

February 2021 BlueSky Online Newsletter

Principal's Message

Although there have been some challenges this year with the pandemic, our students had a successful first semester. We had 180 students make it on the honor roll and another 28 students that graduated on or before the end of the semester. We are so proud of all of our students and recognize this wouldn't be possible without the support of all of our parents and guardians. Thank you.

As we begin second semester, I want to remind parents that BlueSky is focused on supporting students in their social and emotional learning. We're currently focused on supporting students in developing self-management, self-awareness, and responsible decision making skills. Future areas will include social awareness, and relationship skills. These are critical skills that students need for college and career readiness and overall life success. For more information check out this [document](#) or this [video](#) on how you can support your child in developing social and emotional learning skills at home.

Scheduling for the fall term will begin in February. Our course catalog along with course descriptions is available on our [website](#). Please have your student check back before they make their schedule requests as we will likely be adding some new elective courses in the coming weeks. Students may also want to consider working toward completion of a [Career Academy](#). Students that complete a Career Academy will have a special seal on their diploma and get to wear green cords at the graduation ceremony. Please talk with your counselor if you have any questions about scheduling or Career Academies.

We are currently looking for parents to join our curriculum advisory committees to provide feedback and guidance on our science and language arts curriculum as we move forward with implementation of new state standards. If you are interested you can email dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org and share which subject area you would like to help with. This would require a commitment of three to five online meetings over the next 8 months.

We hope you are enjoying your experience with BlueSky! If you are, please make sure to share with family and friends that we are accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year. We are also excited to announce we are expanding our Middle School to 6th grade! If you or someone you know has a student who will be entering 6th grade in the fall encourage them to consider BlueSky.

As always, thank you for allowing us to work with your student!



Dan Ondich
Principal & Assistant Director
651.202.2012
dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org

Counselor Corner

Featured Occupation

- **Flight Attendant**
- **Education Required:** High School Diploma
- **Outlook:** Over the next 10 years, expected to increase 17%.
- **Median Wages:** \$6,640
- **Overview:** Flight attendants provide routine services and respond to emergencies to ensure the safety and comfort of airline passengers. Flight attendants have variable work schedules, including evenings, weekends, and holidays, because airlines operate every day and some offer overnight flights. Attendants work in an aircraft and may be away from home several nights per week.

Summer School

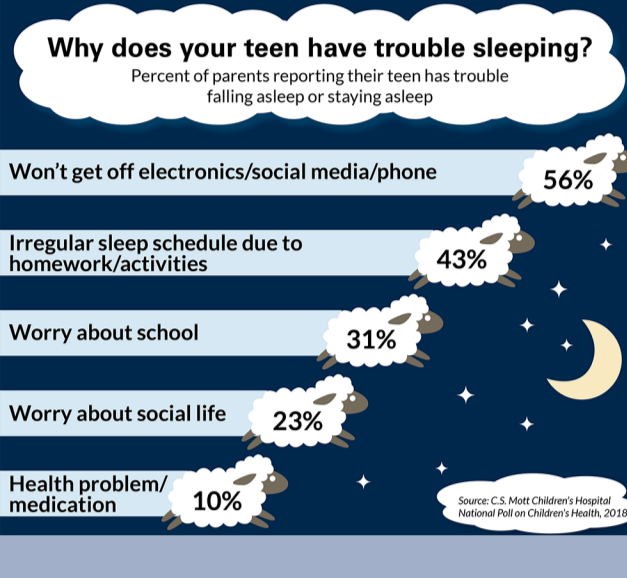
It's only February, but it's not too early to be thinking about Summer school! Reminder: students MUST pass at least 1/2 of their classes 2nd semester to be considered for summer school classes. More information about summer school will be coming out in April, but if you have questions, please contact your BlueSky counselor.



Social Work Spotlight

We are off to the start of a new semester. This is a great time to review daily and nightly routines. This is a good time to think about what is working or maybe what needs a boost. As school social workers, (many of us parents as well) we see some students have had a difficult time getting routines established, and certainly this impacts sleep patterns. Unfortunately, when sleep is disrupted it can complicate other things such as academic success, social interactions and emotional regulation. Sleep hygiene is as important as body hygiene, meaning addressing the routines around sleep can improve the quality and impact sleep and overall physical and mental health.

We are including a link for sleep hygiene and help from the University of Michigan. There is also a link to Allina Hospital's Change to Chill website for more suggestions and practices surrounding improving teenage sleep. If this is an area of concern for you or your student please reach out to your support team as we are happy to help begin these conversations.



