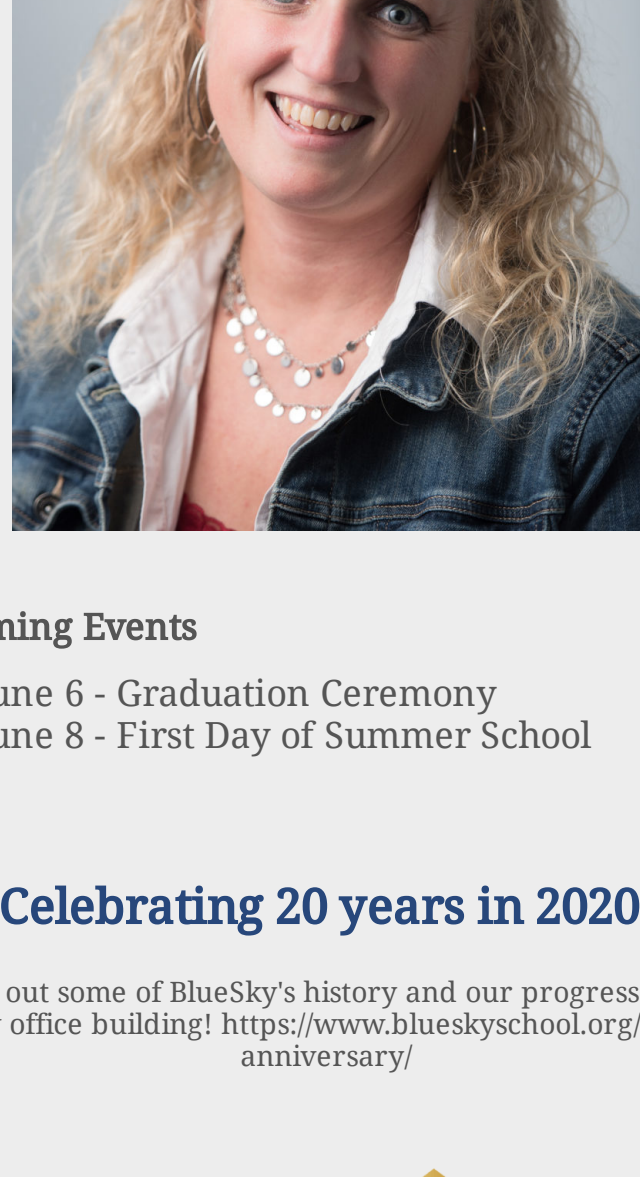


# BlueSky Online June Newsletter

## Superintendent's Message



BlueSky's 19-20 school year has come to an end as of May 29th. We are so glad that we have been a part of your educational journey! We all have experienced challenges and have learned to adapt due to the pandemic. However, I feel that our BlueSky family was well equipped to handle the social distancing challenge as we continued to provide virtual education. I'm sure many of you had the opportunity to be experts as you helped friends and family adapt to distance learning and using Zoom for social gatherings.

We want to make sure you know that BlueSky School continues to celebrate its 20th Anniversary. Our first student enrollments started in September of 2000! We hope we will be able to get together for an open house event this coming fall to celebrate. It will be great to socialize and have the opportunity to see our BlueSky family face to face! We hope you will join us if/when we are all able to be together.

Thank you to those of you who submitted the annual survey! We received lots of feedback and excellent suggestions that BlueSky's School Board and leadership team will use when planning for next school year. This summer, we will be reviewing our [strategic plan](#) and setting goals that focus on the following areas:

1. Student Success
2. Technology
3. Community Partnerships
4. High Performing Workforce
5. Finance and Governance

Keep up on BlueSky happenings over the summer by continuing to check your email and friend us on [Facebook](#)! We often add new posts that will keep you informed and connected to your school.

BlueSky still has openings for fall of 20-21. If you know family or friends that are looking for a school with flexibility, outstanding student support services, and a strong history of providing high quality online education, send them to our [website](#) to find out more or to enroll.

