

November 2020 BlueSky Online Newsletter

Principal's Message

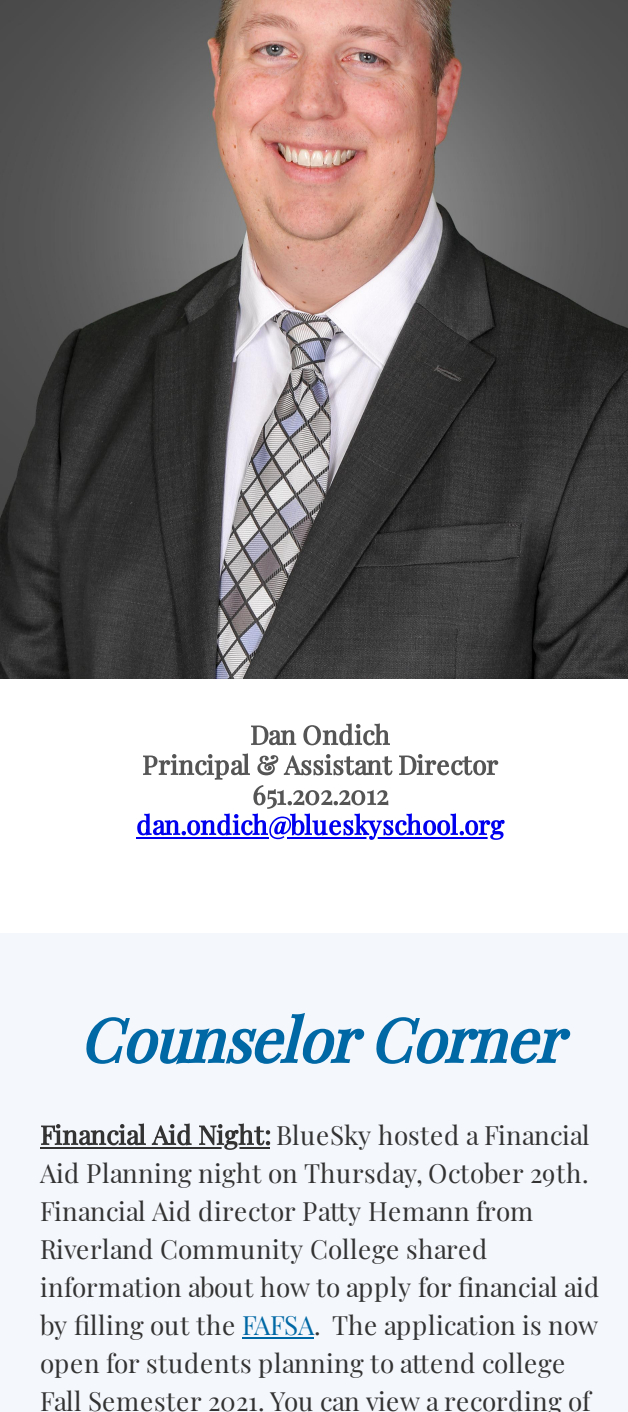
BlueSky Parents & Guardians:

The first two months of the school year have gone by quickly. Students are working hard in their classes and reaching out when they have questions or need support. Please continue to reach out to your child's advisor and teachers if you need anything – we're here to help your child in any way we can.

The end of the first quarter is November 6th at noon. For most high school students this marks the midyear point in their courses and parents should expect a progress report emailed out from each teacher. Middle school students will be finishing their first quarter classes and starting their second quarter classes on November 9th. They should expect to have the same core classes and new elective classes. Please support them in checking their schedules to ensure they get to their new classes.

This year we are continuing our implementation of social and emotional learning (SEL) standards. Teachers are currently working on embedding responsible decision making, self awareness, and self management into their courses. SEL skills are not only critical to student success and wellbeing in school, they also provide a backbone for college and career readiness skills they will use into their adult lives.

Although we are currently on a waiting list, we have had a limited number of openings become available for grades 9-12. If you are aware of someone who would benefit from BlueSky's supportive school environment please let them know about us and share your story. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to educate your child!