Resources:

University of Michigan - [10 Tips To Help Your Teen Sleep Better](#)

Allina Hospital - [Tips for Better Sleep](#)

Supplemental



Congratulations on a strong finish to Quarter 2/Semester 1! We are excited to embark on the winter/spring semester with you.

For you non-seniors, be thinking about your online learning needs for the 2021-2022 school year. We will begin registration in mid-March and would love to have you back learning with us again next school year. Check out our exciting course options on BlueSky's [website](#).

If you already know which course(s) you'd like to take, send Heidi (heidi.haus@blueskyschool.org) or Jill (jill.hunt@blueskyschool.org) a quick email, and we'll get your name on the list.

Online Activities

BlueSky is offering 3 clubs as of now: Book Club, Gaming Club, and LGBTQ+ Safe Space for students to join. For now, they will be virtual until we can safely meet! Keep an eye out for email communications from the club leaders about signing up the clubs.

Don't forget to tune in Thursdays at noon on Zoom for 'Lunch Bunch!' Each week, a staff member will host a lunch-time hangout with a different theme. The Zoom link and themes will be on the BlueSky Student Google Calendar.

Check out [this document](#) that lists non-BlueSky virtual events that can help your student stay involved and make the cold days cozier!



OutFront's FREE **LGBTQ+ Youth Summit** will take place virtually from **March 14th-16th!**

This online experience will provide a virtual communal space for middle and high school students and their educators to connect, learn about various LGBTQ+ topics and hear about resources and opportunities available to them. Students and educators are invited to attend afternoon and evening live workshops and virtual "hangouts" led by OutFront's Youth Leadership Council, OutFront staff members, and partner organizations. The registration link is above.

BlueSky Stars



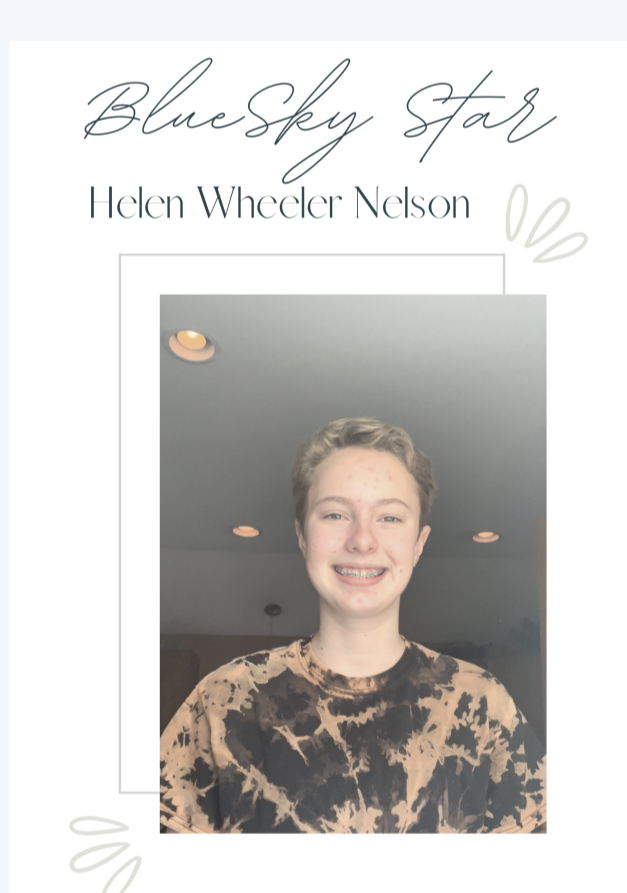
Jasmine Chandee is featured as this month's BlueSky Star Student because she is a fabulous example of a wonderful student AND a wonderful person! Jasmine is in 11th grade this year and is in her first year with us at BlueSky. She has fully embraced the online learning culture. She works hard daily on all of her assignments and puts forth much effort in everything she sets her mind to. Jasmine is very motivated and organized. She is also very communicative with her teachers and support staff on both an academic and personal level. Jasmine's favorite thing about BlueSky is the support she receives from her team and the amount of people who are proud of her achievements! And personally, Jasmine greatly enjoys playing her gaming console and playing basketball. Additionally, Jasmine is wonderfully family oriented. Overall, Jasmine 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!

