

April 2021 BlueSky Online Newsletter

Principal's Message

We are approaching the end of the year with all the excitement of 2021 graduation. For many students the anticipation of completing 15 years of school can be exhausting. Please encourage your students to finish the year at the top of their game. [How to get a jump start](#). We are all here to help your student to make it to the end of the school year. Remember to reach out to your student's support team and teachers to help with any questions or concerns you may have in order to stay on track in school. Please know our staff are reaching out to our students who are behind so keep your communication open.

Spring is in the air for our Middle School Students studying about egg development. If you would like to see a live feed on the Middle School Chickens you can go to [chicken.cam.2021](#).

Did you know BlueSky is on TikTok? Our National Honor Society Students started a new account to keep us up to date and positive. Follow us @BlueSkyOnline and keep up with the latest! [#tiktok = onlineeducation = virtuallearning](#)

Calling for All Parents
We need parent volunteers for our board. We would love to have you come and help us continue to help our school.

Retirement
It is with sadness & excitement that I will be retiring April 30th. In my 30 years as a counselor and principal, I have been honored to work at BlueSky for 15 of them. BlueSky has offered students a holistic education that involves not only academic excellence but care for each student's emotional well-being. Our staff is the best I've seen in any organization that I worked in educationally and corporately. Our staff continually work above and beyond to help each student succeed. I am honored and proud to be part of this organization and look forward to my volunteer experiences with BlueSky in the future. My door is always open...



Renee Pancheta
Student Services Director & Principal
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Featured Occupation

- Insurance Agent
- Education Required: None-must pass qualifying exam and submit license. More info at the [NAI Commerce Department](#)
- Outlook: 9.3% Growth Rate—Much faster than average
- Median Wages: \$29,380 annually
- Insurance Agents sell policies that provide financial protection in case of death, accidents, or acts of nature.

Counselor Corner

SAFE Harbor Presentations

Student Presentation: East Central Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Kate LePage and Special Agent Nick Riba will be speaking on the issue of commercial sexual exploitation and how predators use online avenues to groom youth and young adults. We will discuss what online solicitation may look like, ways that youth can use social media safely and steps youth can take if they are being harassed, bullied, or solicited online. Thursday, April 15th at 2:00 p.m. Students wishing to attend will need to fill out the [Registration Form](#) and then a link to the presentation will be emailed to you. Deadline to register is Monday, April 12th.

Parent Presentation: East Central Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Kate LePage and Special Agent Nick Riba will be presenting on the topic of sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and online solicitation to parents and caregivers. This training will offer parents and community members information regarding sex trafficking in Minnesota. We will dive into what Minnesota is doing to combat this issue and an overview of the dynamics involved within this issue. Additionally, parents and community members will leave with a better understanding on how to identify red flags in youth, ways in which family can respond, and helpful tools for parents to keep their kids safe online! Monday, April 12th at 6:00 p.m. Here is the link to attend this presentation: [Parent Presentation](#).

Summer School
Our Summer School registration will be open April 15th through April 30th. If you are interested in taking any summer school classes please complete the [Registration Form](#) and contact your counselor with any questions. Our summer school program is designed for students who are behind in credits. Some important considerations:

- Dates: June 14 – July 30
- Limited number of seats available
- Registration does not guarantee acceptance
- Preference given to students who pass a minimum half their classes and semester AND who are behind in credits
- You must start your class within the first 5 days or you will be dropped from summer school!

ACT Testing
[ACT Registration Information](#)
High School Code: BlueSky Charter School 242228

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Deadline
June 12, 2021	May 27, 2021	June 11, 2021
June 22, 2021	June 18, 2021	June 18, 2021

Social Work Spotlight

Self-care, the thing we all know we should do, but the thing most of us neglect to do. This month the social work team has a few quick tips on how to focus on your physical and mental health.

The First Tip

Take time to move your body daily. This could be as simple as walking a dog, throwing some music on and cleaning the house or just dancing, playing with your pets, or stretching while watching TV.

- You can also kick it up a notch and go for a run, hike, ride, throw on a yoga video, play a sport, or lift some weights.

The Second Tip

Be mindful of what you are eating and drinking. Meal planning is a great way to stay on track with healthy eating.

- Try to focus on eating healthy snacks over sugary or salty snacks.
- Set a daily water intake goal.



