

BlueSky Online January Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome back to school after the holiday break. We are hoping you had a great holiday with family and friends renewing, relaxing, and getting caught up on stories. Celebrating cultural traditions together is so important to bond families for years to come.

BlueSky is excited to announce that we have been approved to start a National Honor Society (NHS) Chapter! NHS is a national recognition program that celebrates student achievement and creates enthusiasm in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership and character. Stay tuned for more information in the February newsletter from our NHS Advisor, Gabra Lokken.

As the daylight gets brighter we look forward to our second semester starting January 22nd. Before you know it, we will be preparing for the Class of 2020 to walk across the stage at Commencement. However, we have a few things to complete before we come to that time. Your counselor is busy making your schedule perfect for second semester. If you have any questions please contact your counselor, they are here to help you. Extensions for first semester are only given for special circumstances so **get those assignments in now** and you will be ready to start fresh in your second semester classes.

Warmly,
Renee Parcheta
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Upcoming Events

- January 16th- Last Day of 2nd Quarter/ Semester 1
- January 17th- No School
- January 20th- No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 21st- No School
- January 22nd- First Day of Quarter 3/ Semester 2
- February 17th- No School- Presidents' Day

Parent Connect

As we start the new semester use the Academic Snapshot to help your student stay on track each week. View this video to refresh your memory on the [Academic Snapshot](#).

Counselor Corner

Mayo Career Immersion Program: Check out this great opportunity to experience health care careers this summer at Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences in Rochester, Minnesota. *Includes free housing, meals and program for those who are accepted.* Discover what a career in health care looks like and get an exclusive inside look at a wide range of health care careers. Apply to be a part of a talented group of diverse, Minnesota high school incoming juniors and seniors at a week-long Career Immersion Program offered June 21-26, 2020. During this week-long program, Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences will pull back the curtain and share insights and information about several careers most students don't even know exist. Deadline to apply is March 1, 2020. **Minimum GPA of 2.75 needed.** More information here: [Mayo Immersion Program](#).

Featured Career:

Patrol Officer

Patrol officers respond to incidents and emergencies in the communities where they work, enforce laws, arrest suspects and keep records of their work. Most have to complete and graduate from police training academies.

Median Salary: \$61,000

Education: Although requirements vary from agency to agency, in a lot of cases you can become an attractive candidate for police academy training by being in good physical shape and having a little bit of criminal justice schooling.

Job Outlook: 4% growth by 2026

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Social Work Spotlight

Over the past 3 school years, the BlueSky social workers have been training the entire staff on what it means to function as a Trauma Informed or Compassionate School. Over the next several months we are going to share with you components of that training, starting with an introduction of what being a Trauma Informed or Compassionate School means.

"You cannot teach the mind until you reach the heart."

- The Heart of Learning and Teaching

"Stressed brains can't learn."

- Jim Sporleder-principal of Lincoln

Compassionate Schools benefit all students who attend but focus on students chronically exposed to stress and trauma in their lives. These schools create compassionate classrooms and foster compassionate attitudes of their school staff. The goal is to keep students engaged and learning by creating and supporting a healthy climate and culture within the school where all students can learn. It is not a program; it is a process and as such is not "one size fits all." Each school and community will develop their own unique compassionate "personality."

- The Heart of Learning and Teaching

A Compassionate School:

- Maintains high expectations for all students.
- Provides specific support for students who have been impacted by trauma, however all students benefit from a compassionate climate and culture.
- Engages in rigorous training and learning for all school staff regarding the effects of trauma on learning, as well as strategies to mitigate its effects.
- Encourages strategies that promote student/staff wellness and care.
- Adopts a school wide infrastructure that supports the diversity of the school and meets the needs of students and families.
- Partners with communities and families and addresses the mental health needs of students.

[Please view the following video for more information.](#) We know this will look different in an online setting but this gives you the philosophy behind what a trauma informed or compassionate school is like.

BlueSky Stars



Kaylie Storbeck

I feel so fortunate to be Kaylie Storbeck's advisor. She is graduating early (January) so I am sad that I will not be working with her anymore, but glad she is moving on towards her future goals. She works hard at her job and in her family businesses so being in the online environment is helpful by providing the flexibility that she needs.

When asked to share about what she likes about BlueSky and how she stays successful in her classes, she replied: "1. My favorite thing about being a student at Blue Sky is that it allows a super flexible schedule. It helps me to be able to focus on both work, school and family life. 2.

What has helped me to do so well at BlueSky is that I can go at my own pace as well as go ahead. I tend to work at a really fast pace so it allows for me to consistently do that. My advisor has also helped immensely throughout my many years at BlueSky!" Thanks for being my BlueSky Star, Kaylie!

-Nominated by Dawn Nicol

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



Takara "Tiki" Ingli

I chose Tiki as a BlueSky star because she does a stellar job of setting priorities and managing her school and work life. She is an amazingly dedicated student with a driven attitude who submits excellent work and often works ahead in her classes. Tiki started at BlueSky last year because she wanted to get her education on a flexible schedule and be able to work at her own pace. When I asked her to share her favorite thing about BlueSky, she said this: "My favorite thing about BlueSky is the staff. They are so helpful and kind anytime you need them." Tiki's suggestions to other students for achieving success at BlueSky are: "Be determined and have self discipline." Outside of school Tiki enjoys painting, and doing anything that relates to art. She also enjoys working at Pizza Ranch and making money. Keep on shining, Tiki!

-Nominated by Carrie Ostman

Last Call for ACT Registration

Attention Juniors and Seniors:

The ACT® test is the nation's most popular college entrance exam accepted and valued by all universities and colleges in the United States.

BlueSky is offering all Juniors (Class of 2021) and Seniors (Class of 2020) the opportunity to take the ACT college entrance exam at our BlueSky campus in West St. Paul on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 9:00 AM. You will need to be at the BlueSky campus by 8:45 AM at the latest.

This is an optional test for students planning to attend a four-year college or university. Students are not required to participate in ACT testing at our BlueSky campus and it is not required for graduation; however, if you are interested in taking the ACT, you are required to pre-register to take the test at [ACT Registration Form](#).

The fee for taking the test is \$45.50 and must be paid by **January 10, 2020**.

Payment information will be sent to your BlueSky email address after you register.

If you are free/reduced lunch eligible (form must be on file) you will not need to pay to take the test if this is your first attempt.

For those selecting to test on a National Test Date there are additional dates available. To register or view additional test dates, please go to www.actstudent.org. When registering, please indicate BlueSky as your high school. Our school code is 242-228.

If you need accommodations, please put in your requests to us by January 10, 2020. Deadline to submit requests to ACT is January 17, 2020. Questions on testing can be addressed to your counselor or the testing coordinator.

Student Art



This month's student work was created by Ella Pokorny for the assignment "The Egg" in digital photography. The assignment, called "The Egg". For this assignment students learn about lighting by practicing different techniques with an egg. You can clearly see the way the light falls on the egg as well as the shadows the egg creates.

