

BlueSky Online November Newsletter

Principal's Message

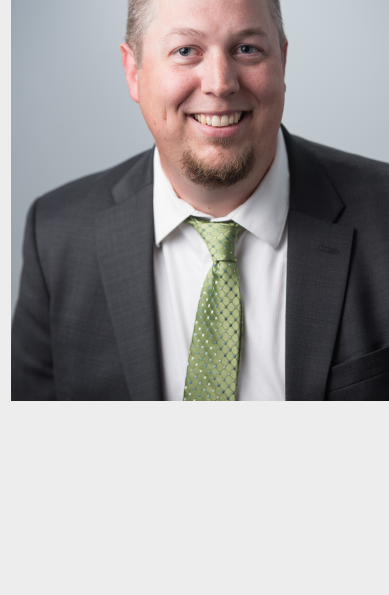
BlueSky Parents and Guardians:

We had a great first quarter and are looking forward to what second quarter will bring us. All middle school courses are now graded quarterly and report cards were emailed earlier this week. High school students taking My Pace courses that finished on or before the end of first quarter also had report cards emailed for those classes. We are pleased to see that the vast majority of students are continuing to progress through their courses while demonstrating a high level of academic achievement. If your child happens to be behind in one or more classes they should reach out to their teachers and advisor to create a plan for catching up.

At the end of September and the beginning of October we completed our fall testing session of the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. Results using the new student profile were mailed out by the third week in October. Teachers are using the results of the assessment to target specific class needs and to provide individualization for students. Please reach out to your child's math and English teachers if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support!

Daniel Ondich
Principal/Assistant Director



Upcoming Events

- November 26th- Financial Aid Meeting (See details below)
- November 28th-29th- No School
- December 12th- SeaLife MOA Field Trip
- December 23rd- January 1st- No School

Texting Opt- In

Due to an update with our communication provider, we are no longer able to send mass text messages to our students and parents unless they opt in to this feature. Please send a text message "YES" to the number [865662](tel:865662) so you are able to receive all of BlueSky School's communications.

Parent Connect

How was school today?...

Do you struggle with talking to your student about their school day? Check out this article written by Elena Aguilar to get some ideas to start your conversations: [15 Questions to Replace "How Was School Today?"](#)

BlueSky Stars



Brayden Hayford

It has been amazing to watch Brayden's academic progress since he enrolled at BlueSky in 2018. Brayden is very self-motivated and determined, he has completed most of his classes early earning all A's in every class! When I asked about his BlueSky experience, he said, "I enrolled in BlueSky because my family had a professional race team and we traveled all the time. I ended up missing a lot of school so both my older brother along with my parents decided to look into online school. We recently stopped racing and my brother graduated from BlueSky last year, but I have decided to continue with it because I like it so much better than normal school.

I enjoy setting my own schedule. We still travel a lot, so I like that I can do that without worrying about missing school. I really just enjoy taking my day on my own schedule. School comes pretty easy for me, so I am able to work at my own pace which is much faster than it would be in a traditional school.

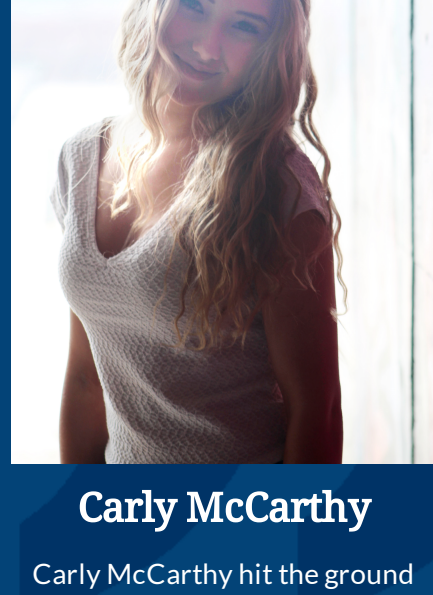
I enjoy computer games, especially strategic games. I am very interested in military history, so I spend a lot of my free time learning about past wars and the history that started and ended them. I enjoy spending time with my family and visiting my grandpa and grandma. My grandpa is a Vietnam Vet so I love hearing his stories and just his point of view on the world. I like to play pickleball, surf in the summer, ride dirt bike, and snowmobile, and play board games.

My parents own a Ford dealership so I have always (since I can remember, so like 5) wanted to take it over someday. I will turn 16 in less than a week, so I will start working there and work my way up from the bottom, learning each department as I go. (Another great thing about BlueSky is working while finishing high school.)

My picture is from one of my favorite places in the US, the Pima Air Museum in Tucson AZ."

-Nominated by Jen Anderson

The BlueSky advisors have chosen to recognize these students for their hard work and dedication



Carly McCarthy

Carly McCarthy hit the ground running when she first enrolled in March 2019. She has fantastic self-discipline and motivation, always meets her to-do number, and has perfect attendance this year.

