

June 2021 BlueSky Online Newsletter

Superintendent's Message

Thank you for submitting your annual spring survey! We received a lot of positive feedback and excellent input regarding areas we can focus on improving. Some of the suggestions you made were to increase field trip activities and social interactions for students. We have recently introduced the opportunity for our students to participate in clubs, but have not been able to offer field trips this school year as we have done in the past. We will be working to offer at least one field trip per month during the 21-22 school year with the assumption that things will look a little more normal. We also heard that some of our courses have a tremendous amount of assignments to complete. We have recently hired a new position, an Instructional Designer, who will start with our next school year. We are very excited to have this position which will be integral in helping us review our curriculum and incorporate new technology while making sure we remain consistent across content areas.

The BlueSky Board of Directors will have its annual meeting in June to review our strategic plan and set goals for the 21-22 school year. We will use the feedback provided in the surveys to help with this. Our focus areas include 1) Student Success, 2) Technology, 3) Community Partnerships, 4) High Performing Workforce, and 5) Finance and Governance.

The BlueSky Board of Directors is still in search of a community member to fill an open seat which will be vacated by our outgoing member, Paula Forbes. Please [contact me](#) if you are interested, as a parent, or if you know of someone who might be a good fit for our Board of Directors. Paula Forbes has been a tremendous asset to the Board with her experience as an attorney in the areas of education law, human rights, and labor relations. She has served on the Board since 2014 and we are so very grateful for her volunteer service to BlueSky Online School! Thank you, Paula!

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.

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



Amy Larsen
Superintendent
651.642.2012
amy.larsen@blueskyschool.org

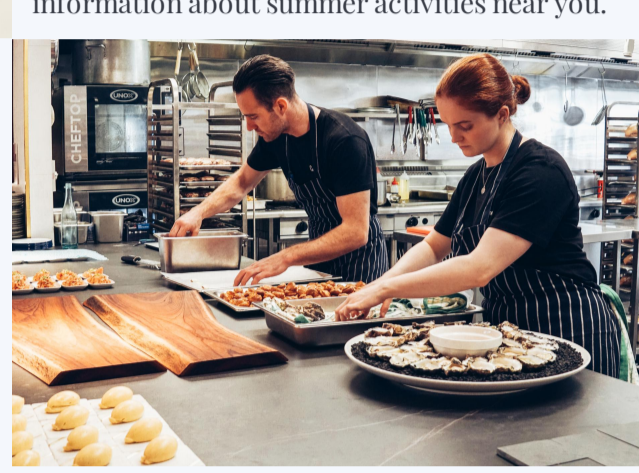


Counselor Corner

Summer Hours: BlueSky counselors work about one day per week in the summer. So be aware that if you call and leave a message, text, or email us, it may be several days before we respond. But please know we are here to help over the summer months!

Summer School: Summer school starts on June 14th. Students enrolled in summer classes must start working in the class no later than Friday, June 18th, or they will be dropped from the class. Those planning to complete a 2nd class in summer school must complete their first class by July 1. Questions about summer school? Contact your BlueSky counselor, or Dean of Students Cathy Parker at cathy.parker@blueskyschool.org.

Summer Activities: Summer is a great time to get involved in extracurricular activities, clubs and sports. It's a good way to boost your resume as you work towards graduation. Check your local Park and Recreation websites for more information about summer activities near you.



Featured Occupation: Chef

- **Education Required:** Most chefs and head cooks learn their skills through work experience. Others receive training at a community college, technical school, culinary arts school, or 4-year college. Some learn through apprenticeship programs.
- **Outlook:** 6% Growth through 2029
- **Median Wages:** \$53,380

Chefs and head cooks oversee the daily food preparation at restaurants and other places where food is served. They often work early mornings, late evenings, weekends, and holidays. The work can be hectic and fast-paced. Most chefs and head cooks work full time.

Social Work Spotlight

With summer vacation upon us that means your social work team is on summer break. We want to make sure you have access to resources this summer. [Please click this link](#) to view several resources related to mental health, rent, food assistance, crisis response and more.



Supplemental



We are proud of our supplemental seniors! We have 14 seniors graduating from 11 different schools across the state: Red Wing HS, Sank Rapids HS, Bloomington Jefferson HS, Irondale HS, Alexandria HS, Jordan HS, New Ulm HS, Big Lake HS, Egan HS, Stillwater HS and Nicollet HS. It's been an honor supporting you in your educational journey; we know you're going to do great things! Congratulations!