The Third Tip

Work on healthy sleep habits

- Plan regular sleep and wake times.
- Create a healthy sleep environment.
- Turn off electronics before bed.

Moving your body, eating well, and sleeping can have a significant impact on your physical and mental health. They are great first steps to starting a regular self-care routine. Self-care also includes things like mindfulness, downtime, spending time with friends, taking breaks, spending time in nature, reading books, and so much more. Just ask Google, Siri, or even your Alexa.

Supplemental



We are now registering for the 2021-2022 school year! Contact Heidi (heidt.honsh@blueskyschool.org) or Jill (jill.hunt@blueskyschool.org) to register.

The end of the school year is going to be here before we know it. Be aware of your course end date. There are some students who are going to have different end dates, depending upon your district.

Seniors, your end date is May 19 to allow time for your transcript to be sent to your district and processed for graduation.

Online Activities

Don't forget to tune in Thursdays at noon on Zoom for Lunch Bunch! Each week, a staff member will host a lunch-time hangout with a different theme. The Zoom link and themes will be on the BlueSky Student Google Calendar.



BlueSky Stars

BlueSky Star
Isabel Gonzalez

10th grade student Isabel Gonzalez was selected as a BlueSky Star for the month of April because she exemplifies success at BlueSky, has outstanding communication skills, a creative personality and a strong work ethic. Isabel chose BlueSky because of its individual learning programs and history of success. When asked what she likes best about BlueSky, Isabel shared, "The thing I like best is how I can work at my own pace and be one-on-one with teachers when I need help. I really like this because I can have a faster pace when I understand something and use a slower pace when I don't without worrying about falling behind in class." She also notes it's easier to get help from teachers when not in a traditional school environment because they can give you all their attention and work through your problem with you. When Isabel (pictured with her kitty named Adam) is not doing her school work she might be reading, writing or drawing. Some of her other interests are birdwatching, science, and Star Wars. Congratulations, Isabel!

~Nominated by Carrie Ostman

Shoutout to our awesome students!

Ingrid K. is a 7th grade student at BlueSky School. She has embraced our flexible learning and appreciates the opportunity to have daily live sessions with her teachers and classmates. Ingrid appreciates that the live session schedule provides her with the freedom to work on her own time. She added we give students the ability to "focus on distributing work yourself." This is especially important for her as she dances most nights of the week. Ingrid's dancing lessons cover a broad spectrum: modern, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, Irish and West African. This fall, in addition to attending BlueSky for the first time, she joined a new dance company. She has been attending class virtually and aspires to continue dancing after college with the goal of touring with the company traveling around the world.

Ingrid has also been a leader at BlueSky, hosting two Lunch Bunch student gatherings one focusing on creating a Gratitude Journal and the other on dance. Academically Ingrid makes sure her work is completed early in the week and keeps up with assignments. She has been on the "A" honor roll each quarter and adapted to online learning very quickly. Simply put, she works hard and it pays off. I am grateful to have Ingrid at BlueSky and look forward to having her continue with us into the future!

~Nominated by Dawn Mensing

BlueSky Star
Ingrid Kotnik

Student Work

Students in Behind the Music 2 have been busy creating their own compositions. They started by writing a 16 measure composition and then went back and made changes to make their songs sound even better!