Sometimes she even works ahead, completing as many as 40 assignments or more in a week, and earning As and Bs in her classes. Carly decided to come to BlueSky after her older sister, also a student, told her about what a good school it is. Carly loves being able to work at her own pace. She particularly loves studying history, and hopes to be a chef or baker after high school.

-Nominated by Karen Kraco

Counselor Corner

Financial Aid Meeting Tuesday, November 26th @ 6pm: The BlueSky Counseling team will be hosting a Financial Aid meeting for all current eligible graduates. A representative from Riverland Community College will join us to go over the process of filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Financial Aid). We encourage any students, and their parents/guardians, who are planning to go to a college, community college, technical school or university within the next year to attend this very important meeting. (The FAFSA form is now available and can be filled out for those planning to start their post-secondary education in 2020.) [Zoom Room for Financial Aid meeting link](#)

Scholarship Opportunity:

Two BlueSky students have an opportunity to earn a \$2000 scholarship to the St. Cloud Model College of Hair Design. Contact your BlueSky counselor for the application information if you are a current senior interested in pursuing a Cosmetology degree in St. Cloud starting in Fall 2020.

Featured Career:

Respiratory Therapist:

Respiratory therapists treat patients who have trouble breathing, including:

- Premature babies with underdeveloped lungs
- People with chronic diseases such as asthma or emphysema
- Elderly patients with lung disease

Salary: \$26-28 per hour starting wage.

Education: Associate Degree in Respiratory Therapy

Outlook: Demand for respiratory therapists is expected to grow much faster than average with 9,800 openings annually--nationwide.

Carla Anderson-Diekmann - carla.diekmann@blueskyschool.org

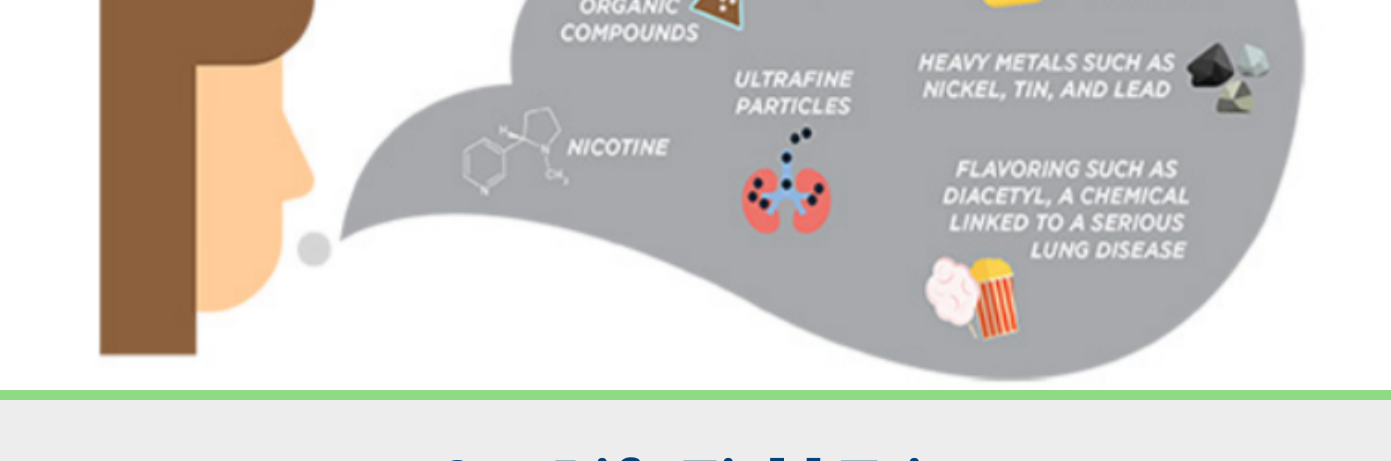
Grant Cameron - grant.cameron@blueskyschool.org

