

# November 2021 BlueSky Online Newsletter

## Principal's Message

### BlueSky Parents & Guardians:

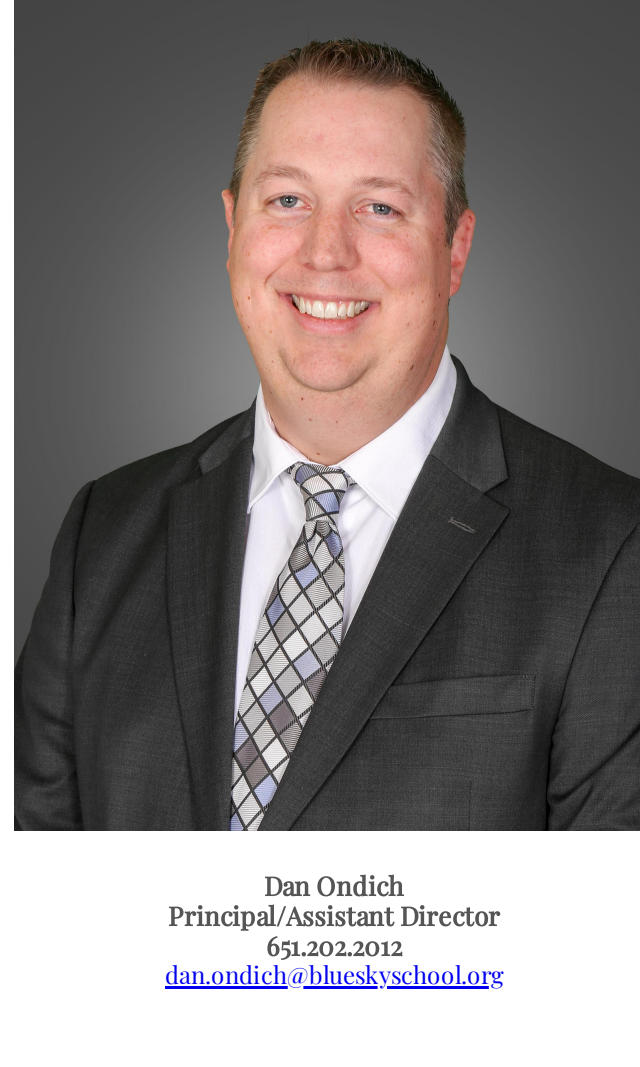
The school year is going by quickly and we are excited to be able to bring back student activities and field trips. Please continue to check your email for updates on onsite activities and upcoming field trips. We also have several online clubs that students can sign up for. Read the Student Activities & Information section below for more information.

The end of the first quarter is November 4th. 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 8th. They should expect to have the same core classes and one or two new elective classes. Future schedules can be reviewed in Powerschool and students will see their updated classes in the Moodle Academic Snapshot starting on the 8th.

Did you know that BlueSky is a compassionate school? This means that all of our staff are trained to utilize compassionate practices when working with students. We do our best to meet students where they are at while also holding them to high expectations everyday. Our 6th through 8th grade students are learning about social and emotional learning skills in their advisory classes and we are embedding these important career and life skills into our courses at all grade levels.

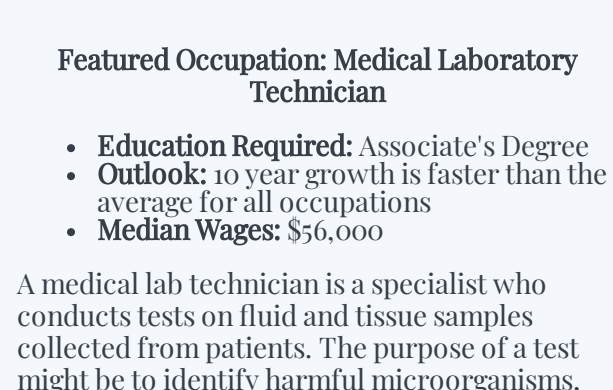
If you know someone that is looking for another school setting please let them know about BlueSky and share your story. We still have enrollment openings for the 2022-23 school year with limited availability at some grade levels.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to educate your child!