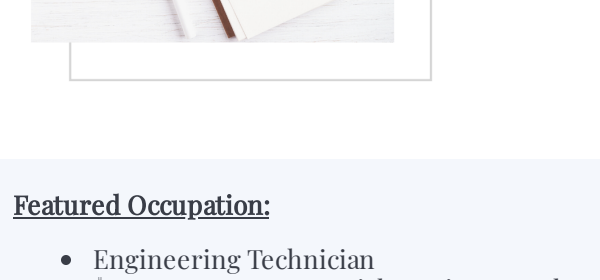
Dan Ondich
Principal & Assistant Director
051.202.2012
dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org

Counselor Corner

Financial Aid Night: BlueSky hosted a Financial Aid Planning night on Thursday, October 29th. Financial Aid director Patty Hennann from Riverland Community College shared information about how to apply for financial aid by filling out the **FAFSA**. The application is now open for students planning to attend college Fall Semester 2021. You can view a recording of the Financial Meeting here: [Financial Aid Application Video](#).

ACT: Plan to take it this year if you are a junior!

- **Juniors** planning to attend a 4-year university after high school should be making plans to take the ACT this year. It will be offered at the BlueSky campus in Bloomington on March 2, but there are several other dates and locations available around the state over the next several months. Go to www.act.org for more information. If you are unsure about whether or not you should take the ACT, talk to your BlueSky counselor.
- **Graduating Seniors:** those planning to attend a 4-year university should have already taken the ACT. If you have not yet done so, or if you want to retake the ACT to improve your score, register as soon as possible at www.act.org.



Featured Occupation:

- Engineering Technician
- \$51,000-65,000 potential earnings yearly.
- Education Associate's Degree-2 years.
- Growth: Very High- over 800 new jobs yearly in Minnesota.

Social Work Spotlight

Your School Social Workers encourage all eligible students and family members to let your voices be heard tomorrow. Vote!

WHO CAN VOTE IN MINNESOTA?
You must be:

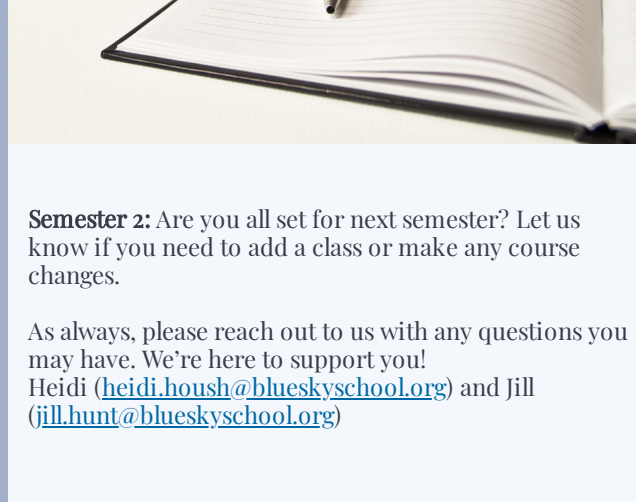
- A U.S. Citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence

WHAT IS ON MY BALLOT?
Want to see what will be on your ballot?

- See what offices we are voting for (President, federal and state offices, school board, judges), what candidates are running for each office, and see if there are any ballot questions in your area.
- <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot>

VOTE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2020

- Find your polling place: <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>



Semester 2: Are you all set for next semester? Let us know if you need to add a class or make any course changes.

As always, please reach out to us with any questions you may have. We're here to support you! Heidi (heidi.hanish@blueskyschool.org) and Jill (jill.hunt@blueskyschool.org)

Supplemental

Supplemental students, you are doing fabulous work! We feel so lucky that we get to support you.

Need Extra Support? These are certainly strange times, and many of you are juggling unique school circumstances – from being in school full time, to hybrid learning, to full distance learning. It can be a lot to balance. If you're at all struggling with that balance, please reach out to Heidi for some additional support in staying on track in your BlueSky classes. We can set up a Zoom meeting (how fun to actually see you!) and help you find ways to take control of your learning.

Course End Dates: Be sure to keep an eye on the "duration" column of your Academic Snapshot. Many of you have courses ending soon. If that's you, how are you doing? Are you in-the-green (green = great)? Remember that the overall "grade" percentage is going to be your actual grade. By your end date, if all of the course assignments are submitted, your "quality" and "grade" percentages should match.

Student Activities

The Student Activities Committee is meeting again to finalize and put together student clubs and discuss future events! Students can still fill out the [Student Activities and Club Interest Form](#). We have had a ton of responses and interest, this will be another great year!

