

October 2021 Bluesky Online Newsletter

Superintendent's Message

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for October 9th from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the BlueSky office in Bloomington. If you are uncomfortable attending in-person, our staff would be happy to schedule one on one time with you virtually. Please contact your student's advisor or classroom teachers to schedule these directly. Or contact info@blueskyschool.org with questions.

Conferences are a great time for you and your student to meet their teachers, advisor, and counselor in addition to other BlueSky students and families. To protect students, families, and staff, we will be requiring masks be worn onsite and will also be practicing social distancing and following our [Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan](#) which was updated this fall. Let us know if you will be joining us by filling out the [RSVP form](#).

BlueSky's Onsite Learning Center is now open!

Students who would like extra support with their classes, would like a quiet place to complete work, or need the use of a BlueSky computer and internet can let us know by signing up using this link: [Learning Center Sign Up](#)

The Onsite Learning Center is open from 9:00-2:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Contact Katie.Shea@blueskyschool.org with any questions.

Emergency Broadband Benefit

The Emergency Broadband Benefit through the Emergency Connectivity Fund continues to have money available for families struggling to pay for broadband during the pandemic. This new benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands. There is also a one-time discount of up to \$60 to purchase a device from a participating provider. You can find more details about the benefit and how to apply [here](#).

Enrollment is still open!

It's not too late, BlueSky still has openings for student enrollment! As you may have already experienced, one of BlueSky's best qualities is that we are flexible and individualized to every student. This means that we can enroll your student at almost any time during the school year, even if it isn't at the start of a semester or quarter. If you have had a positive experience at BlueSky, please share with your friends and family that this might be a good option for their 6-12 grade students, as well. We still have openings available in both our full time and part time programs.

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



Amy Larsen
Superintendent
651.202.2012
amy.larsen@blueskyschool.org

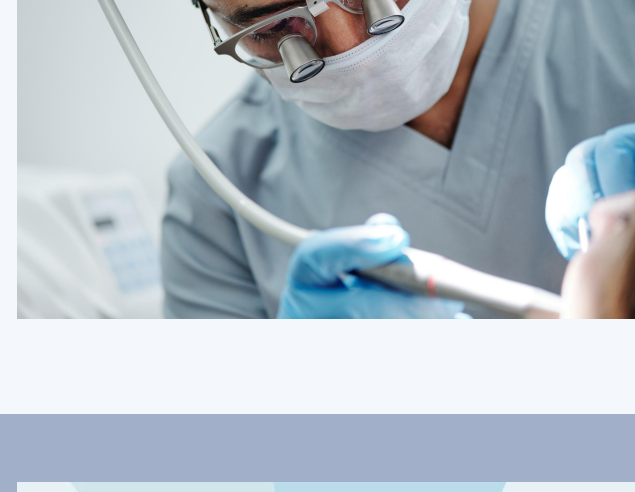
Counselor Corner

This year BlueSky will be hosting the ASVAB and is open to all 10th - 12th grade students. The ASVAB is not just a test that helps determine which military service you are qualified to join, but it's also a great career assessment. **This is a great assessment to take if you are still unsure of what path you want to take once you are done with high school.**

A recruiter will be administering the test at our BlueSky campus on **Tuesday, October 9th**. The test starts promptly at 12 pm, and students will have until 1 pm to finish. The test typically takes about 1-2 hours to complete, so there is plenty of time to finish it. Once you are done, you can come up to the 3rd floor for BlueSky's Parent Teacher Conferences Open House to meet with your teachers and support team.

Computers will be provided for the test, so all you have to do is show up on time. BlueSky's campus is located at 2051 Killebrew Dr Suite 500 Bloomington, MN

If you are planning on taking the test, you must register for it by filling out this [ASVAB Registration Form](#). The deadline for registration is October 6th.



Featured Occupation: Dental Hygienist

- **Education Required:** Associate's Degree (2-3 years)
- **Outlook:** 20.9% Growth through 2027
- **Median Wages:** \$74,422

Dental Hygienists clean teeth, take x-rays, and educate patients on proper oral health. You need a license to practice and requirements vary by state. Learn more at [American Dental Hygienists' Association](http://AmericanDentalHygienists.org/association).