Puppies and Kittens 16

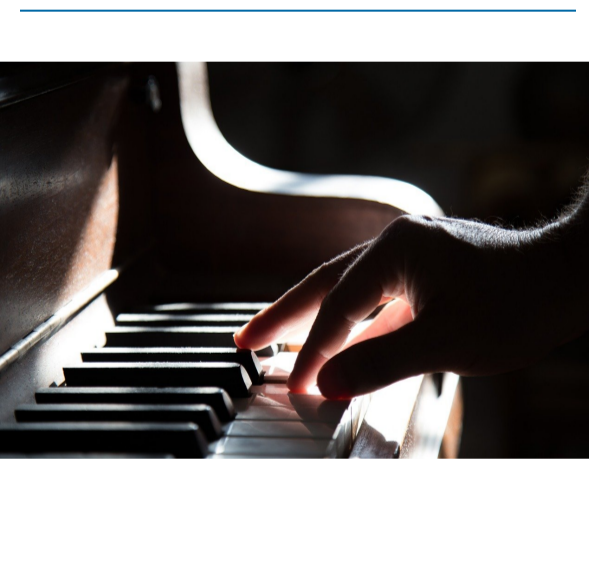
16 Measure Song

Lance

Music Student

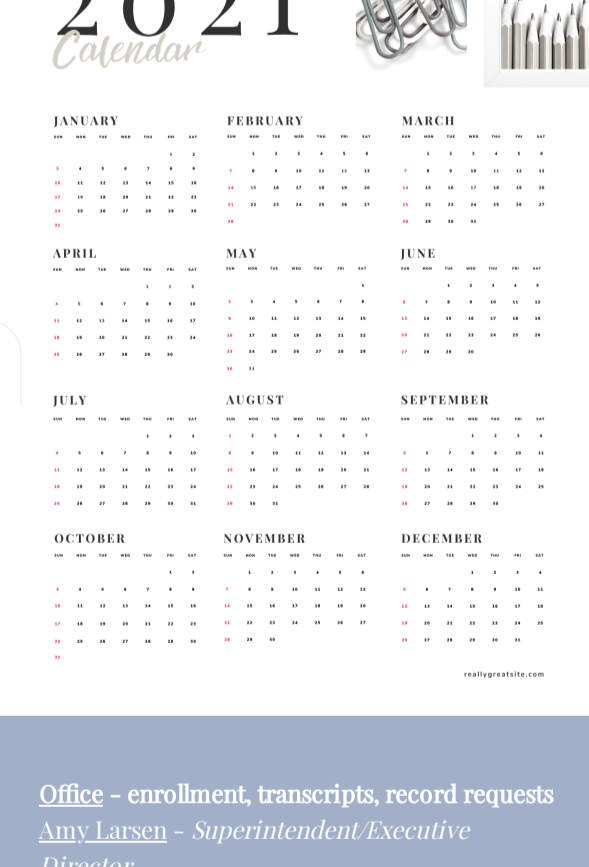
Star River Song

Ingrid



Mark Your Calendar

- April 5, 2021: First day of fourth quarter
 - May 1-14, 2021: No school (staff only)
 - May 31, 2021: No school
 - June 3, 2021: Last day of school
 - June 12, 2021: Graduation
 - Check out the calendar [here!](#)
- [READ MORE](#)



Resources

Contact Information for Questions and Resources
Main Line: 651-642-0888
Staff List with Contact Information



- Office** - enrollment, transcripts, record requests
Amy Larsen - Superintendent Executive Director
Dan Dieckh - Principal & Assistant Director
Renee Pancheta - Principal & Student Services Director
Cathy Parker - Dean of Students
Heidi van der Haegen - Director of Special Education
Sara Her - Student Information Specialist
John Mizzen - Receptionist
Melissa Yang - Testing Coordinator
Sarah Mince - Admin Assistant
- Counselors** - scheduling and class changes
Dawn Mensing
Grant Cameron
Amy Chicoine
Jennifer Anderson
Carli Anderson-Dickmann
- Advisors** - navigating school
Laura Welck
Danielle Fackler
Dawn Nicol
Carrie Ostman
Scott Miller
Jennifer Handling
Keith Jensen
Hanna Coleman
- Social Workers** - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance
Carolyn Dush
Cassie Hummel
Erika Ruller
Amy Schamberger
Amy Blache
- Supplemental**
Heidi Housh
Jill Hunt

COVID-19 Updates



Staying Sanitary

Staying healthy and safe is our number one priority for staff, students, and parents and guardians. At the office, we are practicing social distancing and keeping surfaces and offices sanitary.

Remember to check the CDC's guidelines and Governor Walz's regulations to stay safe!

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
<https://mn.gov/newsroom/covid-19/news/>



Coming to BlueSky

In our current scenario, we are only having essential staff on site. If there is an essential need to come in, there is a [form](#) for students to fill out if you are coming in. It is called "Learning Center Registration" and it is on the homepage under the "Student Learning Center" tab. Once they have filled it out, Katie Shealy will reach out to you to confirm if the time and date will work. Katie will also send out a reminder of the COVID protocols and other information for the learning center.

We will be requiring masks, sign-ins, and pre-screening for symptoms for everyone's safety!

[BlueSky 2020-2021 COVID-19 Plan](#)