

# October 2020 BlueSky Online Newsletter

## Principal's Message

We are well on our way into the 2020-2021 school year, and we welcome all of our returning and new students to BlueSky! You will find our staff are always there to help you so please keep the communication open. As you learned in Orientation, calling your teacher is "equivalent to raising your hand". Additionally our 3 and 4 person support team (counselor, advisor, social worker, and case manager) are your connection to everything BlueSky and beyond. We are your BlueSky Family.

We are so excited about our 20th year anniversary and can't wait for all of you to see our new BlueSky Campus in Bloomington. Although our in-person events are postponed temporarily, we have an exciting tool box full of activities ready to roll out!

Our **parent/teacher conference** is being held October 6th from 3-7pm. This year's conference is virtual.

\*Please watch your emails for a communication to set up appointments for each of the BlueSky staff that you would like to talk with.

Please know my door is always open!

**Renee Parcheta**  
Student Services Director & Principal  
651.249.8386  
[renee.parcheta@blueskyschool.org](mailto:renee.parcheta@blueskyschool.org)



## Counselor Corner

**Senior Meetings:** Students who are scheduled to graduate this year please be sure to schedule your senior meeting with your counselor before the end of October. Your counselor has sent out an email with information and a link to schedule your senior meeting. Please contact your counselor if you have any questions. [Senior Checklist](#).

**Financial Aid Night:** BlueSky is hosting Patty Hemann, Financial Aid Director from Riverland Community college on Thursday, October 29th at 6pm. Please join us to learn about the financial aid application process. [Zoom Link](#). (Open to all students, parents, and staff, but we are strongly encouraging current seniors to attend.)

**Free College Application Week:** Minnesota State System are waiving the application fee during the week of October 25-31. [Sign up here](#).

**Prepare to Launch Series:**  
Series Dates & Times:

- Be Curious: Friday, October 16th (8:45am - 11:00am)
- Be Bold: Friday, October 30th (8:45am - 11:00am)
- Build Meaningful Relationships: Friday, November 13th (8:45am - 11:00am)
- Demystifying Tech Careers: Friday, November 20th (8:45am - 11:00am)

**Register for Prepare to Launch on Eventbrite using this link:** Once you register, we'll have your email address and use that to contact you with updates and additional info about the event.



### Featured Occupation:

- Network Systems Administrator
- Education Required: Associates Degree
- Outlook Growth of 6%, 24,000 new positions annually
- Median Wage: \$82,050 per year

## Social Work Spotlight

### Announcements

Each student has a designated social worker, and any student or parent may request support services by contacting the social worker listed in PowerSchool, or by letting anyone from the student's 3 person team know that you would like to initiate social work support services. Our licensed social workers can provide confidential help with school, personal, or family concerns and can connect you with resources in your community.

Our social workers help in the following areas:

- **Individual Counseling**
- **School concerns** (motivation, goal setting, scheduling, attendance)
- **Family concerns** (divorce or separation, serious illness or death, any other family issues that would cause stress or concern)
- **Personal concerns** (relationships, self-esteem, mental health, substance abuse, exposure to violence, anger management, grief and loss, behavior management)
- **Resource and referral** (financial assistance, legal assistance, prenatal care, county medical health, housing, mental health care, etc.)
- **Crisis assistance** (any major event or issue that needs immediate assistance). Facilitate support groups related to the topics above.



The Social Work team will also be available during the evening of our virtual Parent/Teacher conferences, more information will be provided by BlueSky prior to the conference night. During that time you will be able to "virtually visit" your student's School Social Worker.



## Supplemental

### Announcements

We are so proud of our supplemental students who are making great strides in their BlueSky courses! already. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Heidi ([heidi.housh@blueskyschool.org](mailto:heidi.housh@blueskyschool.org)) and Jill ([jill.hunt@blueskyschool.org](mailto:jill.hunt@blueskyschool.org)) with general questions and to teachers with course-specific questions. We're here to support our supplemental students and parents however we can!

## Student Activities

**Student Halloween Party**  
On Friday, October 30th, we will be hosting an in-person Halloween party on campus! We will be complying with CDC's guidelines by sanitizing, wearing masks, and social distancing during activities. More information will come out soon, keep an eye on your emails! There will be a sign-up as we will keep it at limited capacity!

### CDC Halloween Guidance

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. The (CDC) has issued [Halloween guidance](#): outlining lower risk, moderate risk and higher risk activities. Let's celebrate safely!

We are so excited to bring students together and provide fun opportunities online and in-person! Keep an eye out for emails regarding them! For any activity or event requests, please contact Jenny Bakke at [jenniferbakke@blueskyschool.org](mailto:jenniferbakke@blueskyschool.org).



### Mock Election Coming Soon!

Watch your email and BlueSky's social media accounts for details on how to cast your ballot in a school-wide election, where you will be able to vote for your choice of candidates for U.S. President and U.S. Senator. We'll see if BlueSky's community makes the same choices as the rest of our state and country!

## BlueSky Stars



MacCayle Kobluk is featured as the BlueSky Star Student because she is a fabulous example of a wonderful student AND a wonderful person! MacCayle is in 10th grade this year and has been with us at BlueSky for 3 years now. She has fully embraced the Online learning culture. She works hard daily on all of her assignments and puts forth much effort in everything she sets her mind to. She is also very communicative with her teachers and advisor on both an academic and personal level. MacCayle's favorite subject is science. And her favorite thing about BlueSky is being able to set her own schedule (which she does a great job of each week)! She is very motivated and organized! And personally, MacCayle greatly enjoys riding her horses. She is a barrel racer! Overall, MacCayle is a model student who I am grateful to work with each week! This girl is going places!!!