Dan Ondich  
Principal/Assistant Director  
651.202.2012  
[dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org](mailto:dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org)

## Counselor Corner



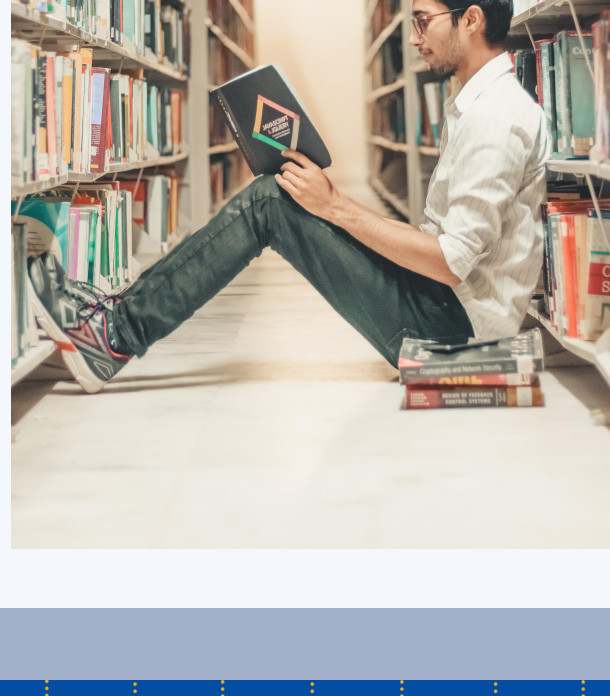
### Featured Occupation: Medical Laboratory Technician

- **Education Required:** Associate's Degree
- **Outlook:** 10 year growth is faster than the average for all occupations
- **Median Wages:** \$36,000

A medical lab technician is a specialist who conducts tests on fluid and tissue samples collected from patients. The purpose of a test might be to identify harmful microorganisms, abnormal cells or unusual chemical reactions. The results also determine blood counts or confirm that blood is safe for transfusion.

Technicians often specialize in areas such as immunology, cytotechnology and phlebotomy.

**Financial Aid:** As of October 1, students can apply for financial aid for college for the 2022-2023 school year. Check out this video provided by Riverland Community College for an overview of the financial aid application process: [Financial Aid Application](#).

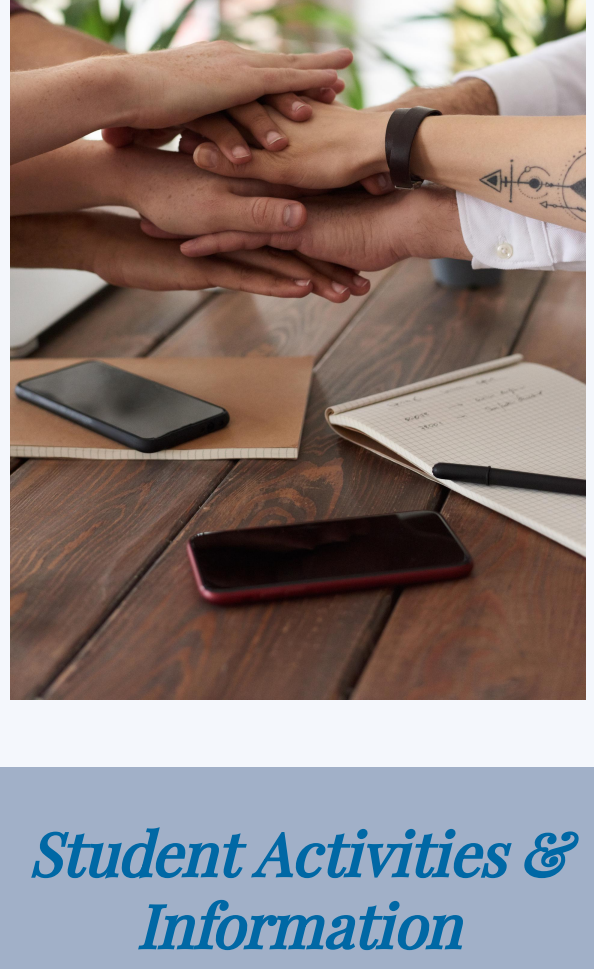


## Social Work Spotlight

The holidays are approaching, and while there can be a lot to enjoy this time of year, it can also be difficult. The holidays might be a reminder of loved ones lost, challenging family relationships, or high levels of stress. During this busy time of year, make sure to take some time for yourself and check in with your own feelings and emotions. If you need extra support, reach out to your social worker- we'd love to chat with you.