We're registering now for the next school year. If you're thinking of joining us again, we encourage you to register as soon as possible to ensure course availability. We will be taking fall registrations this summer as well; email Heidi.Housh, and she will get back to you. Just know that her summer hours are limited.

If you know of someone who is looking for an online class option, and you've had a positive experience with us, spread the word about our program. Word of mouth is our most valuable asset.

Also, keep in mind that even though your school may provide an online learning option, know that it is ultimately up to you where you take an online course(s).

It has been an honor and a privilege to support all our supplemental families this year. We hope you enjoy your summer with lots of family and friend time outdoors and look forward to reconnecting in the fall!

Happy Summer!
~Heidi & Jill

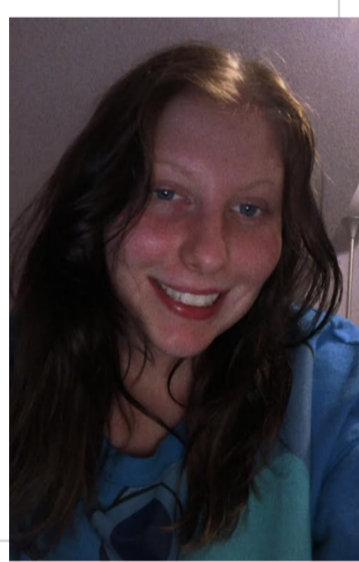
Online Activities

Summer Reading Contest--Enter Today!
Attention Students: You are invited to participate in our summer reading contest. Those who enter could win some great BlueSky Swag! Every book you read and submit on the short entry form earns you 1 entry into the prize drawing. Keep reading...the more you read, the more entries you earn! The program runs from May 24-September 6 and winners will be announced when school resumes in September. Submit an [entry here](#).



BlueSky Stars

BlueSky Star
Jennifer Fulfs



Jennifer (Jenny) Fulfs is a BlueSky Star Student and graduating senior. Jenny has been at BlueSky for two years and has grown so much in her independence, self management and self advocacy skills. Her teachers appreciate her participation in class. One teacher said, "She is fun and has great questions!" Jenny has learned to succeed at BlueSky while having fun learning. She has learned to more confidently work by herself. In her free time she loves watching Hulu and Netflix as well as long boarding, walking and hanging out with friends. We are excited for Jenny's future in whatever she decides to do! Congrats, Jenny!

~ Nominated by Kelly Hanson

Shoutout to our awesome students!

Austin Esperum is featured as the BlueSky Star Student because he is an incredibly hard worker and a wonderful person! And, he is graduating this Spring! Austin works hard daily on his assignments and is also very communicative with his teachers and advisor on both an academic and personal level. In addition to his busy school schedule, Austin has worked a full time job while attending BlueSky! Thus, he's had to juggle various responsibilities each day. Because of that, I am so proud of him for his resiliency, positive attitude, stick-to-itiveness, and hard work. Austin's advice to other BlueSky students is to reach out for help from teachers and support staff when needed. After graduation Austin plans to attend tech school for heavy machinery and then start his career in the construction industry. Additionally, he will continue to take part in his passions which include hunting, fishing, and working on cars and trucks. Overall, Austin is an awesome person and someone who I've had the pleasure to get to work with.

~ Nominated by Danielle Fackler

BlueSky Star
Austin Esperum



Resources

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

Authorizer - Tom Tapper (651)-234-0900
Innovative Quality Schools



Office - enrollment, transcripts, record requests
Amy Larsen - Superintendent/Executive Director
Dan Oudlich - Principal & Assistant Director
Cathy Parker - Dean of Students
Heidi Housh - Director of Special Education
Sara Her - Student Information Specialist
John Mizzer - Registrar
Melissa Yang - Testing Coordinator
Sarah Miller - Admin Assistant

Counselors - scheduling and class changes
Dawn Mensink
Grant Cameron
Amy Chicoine
Jennifer Anderson
Carli Anderson-Dickmann

Advisors - navigating school
Laura Weick
Danielle Fackler
Dawn Kiehl
Carrisa Ostman
Sean Miller
Jennifer Hardline
Kelly Hanson
Hanna Coleman

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance
Carmyn Ditch
Cassie Hammel
Cayla Rother
April Schamberger
Ivyn Ritchie

Supplemental
Heidi Housh
Jill Hunt

Mark Your Calendar

- June 3, 2021: Last day of school
- June 12, 2021: Graduation
- August 26-September 3, 2021: New Student Orientation
- September 7, 2021: First day of school

[READ MORE](#)



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://www.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](#)