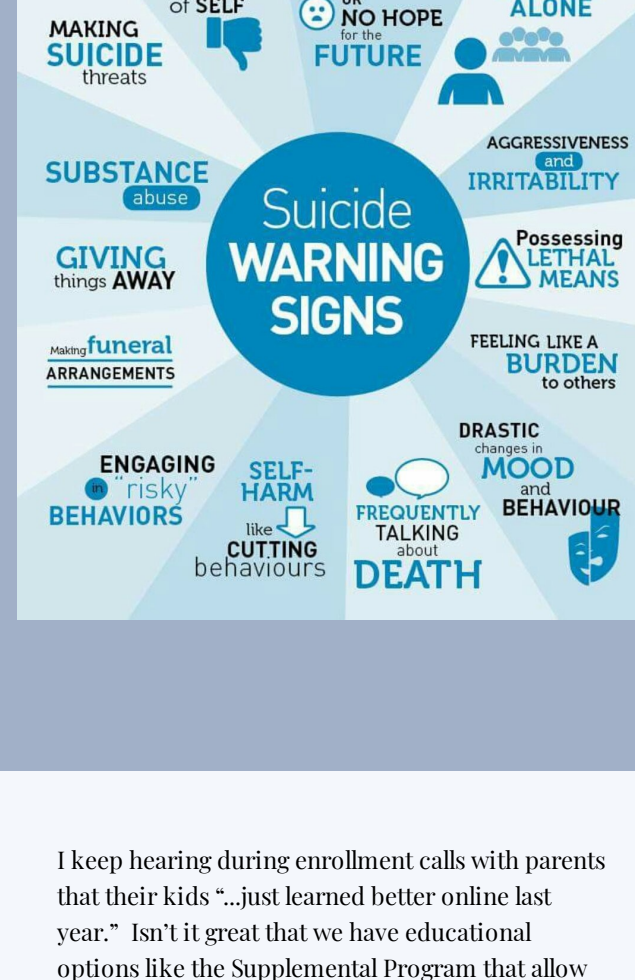
Social Work Spotlight

September was National Suicide Prevention Month

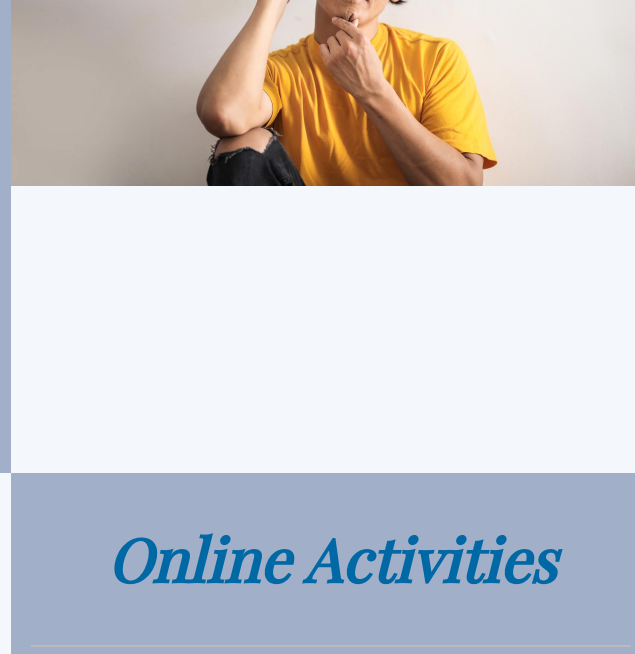
Resources:
If you're in need of immediate support, call 911
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-8259
AN CHSS's Text Line: Text MN to 747744
For more information, click [here](#).

At BlueSky, we care about you and your mental health is important to us. We want to support you with your mental health needs.

If you or someone close to you identifies with any of the warning signs, please use these resources or reach out to BlueSky Social Workers at socialworkers@blueskyschool.org



Supplemental



I keep hearing during enrollment calls with parents that their kids "...just learned better online last year." Isn't it great that we have educational options like the Supplemental Program that allow educational choice for families? We have many new students but still open classes and room for more! Spread the word to friends and family who have an online learning need that the Supplemental Program allows students to stay enrolled in their school and take up to half of their courses online. In other words, any student in the state who attends a public middle or high school can join us - even if their district now has an online program in place. Students and parents can choose where to take an online course. What better place than at BlueSky, an established online school that has been doing this for 20+ years?

Check us out on our website: <https://www.blueskyschool.org/enrollment/parentemailed.asp> and/or give Heidi Housh a call at 651.202.2048 to learn more and to get your questions answered.

Online Activities

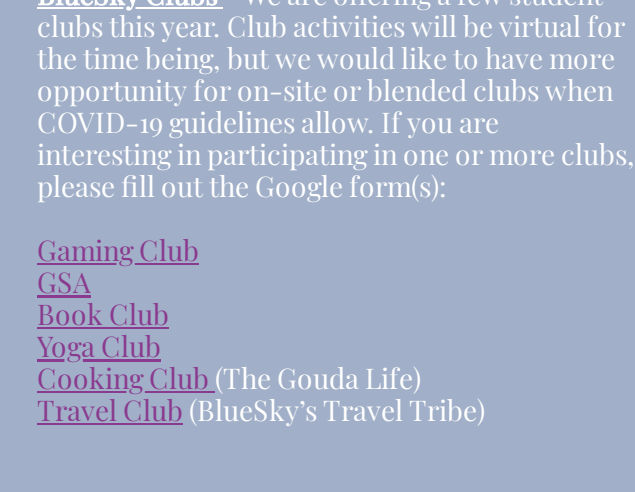
National Honor Society- Students in grades 10-12 who meet BlueSky's Scholarship requirements for NHS membership have been emailed an invitation to complete a candidate information form.