Amy Chicoine - amy.chicoine@blueskyschool.org

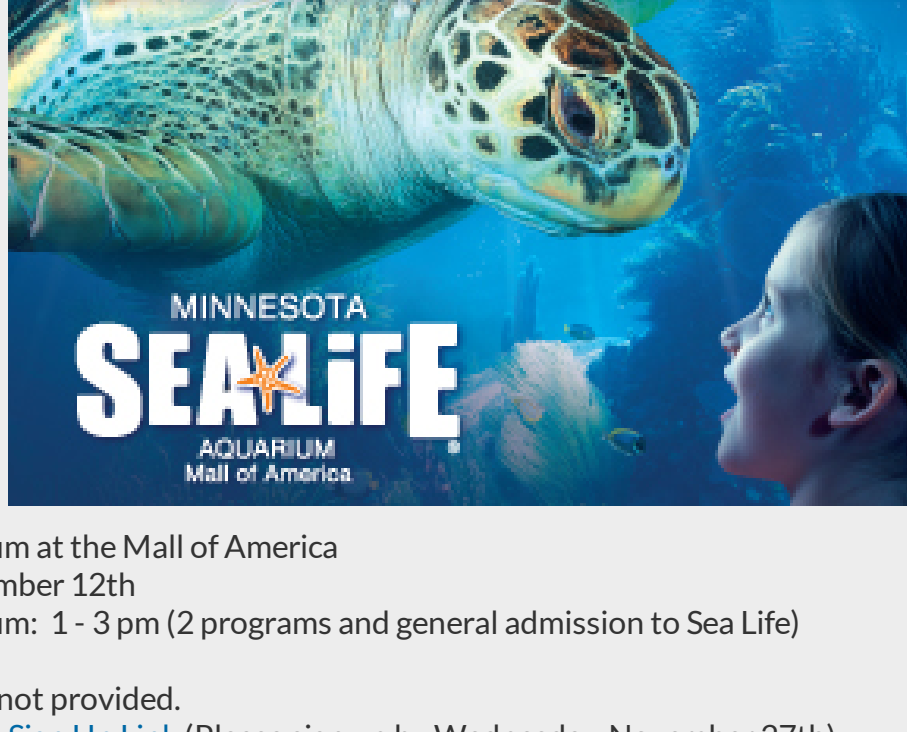
Dawn Mensing - dawn.mensing@blueskyschool.org

Social Work Spotlight

Are you aware that E-cigarettes have increased by 78% amongst high school students and 50% amongst middle school students. Please access [E-Cigarettes and Youth Toolkit for Partners: How You Can Help End the Epidemic](#) to get information about the vaping epidemic. It is a great resource to utilize. There are fact sheets, pictures and links included.



Sea Life Field Trip



Sea Life Aquarium at the Mall of America

Thursday, December 12th

Sea Life Aquarium: 1 - 3 pm (2 programs and general admission to Sea Life)

Cost: Free

Transportation not provided.

[Sea Life @ MOA Sign Up Link](#) (Please sign up by Wednesday, November 27th)

Behind the Scenes at the Sea Life Aquarium

A Behind-the-Scenes guided tour that will take you up on deck above the tunnel system where you can see animals that are currently off-exhibit. You will then explore our Laboratory to find out how they treat and maintain the 1.3 million gallons of water that make up the aquarium. Finally, your tour guide will take you into the Food Prep Kitchen to see what they feed the thousands of creatures in order to keep them healthy and strong.

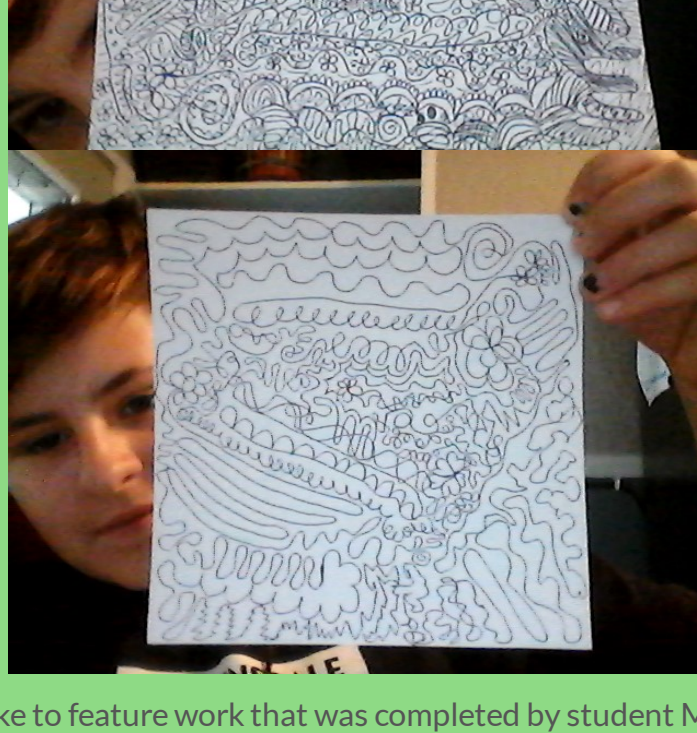
Marine Science Careers

Take a deeper look into career paths and job opportunities within the aquarium and zoo industry, and learn how having a marine science career can have an impact on conservation and wildlife efforts.

Learn how Marine Science Careers involve more than just animal husbandry, and how many jobs in an aquarium setting are deeply rooted in education, veterinary medicine, and research efforts.

Questions? Email Chris Peterson - chris.peterson@blueskyschool.org

Student Art



This month we would like to feature work that was completed by student Maggie Stassen for middle school art assignment "Doodle Lab".