Have a great summer! We are looking forward to seeing you again next fall!

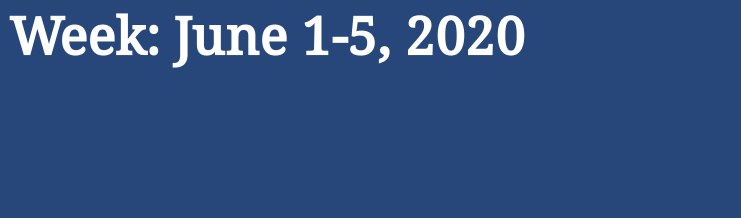
Amy Larsen  
Superintendent/Executive Director  
651-202-2010  
[amylarsen@blueskyschool.org](mailto:amylarsen@blueskyschool.org)

### Upcoming Events

- o June 6 - Graduation Ceremony
- o June 8 - First Day of Summer School

### Celebrating 20 years in 2020!

Check out some of BlueSky's history and our progress on our new office building! <https://www.blueskyschool.org/20th-anniversary/>



## Family Engagement Week: June 1-5, 2020

Dear school leaders,

Next week, MDE will be hosting a Family Engagement Week where we will be hosting webinars and providing resources for families to help support student learning over the summer months. Please share the information below about this initiative with families, as you can. Additionally, MDE will be sharing information from the webinars and resources on their social media channels. Please help us share this information by using the hashtag #MDE4Families.

Thank you for your commitment to our students and families.

The Minnesota Department of Education

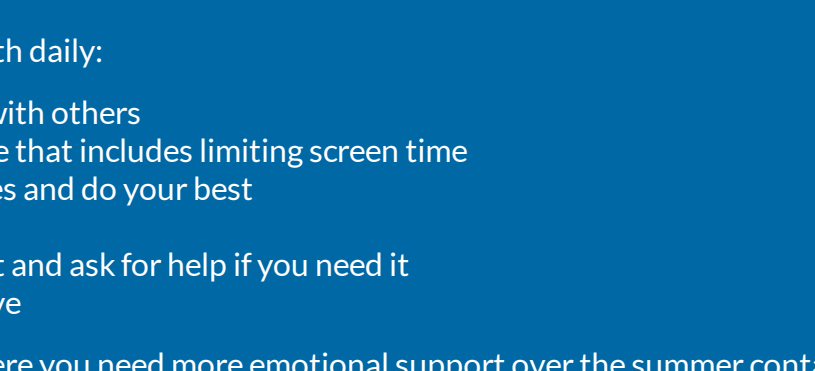
### Family Engagement Week, June 1-5, 2020

The Minnesota Department of Education will be hosting a Family Engagement Week from June 1-5, 2020. Throughout the week, education experts will be hosting series of online events and promoting resources to help support families over the summer months during these unprecedented times.

- Tuesday, June 2 at 1 p.m. families can learn more about summer learning activities hosted by public libraries and community locations during a webinar with State Library Services. [Registration is available here.](#)
- Tuesday, June 2 at 4 p.m. parenting educator and 2011 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Katy Smith will provide tools for Parenting in Uncertain Times. [Registration is available here.](#)
- Wednesday, June 3 at 10 a.m. families can learn more about engaging early learners in literacy and math with activities for the whole family. [Registration for the June 3 webinar is available here.](#) This webinar will be repeated on Thursday, June 4 at 5 p.m. [Registration for the June 4 webinar is available here.](#)
- Thursday, June 4 at 10 a.m. families can learn about MDE's Summer Food Service Program including how they can access free meals in their community. [Registration is available here.](#)

[Learn more about MDE's Family Engagement Week here.](#)

## Summer Wellness Plan



Summer break is soon upon us. For most students summer break will look different with Minnesota's new "Safe at Home" order. I want to give you a few practical ways you can take care of yourself if you need extra support over break:

Take care your physical health daily:

1. Move your body
2. Get fresh air
3. Eat smart
4. Plan relaxation time
5. Do the things you love

Take care of your emotional health daily:

1. Stay in safe contact with others
2. Create a daily routine that includes limiting screen time
3. Focus on the positives and do your best
4. Practice mindfulness
5. Use tools for support and ask for help if you need it
6. Do the things you love

If you find yourself in a place where you need more emotional support over the summer contact a local or online [Mental Health Resource](#), talk to your medical doctor, or connect with your local county. You can also check out this [Slide Presentation](#) for more support or check out one of the [Additional Resources](#) listed on the doc. [Click here](#), for local summer meal programs. \*Note: at the time of this letter the summer meal program website has not been updated.

## Summer Activities

Summer 2020 may look different in the activities we do and how we spend our free time, but that doesn't mean we can't stay connected and make it fun! Work to create routines and schedules that will keep you active, entertained, and continue learning all summer!

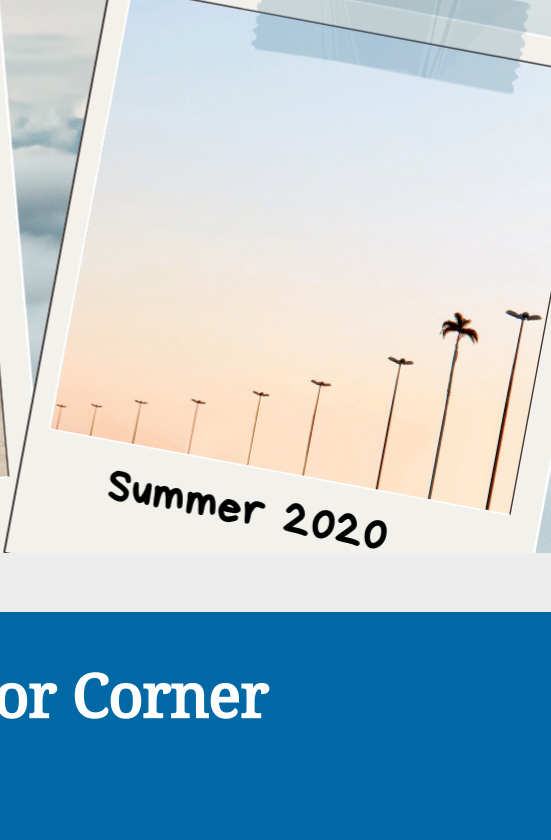
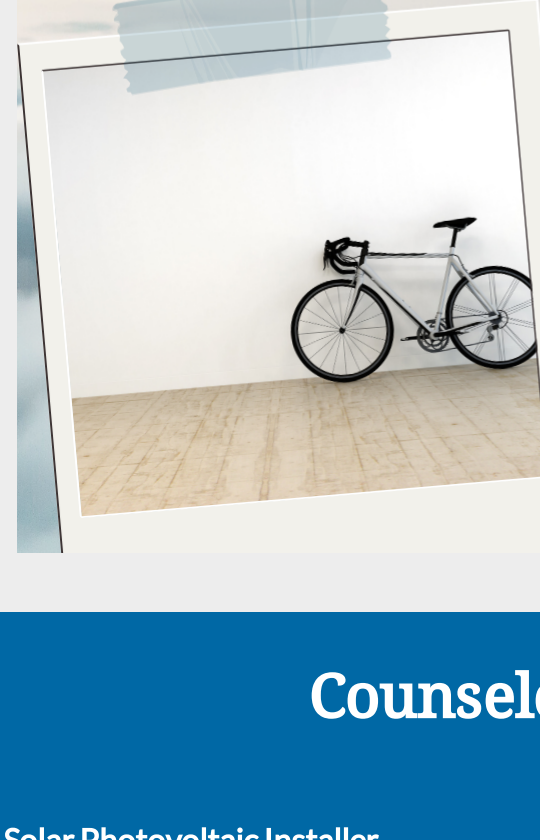
**Were you planning on playing team sports?** Find a way to stay virtually connected with past teammates. Set up practices outside and create goals to keep up your skills and stay active!