Qualifications for membership are based on the four pillars of NHS:

- **Scholarship**
Per national guidelines, at a minimum, students must have a cumulative GPA of .50 on a 4.0 scale. Students must have been at BlueSky the previous spring semester.
- **Service**
This involves voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation.
- **Leadership**
Student leaders are those who are responsible, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.
- **Character**
The student of good character consistently demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability; shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others; and generally maintains a clean disciplinary record.

The candidate information form is due back to Gabri.Loken@blueskyschool.org no later than midnight on Friday, October 15, 2021. [This deadline is firm.](#)

Lunch Bunch - On select Thursdays at noon, staff will be hosting Lunch Bunch. This is a great time to hang out and get to know other BlueSky students in between classes. Each Zoom session will have a theme, so be on the lookout for what you can learn and participate in!



BlueSky Clubs - We are offering a few student clubs this year. Club activities will be virtual for the time being, but we would like to have more opportunity for on-site or blended clubs when COVID-19 guidelines allow. If you are interested in participating in one or more clubs, please fill out the Google form(s):

- [Bank Club](#)
- [GSA](#)
- [Golf Club](#)
- [Yoga Club](#)
- [Cooking Club](#) (The Gonda Life)
- [Travel Club](#) (BlueSky's Travel Tribe)

BlueSky Library Bookshelf

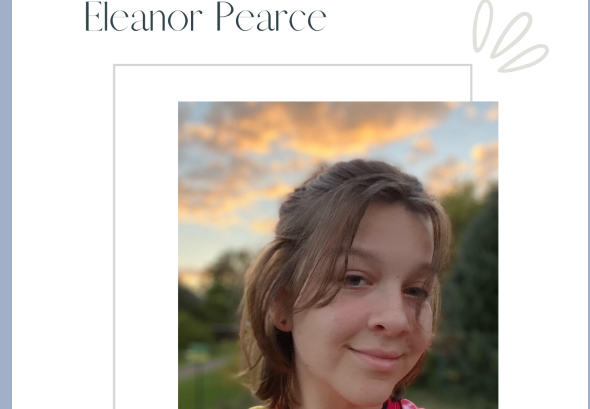


Hello from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf

It's an exciting time of year as school has started and everyone has a new start with the new year! The BlueSky Library has new titles added and we are hoping students will take advantage of having access to such a collection of books that are representative of the exciting world of current young adult books. The BlueSky Library Committee recommends students log into the library at least quarterly to check out new collections that the BlueSky community put together to recommend titles throughout the year.

If students are looking for a title to read right now, Jackpot, by Nic Stone is new to the collection. This story follows two high school students in their hunt through Atlanta for a winning lottery ticket that has the possibility to change their lives. It's an exciting story and the journey they go on has them forming connections with their community members to help with their search. Sam Savioe, from the English department and library committee, didn't take long to get through this book over the summer!

BlueSky Stars



BlueSky Star
Eleanor Pearce

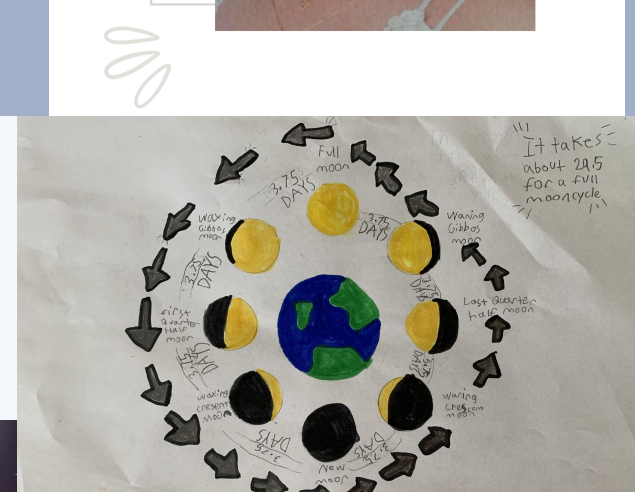
Congratulations to Eleanor Pearce on being a BlueSky Star Student! Eleanor was new to Bluesky last year as a 9th grader and is back and thriving again as a 10th grader. Eleanor's GPA is sky high! BlueSky is a great fit for her because she works and learns better at her own pace. She noted this for other BlueSky students, "My advice for others at BlueSky is it's okay to take a step back. If you're doing something that's frustrating, then take a step away and come back when you're ready. I'd also say, ask for help when you need it." In Eleanor's free time she likes to play video games, watch tv, bake, longboard, and hang out with her friends. It's a privilege to work with Eleanor. Her future is bright!

