

August 2021 BlueSky Parents & Guardians Newsletter

"Welcome Back" Live Sessions

We are looking forward to starting another wonderful school year on September 7th. All returning students in grades 10-12 are encouraged to attend a live welcome back session at 9:30 AM on September 7th to learn about changes taking place this year and review student expectations. This session will be hosted in the Student Commons. Students in grades 6-8 will cover this during their scheduled 9:00 advisory time and students in 9th grade will cover this during their advisory time scheduled for 9:30. New students will complete an orientation prior to the start of the school year. Parents are welcome to join with their students.



Recommended:

- Pens/pencils
- Folders
- Notebooks
- Colored pencils (art and science classes)
- Printer
- Planner/calendar
- Course specific materials (review [HS course catalog](#) & [MS course catalog](#))

School Supplies

The first day of school will be here before you know it. Please remember that all students will need many of the same school supplies that they needed in a brick and mortar school. We appreciate parent support in having your student(s) prepared to start their classes on the first day of school. All students should have the following materials.

Required:

- Daily access to Windows 10 or higher/Mac OS 10.13 or higher computer (iPads and Chromebooks may work for some courses but are not fully supported)
- Headset (or mic and speakers)
- Webcam
- High speed internet (5 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload minimum recommended)
- Check out our [Tech Requirements](#) page to complete a device check and speed test
- Contact info@blueskyschool.org if you need assistance getting a computer or high speed internet

Fall Schedules

Parents and students can check schedules in PowerSchool by logging in at <https://bluesky.powerschool.com>. Some schedules are still being updated and will not be finalized until Tuesday morning. Be sure to check the entry and exit dates for courses to know which classes will start at the beginning of the school year. Please contact your counselor if you have any questions regarding your schedule.



Onsite Learning Center, Student Clubs & Activities



BlueSky's Student Learning Center, located across from the Mall of America in Bloomington, will be opening on September 20th. Students can drop in between 9:00-2:00 and get support working on their classes. Computers and access to other learning materials will be available. The Student Learning Center will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

We will also be offering a variety of online student clubs and onsite activities throughout the year. More information will be sent out about these opportunities so check your email for more information.

Enrollment Still Open

Did you know that many parents and students hear about BlueSky through word of mouth? If you know someone that is looking for another school setting please let them know about BlueSky and share your story. We are a public charter school of choice, meaning parents and students can choose to enroll, even if online options exist in their local district; either part time or full time. We still have enrollment openings for the 2021-22 school year.

ENROLLMENT OPEN



COVID Plan Update

BlueSky has updated our [Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan](#) in an effort to keep all students and staff safe at our onsite learning environment in Bloomington. If you or your student visit our office or attend any activities, events, or academic support you will be required to wear a mask in all common areas when our county (Hennepin) is in substantial or high level of community transmission as [reported by the CDC](#). Our Plan and this mask requirement could change based on updated CDC and MDH guidelines. Thank you to all of you who provided us with feedback this summer!

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 Ondich](#) - Principal Assistant Director
[Cathy Parker](#) - Director of Student Support Services Dean of Students
[Beth O'Connell](#) - Dean of Students
[Heidi van der Hagen](#) - Director of Special Education
[Sara Her](#) - Student Information Specialist
[John Mizour](#) - Registrar
[Melissa Vang](#) - Testing Coordinator
[Sarah Miner](#) - Admin Assistant

Counselors - scheduling and class changes
[Dawn Mensing](#)
[Grant Cameron](#)
[Amy Chicoine](#)
[Jennifer Anderson](#)
[Carla Anderson-Dickmann](#)

Advisors - navigating school
[Laura Weljick](#)
[Danielle Fackler](#)
[Dawn Nicol](#)
[Carrie Ostman](#)
[Sean Miller](#)
[Kelly Hanson](#)
[Hanna Coleman](#)
[Karen Kraao](#)
[Patrick Karr](#)

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance
[Carolyn Disch](#)
[Cassie Hammel](#)
[Cayla Rother](#)
[April Schamberg](#)
[Lynn Rieche](#)

Supplemental
[Heidi Housh](#)
[Jill Hunt](#)



Mark Your Calendar

- September 7, 2021: First day of school
- October 5, 2021: Parent teacher conferences; no live student sessions
- October 21-22, 2021: No school
- November 4, 2021: Last day of first quarter
- November 8, 2021: First day of second quarter
- November 25-26, 2021: No school
- December 23, 2021 - January 2, 2022: No school
- January 14 & 17, 2022: No school (staff only)
- January 13, 2022: Last day of second quarter
- January 18, 2022: First day of third quarter
- February 21, 2022: No school
- March 10-11, 2022: No school (staff only)
- March 24, 2022: Last day of third quarter
- March 25-April 3, 2022: No school
- April 4, 2022: First day of fourth quarter
- May 30, 2022: No school
- June 3, 2022: Last day of school