**Miss going to the zoo and aquarium? A big fan of art? Miss traveling?** Many museums, national parks, zoos, and aquariums set up virtual tours and live webcams for anyone to watch - and it's free! Check them out:

- Georgia Aquarium Beluga Whales:** <https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/beluga-whale-webcam>
- Yellowstone National Park:** <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtours.htm>
- Boston's Children Museum:** <https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/museum-virtual-tour>
- Disney Rides:** <https://parade.com/1018029/alexandra-hurtado/virtual-disney-rides/>
- Farm Animals:** <https://www.farmfood360.ca/>
- Monterey Bay Aquarium Sea Otters:** [https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams/sea-otter-cam/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwX7zzBRCcARIsABPRscOIUB8\\_OhEPBdniOMkd8LVa3URMFIONGGcMfJg16tPFC-nYj5LFWaAjsREALw\\_wcB](https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams/sea-otter-cam/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwX7zzBRCcARIsABPRscOIUB8_OhEPBdniOMkd8LVa3URMFIONGGcMfJg16tPFC-nYj5LFWaAjsREALw_wcB)
- Kenya Watering Hole:** <https://explore.org/livecams/african-wildlife/african-watering-hole-animal-camera>
- Great Wall of China:** <https://www.thechinaguide.com/destination/great-wall-of-china>
- United States Botanic Gardens:** <https://www.usbg.gov/take-virtual-tour>
- Birmingham Botanical Gardens:** <https://www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/venue/virtual-tour/>

## SUMMER BUCKET LIST

1. Bake a new recipe
2. Cook dinner
3. Join a Facebook live dance party
4. Read a new book
5. Write a letter
6. FaceTime family
7. Play a board game
8. Put a puzzle together
9. Go for a walk
10. Play charades
11. Practice mindfulness
12. Set up an obstacle course
13. Start a book club
14. Go to the zoo on a virtual tour
15. Go on a virtual tour to a museum
16. Practice an instrument
17. Learn a language
18. Take a virtual dance class
19. Grow a garden
20. Play virtual sports with friends
21. Create a beach day in your backyard
22. Have a picnic
23. Virtually watch movies with friends
24. Go to a drive-in movie
25. Conduct a science experiment
26. Listen to music
27. Journal
28. Ride your bike
29. Practice yoga
30. Play soccer
31. Play basketball
32. Make a craft
33. Paint a canvas
34. Organize your room
35. Support local businesses
36. Write a poem
37. Practice self-care
38. Learn calligraphy
39. Build a fort
40. Hammock outside
41. Make a collage
42. Build with Legos
43. Write a song
44. Have a movie marathon
45. Go to a park
46. Make sidewalk chalk art
47. Watch "Some Good News" on YouTube
48. Go through old clothes
49. Host a Zoom birthday party
50. Go fishing
51. Have a bonfire
52. Make s'mores
53. Make a gratitude journal
54. Make a gratitude journal
55. Stay up-to-date on BlueSky social media!



## Counselor Corner

### Featured Occupation: Solar Photovoltaic Installer

- Education: Apprenticeship, Community College or Trade School
- Wages: Median Salary - \$42,680
- Outlook: 6,100 expected new job openings by 2028