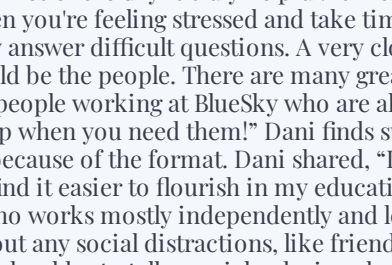
Middle School Pop Up Clubs: Each Friday, our staff are putting on a pop up club typically from 2-3 p.m. for middle school students. Each week will have a different theme. Students are welcome to come and go as they please! All communications will be sent to student emails!

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 jennifer.bakke@blueskyschool.org



BlueSky Stars

BlueSky Star
Dani Franzman



I'm honored to nominate Dani Franzman as a BlueSky Star because she is an outstanding, articulate student who strives to do her best each week. Dani chose to attend BlueSky because it was recommended to her by a friend. She feels it is the best fit for her because of the many opportunities and the way the teachers are so open and helpful. When asked what she likes best about BlueSky Dani said, "I have many positive thoughts on BlueSky, but the thing that stands out most is the flexibility. Being able to work at your own pace and at individual times of the day is truly helpful. It allows you to relax when you're feeling stressed and take time to thoughtfully answer difficult questions. A very close second would be the people. There are many great, supportive people working at BlueSky who are always ready to help when you need them." Dani finds success at BlueSky because of the format. Dani shared, "I personally find it easier to flourish in my education, as someone who works mostly independently and learns better without any social distractions, like friends tapping my shoulder to tell me a joke during class or vice versa. I do better in an online format. With my best interests at heart, the teachers at BlueSky help me retain information so I can grow and do well in my studies." In her free time, Dani enjoys reading books, writing stories, and listening to different genres of music-- R&B, K-Pop, and alternative are favorites.

- Nominated by Carrie Ostman

Shoutout to our awesome students!

Bella is a featured BlueSky star this month because she has demonstrated what it takes to be a truly successful online student time and again while also enjoying a multitude of great activities in her spare time. She first came to BlueSky wanting a different high school experience. The flexibility of online allows her to do things and learn on her own time while also enjoying her teen years with less stress over school. Bella's advice to other online students to be successful is to set goals for each week. She uses a planner to help her manage her own goals and time. Some days she focuses on one subject, other days it is more. The flexibility allows her to plan and space out her school work in a way that keeps it interesting and helps her avoid boredom. She often uses the flexibility and goal setting to finish up school work early and enjoy extra time off. When Bella isn't doing school work she enjoys listening to a LOT of music. She researches songs and artists and enjoys listening for different components of the music. She also enjoys thrifting, late night drives in downtown Minneapolis, and going out with her friends. Bella is a wonderful example of using the flexibility of online school to accomplish academic goals while also maximizing enjoyment of one's teenage years.

-Nominated by Laura Welcick

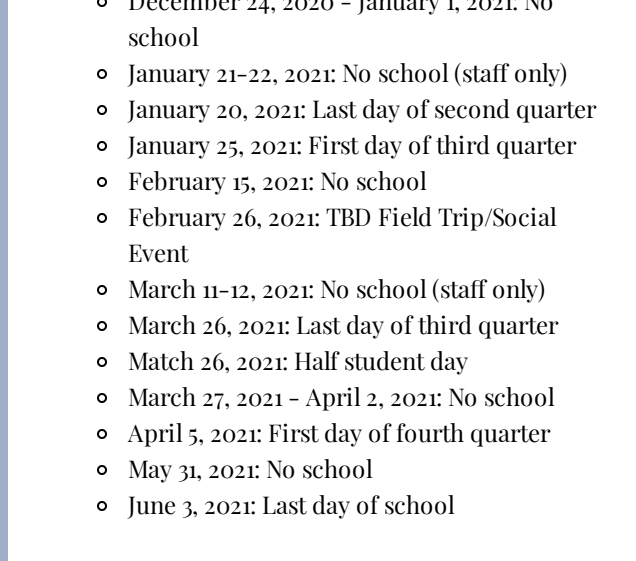
BlueSky Star

Bella Dugan



Student Artwork by Anya Zhykhovich

Anya Zhykhovich took these photos for her Digital Photography class. The assignment is called Same Subject, Different Context. Students are to take a picture of the same subject, but with different backgrounds. We love seeing our creative students at work!