Helen Wheeler Nelson is a featured BlueSky Student Star for her hard work, consistently high grades, and her perpetually sunny disposition. Helen always tries her best and always with a positive attitude. Helen spends most of her free time crocheting, skiing, and playing her Nintendo switch. Helen's favorite games to play are Animal Crossing, Mario Kart, and Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games. Helen enrolled in BlueSky because brick and mortar schools were just not a good fit for her. Some tips she has for other students are to ask for help if you need it (and even if you don't think you need it) and staying in touch with teachers. Also, Helen advises to take time and do stuff you love as it can be a great way to destress after school or before school to get your energy levels up to motivate you. Great advice! Thank you, Helen!

~ Nominated by Jennifer Harding



Student Work

Students in Songwriting and Music Production finished the semester by creating their own Magnum Opus (Magnum Opus means 'great work'). Please enjoy listening to a variety of compositions!

Gio Allosso

Callie Decko

Sarah Anseth

Using this link, you can both view and listen to the music:

You can listen to "December Weather" using this link:

You can listen to her song using this link:

[Gio's Song](#)

[Callie's Song](#)

[Sarah's Song](#)

Mark Your Calendar

- February 15, 2021: No school
- February 25, 2021: Virtual ComedySports 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
- June 12, 2021: Graduation

*Changes have been made to the 2020-2021 calendar, please make sure to check out the updated calendar!

[READ MORE](#)



Resources

Contact Information for Questions and Resources
Main Line: 651-642-0888
[Staff List with Contact Information](#)



Office - enrollment, transcripts, record requests
Anna Larsen - Superintendent/Executive Director
Dan Ondich - Principal & Assistant Director
Renae Parcheb - Principal & Student Services Director
Cathy Parker - Dean of Students
Heidi van der Hagen - Director of Special Education
Sara Hec - Student Information Specialist
John Mizur - Registrar
Melissa Vang - Testing Coordinator
Jenny Balke - Admin Assistant

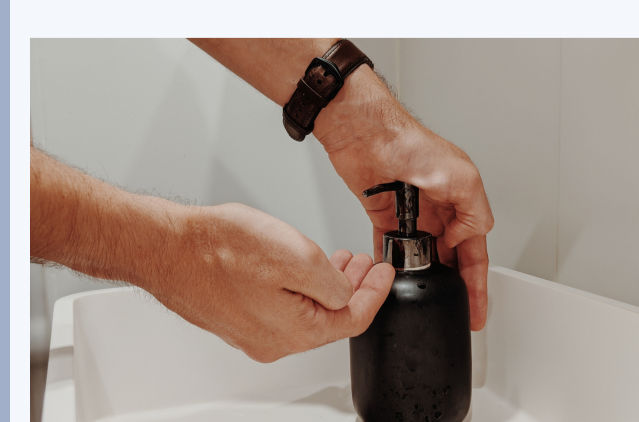
Counselors - scheduling and class changes
Dawn Mensing
Grant Cameron
Amy Chilcote
Jennifer Anderson
Carli Anderson-Dickmann

Advisors - navigating school
Lanna Weick
Danielle Fackler
Dawn Nical
Carrie Ostman
Sean Miller
Jennifer Harding
Kelly Hanson
Hanna Coleman

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance
Carolyn Disch
Cassie Hammel
Cathy Fother
April Scharnberg
Lynn Riche

Supplemental
Heidi Haus
Jill Hunt

COVID-19 Updates

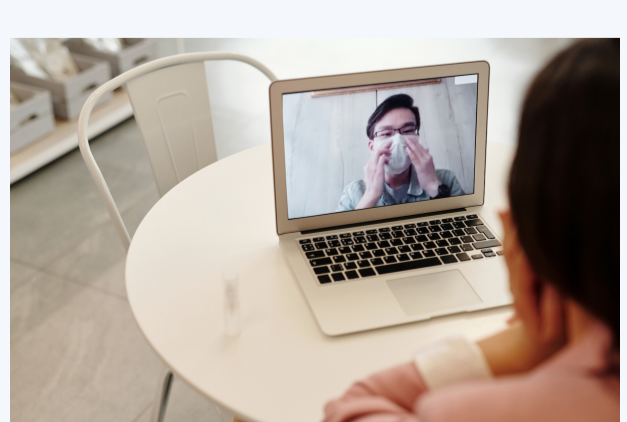


Staying Sanitary

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

In our current scenario, we are only having essential staff on site. If there is an essential need to come in, there is a [form](#) on Moodle for students to fill out if you are coming 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 everyone's safety!

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