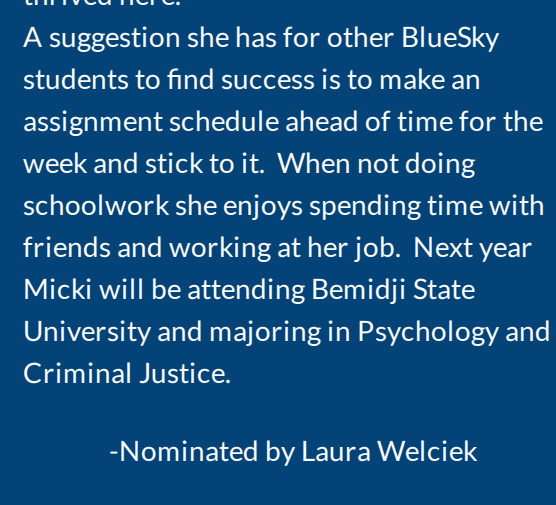
Solar photovoltaic installers look on the sunny side – not necessarily because they have a cheery disposition but because that's where they may want to set up their solar panels. These professionals specialize in the installation and maintenance of devices that transform the sun's rays into electricity. After earning their high school diplomas, PV installers learn their trade while working in the field, by taking community college or trade school courses, or while completing an apprenticeship.

**Summer School Registration** is now open. Space is limited, and preference is given to students who are 1) behind in credits, 2) fill out the registration form, and 3) pass at least 50% of their classes 2nd Semester. [Summer Registration Form](#). If you have questions about which classes to choose for summer school, contact your BlueSky Counselor.

**Class Schedule for next year:** Your class schedule for next year is complete. You can see it by logging into [PowerSchool](#). (Use the first part of your email as your username, and then use the same password you use to log into Moodle. Then look on the left, under "Next Year's Schedule." If you have any questions about your classes for next year, contact your BlueSky Counselor.

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## BlueSky Stars



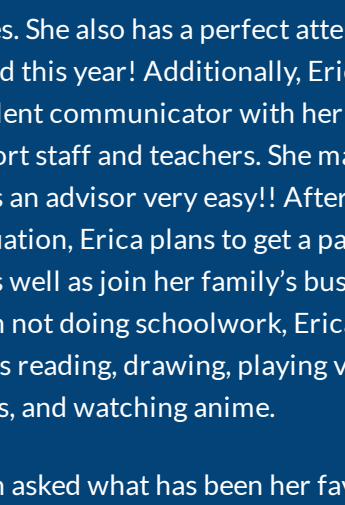
**Micki Behnke**

Micki Behnke came to BlueSky as a senior this fall. Having been diagnosed with FND in the middle of her junior year, she realized getting to a traditional school each day was going to be a struggle. She looked to BlueSky as a way to have flexibility in school during a difficult time and has thrived here.

A suggestion she has for other BlueSky students to find success is to make an assignment schedule ahead of time for the week and stick to it. When not doing schoolwork she enjoys spending time with friends and working at her job. Next year Micki will be attending Bemidji State University and majoring in Psychology and Criminal Justice.