- Nominated by Danielle Fackler

## Shoutout to our awesome students!

Lilee Bock is featured this month as a BlueSky Star because she clearly demonstrates the characteristics needed to be a successful online student. Lilee came to us last year as a freshman after being homeschooled since second grade. Lilee works hard and earns high grades in all her classes plus she regularly responds to communications, which is important in this online environment. She usually finishes up her work for the week one day early--way to go Lilee! I have truly enjoyed getting to know her and look forward to our weekly communications. In her spare time, Lilee likes to draw and snowboard.

When asked what she likes about BlueSky and/or what helps her be successful, Lilee replied: "What I like best about BlueSky is that I can work on assignments at any time of the day. I find that really helpful when I can't get to my school work right away. The teachers and staff are all so kind and helpful, they will do anything to help you succeed."

-Nominated by Dawn Nicol

## Student Artwork by Cam Christiansen



Cam Christiansen created this work of art in Cross Cultural Art. It was inspired by Aboriginal art paintings. We love seeing our students' talent!

## Mark Your Calendar

- September 8th, 2020: First Day of School
- October 6th, 2020: Parent Teacher Conference (no live student/staff sessions)
- October 15th-16th, 2020: No School
- November 6th, 2020: Last day of first quarter
- November 6th, 2020: Half student day
- November 9th, 2020: First day of second quarter
- November 16-17, 2020: No school
- December 14, 2020 - January 1, 2021: No school
- January 21-22, 2021: No school (staff only)
- January 20, 2021: Last day of second quarter
- January 25, 2021: First day of third quarter
- February 15, 2021: No school
- February 26, 2021: TBD Field Trip Social Event
- March 11-12, 2021: No school (staff only)
- March 26, 2021: Last day of third quarter
- March 26, 2021: Half student day
- March 27, 2021 - April 2, 2021: No school
- April 5, 2021: First day of fourth quarter
- May 31, 2021: No school
- June 3, 2021: Last day of school

[READ MORE](#)



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## 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  
Dann Ondlich - Principal & Assistant Director  
Renee Parcheta - Principal & Student Services Director  
Cathy Parker - Dean of Students  
Heidi van der Haven - Director of Special Education  
Sara Heg - Student Information Specialist  
John Mizant - Registrar  
Melissa Yang - Testing Coordinator  
Jenny Bakke - Admin Assistant

Counselors - scheduling and class changes  
Dawn Nicolson  
Grant Cameron  
Amy Fackler  
Jennifer Anderson  
Cathy Diekmann

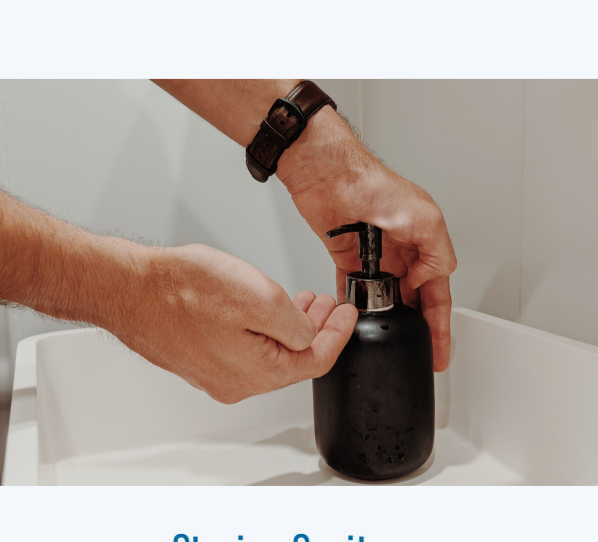
Advisors - navigating school  
Laura Weckick  
Danielle Fackler  
Dawn Nicol  
Carrie Ostman  
Sean Miller  
Jennifer Handing  
Kellie Hansen  
Hanna Coleman

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance  
Carolyn Dirsch  
Cacie Hammett  
Layla Holtzer  
April Schumbers  
Lynn Riecke

Supplemental  
Heidi Housh  
Jill Hunt



## COVID-19 Updates

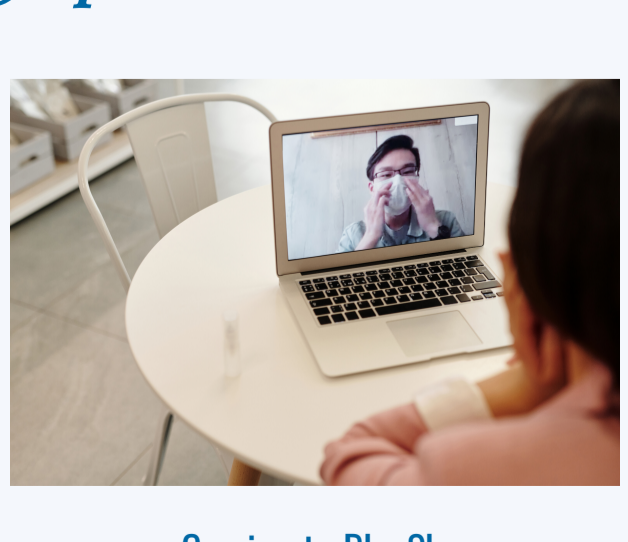


### Staying Sanitary

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.htmlhttps://mn.gov/governor/covid-19/news/>



### Coming to BlueSky

We're planning to open the Student Learning Center in the middle of October by appointment only. More information will be shared before it officially opens. Stay tuned!

We are following MDH and MDE's protocols. Your health and safety is our priority.

[BlueSky 2020-2021 Plan](#)