly newsletter to centralize and amplify news and events from other organizations doing great work in Minnesota's vibrant STEM communities

Thank YOU for opening doors to STEM for Minnesota students!

2022 Program Calendar

Science Bowl
High School: January 22 | virtual
Middle School: February 12 | virtual

Minnesota State Science & Engineering Fair
March 20-31 | hybrid

North Central Jr Science & Humanities Symposium
March 20-31 | virtual

Winchell Undergraduate Research Symposium
April 23 | Hamline University

FORSE
Ongoing | virtual and in person

Did you know that our annual programs depend on hundreds of volunteers? Learn more about 2022 volunteer opportunities: mnmas.org/volunteer

"I volunteer because it's so important to encourage and engage with the next generation of scientists."
- 2021 Science Fair judge