-Nominated by Laura Welciek

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



**Erica Nelson**

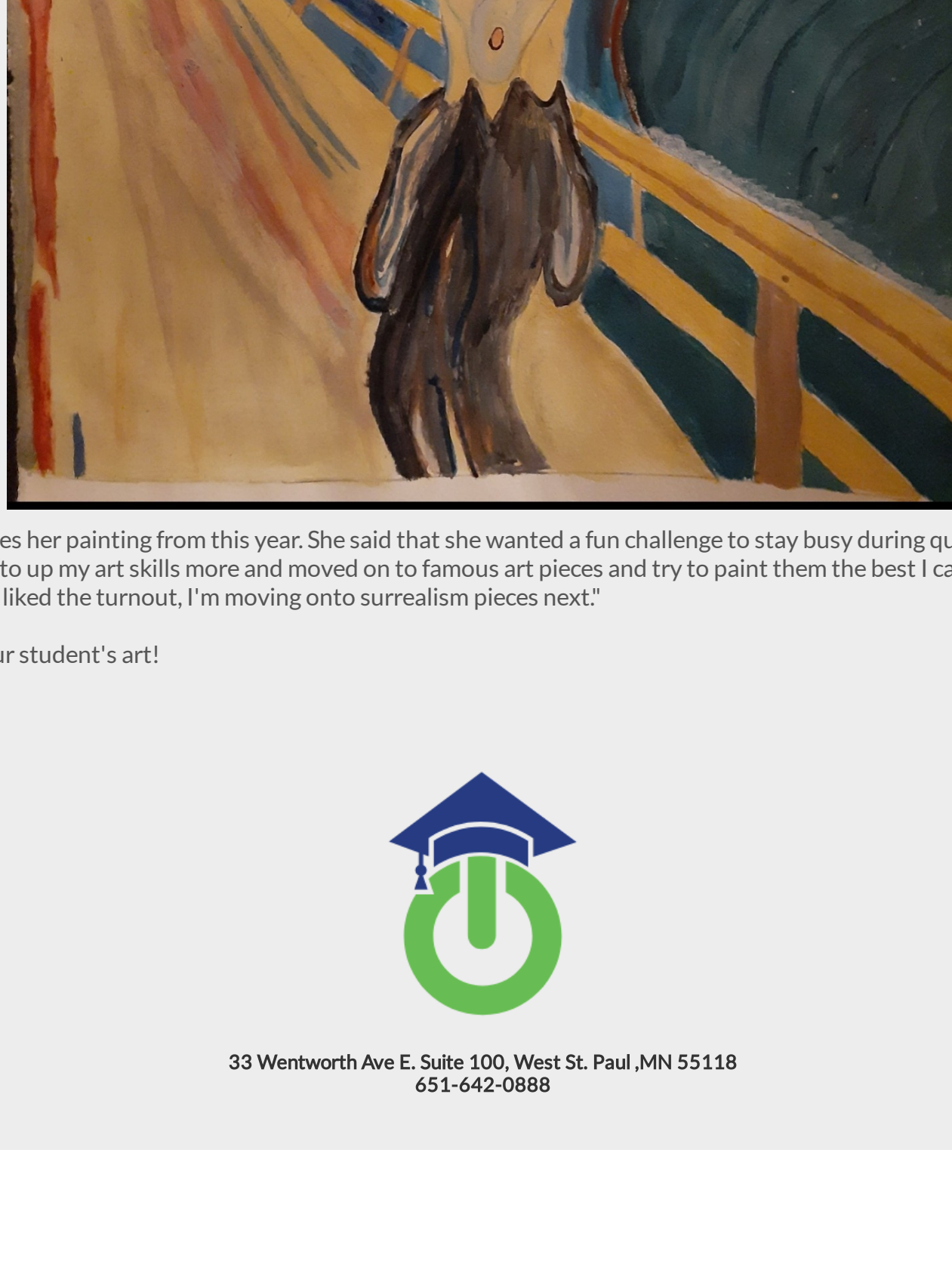
"I have nominated graduating senior Erica Nelson as a BlueSky Star student because she has been an excellent student since she started with us in 9th grade! Erica stays on top of her to do list each week and has earned outstanding grades. She also has a perfect attendance record this year! Additionally, Erica is an excellent communicator with her support staff and teachers. She makes my job as an advisor very easy!! After graduation, Erica plans to get a part-time job as well as join her family's business. When not doing schoolwork, Erica enjoys reading, drawing, playing video games, and watching anime.

When asked what has been her favorite part about being a BlueSky student, Erica said, "I get to experience school in a totally different way, and I have more free time to do what I love." And if she could offer any advice to current BlueSky students, she said, "Keep up with your assignments. If you fall behind, it can be very hard to catch up again."

Overall, Erica has been a delight to work with and I'm so excited to see her graduate in June! Go Erica ... your future is bright!"

-Nominated by Danielle Fackler

## Student Art



Kaytie Perez shares her painting from this year. She said that she wanted a fun challenge to stay busy during quarantine! "I decided I wanted to up my art skills more and moved on to famous art pieces and try to paint them the best I can, took me a few weeks but I really liked the turnout, I'm moving onto surrealism pieces next!"

We love seeing our student's art!