Mark Your Calendar

- November 3, 2020: Election Day
- November 6th, 2020: Last day of first quarter
- November 9th, 2020: Half student day
- November 10th, 2020: First day of second quarter
- November 26-27, 2020: No school
- December 24, 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 3, 2021: No school
- June 1, 2021: Last day of school

[READ MORE](#)

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Resources

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

Staff List with Contact Information

Office – enrollment, transcripts, record requests
Amy Larssen – Superintendent/Executive Director
Dan Ondich – Principal & Assistant Director
Renée Paruchta – Principal & Student Services Director

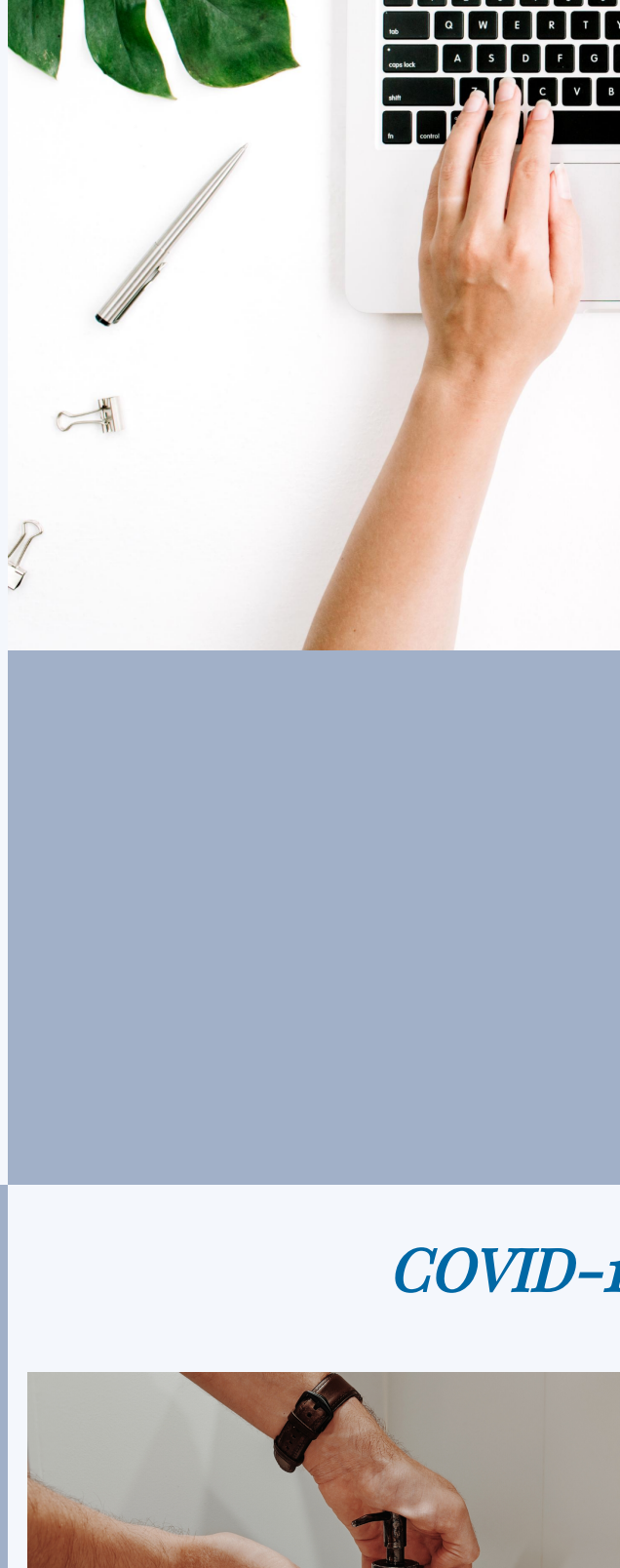
Carol Parker – Dean of Students
Heidi Hanish – Director of Special Education
Sue Her – Student Information Specialist
John Mizzen – Registrar
Melissa Yang – Testing Coordinator
Jenny Bakke – Admin Assistant

Counselors – scheduling and class changes
David Marquis
Cami Ginnaman
Anna Chikina
Jennifer Anderson
Carli Diekmann

Advisors – navigating school
Laura Welcick
Danielle Fackler
Drew Nichol
Carrie Ostman
Sean Miller
Jennifer Harding
Kelly Hanson
Hanna Coleman

Social Workers – school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance
Carlynn Dieck
Cecilia Hummel
Earl Balther
April Schambberg
Lynn Rebe

Supplemental
Heidi Hanish
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/governor/covid-19/news/>



Coming to BlueSky

There is a form on Moodle for students to fill out if you want to come 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 all students!

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