- Nominated by Kelly Hanson

Shoutout to our awesome students!

Savannah Herbert is featured as this month's BlueSky Star Student because she is a fabulous example of a wonderful student AND person! Savannah is in 12th grade this year and is in her second year with us at BlueSky. She has fully embraced the Online learning culture. She works hard daily on her assignments and puts forth much effort. She is also very communicative with her teachers and support staff. Savannah's favorite thing about BlueSky is being able to make her own schedule. And her advice to anyone new to BlueSky is to reach out when you need help because "the support here is amazing, and your question can always be answered." And personally, in her spare time Savannah enjoys hanging out with her friends and taking her dog to the dog park. She also works at Super Target and as a tutor. After graduation, Savannah plans to go to college to study to become a radiologist technician. Overall, Savannah is a great student who can get full to work with each week! This girl is going places!!!

- Nominated by Danielle Fackler

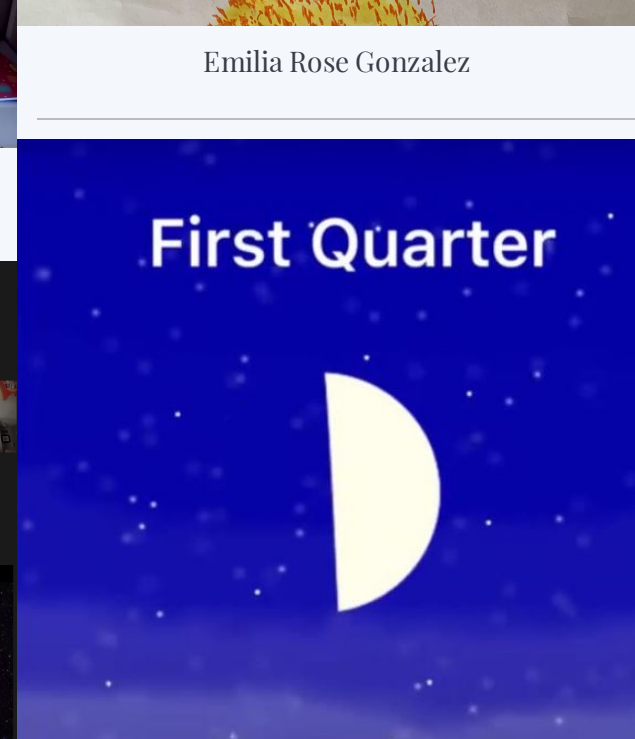


Student Work

Some of our 6th grade students' lunar projects



Makenzie Murray



Emilia Rose Gonzalez



Abby Witt



PJ Le Buhn

Resources

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

Authorizer - Tom Tapper (651)-234-0500
www.educator.com/authorizer
Innovative Quality Schools

Office - enrollment, transcripts, record requests
Aimee Lancia - Superintendent Executive Director
Dan Ondlich - Principal Assistant Director
Gailly Buehler - Director of Student Support Services/Dean of Students
Kath O'Connell - Dean of Students
Heidi Housh - Director of Special Education
Sara Her - Student Information Specialist
John Mizner - Registrar
Melissa Vance - Testing Coordinator
Sarah Munger - Admitt Assistant



Counselors - scheduling and class changes
Dawn Meunier
Garni Cameron
Amy Chokong
Jennifer Anderson
Cathy Anderson-Dickmann

Advisors - navigating school
Laura Weick
Danielle Fackler
Diana Neal
Carric Ostman
Scott Miller
Kelly Hanson
Hanna Coleman
Savannah Herbert
Patrick Karr

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance
Catherine Blisch
Cassie Hammond
Cayla Bohler
Ayvyl Schumberger
Lynn Biele

Supplemental
Heidi Housh

Mark Your Calendar

- October 5, 2021: Parent teacher conferences; no in-person 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 18, 2022: Last day of second quarter
- January 25, 2022: First day of third quarter
- February 21, 2022: No school
- March 10-12, 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

[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.educator.com/authorizer/COVID-19/updates.html>
<https://www.govt.com/covid-19/updates/>



Coming to BlueSky

If there is a need to come in, there is a form on Moodle for students to fill out if you are coming in. It is called the "Homepage Under the Stimulation" 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, stem-lins, and pre-screening for symptoms for everyone's safety!

[BlueSky 2021-2022 COVID-19 Plan](#)