## Supplemental

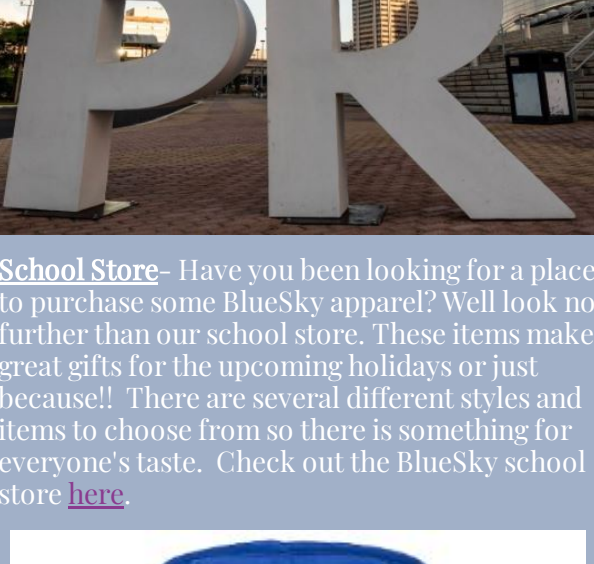


Janette Willenbring has joined the supplemental team since our last update! Janette comes to us with lots of prior school experience and an abundance of positive energy and passion for students. She will be a part of making sure our enrollment process runs smoothly and that our supplemental students are well cared for and supported.

Our supplemental program continues to enroll new students from across the state. If you know of anyone who could benefit from taking a course (or two, or three) with us, feel free to send them our way [heidt.hausch@blueskyschool.org](mailto:heidt.hausch@blueskyschool.org) or [janette.willenbring@blueskyschool.org](mailto:janette.willenbring@blueskyschool.org).

## Student Activities & Information

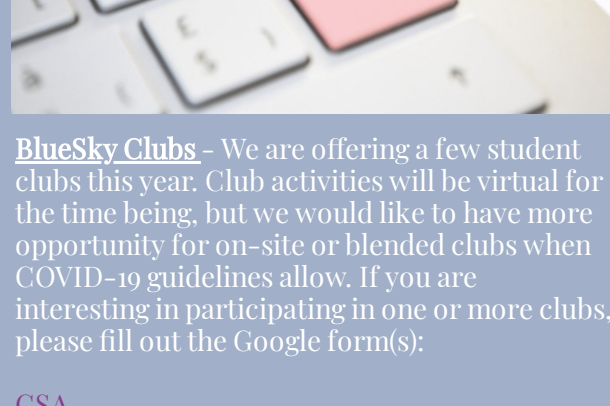
**We're Going to Puerto Rico in 2021!** Join BlueSky students and staff on a trip to Puerto Rico from March 27th - April 1st, 2021. Participants will see La Isla del Encanto with the fair of Spain! Other landmarks include San Juan, a Caribbean national forest, botanical gardens, and a beach with an island excursion and snorkeling! Contact [Gabriella Lokken](#) for more information.



**School Store:** Have you been looking for a place to purchase some BlueSky apparel? Well look no further than our school store. These items make great gifts for the upcoming holidays or just because!! There are several different styles and items to choose from so there is something for everyone's taste. Check out the BlueSky school store [here](#).



**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):

- [GSA](#)
- [Book Club](#)
- [Yoga Club](#)
- [Cooking Club](#) (The Gouda Life)
- [Travel Club](#) (BlueSky's Travel Tribe)



## BlueSky Stars

### BlueSky Star

Kaylee Martie



Kaylee is very deserving of the honor of being named one of our November BlueSky Stars. It was easy to select Kaylee because of her incredible work ethic. Kaylee came to BlueSky because she wanted to take a different approach to learning. Her main reason for joining BlueSky happens to also be her favorite part of the school. Kaylee likes that she has been able to create a personalized educational plan and loves the opportunity to work as an individual at her own pace that best fits her needs. Kaylee shares, "Throughout the process of going to BlueSky, I've had to learn how I best work and how much work I can do altogether. Forcing myself to learn these things has allowed myself to be successful at BlueSky." In her free time, Kaylee works at a nearby daycare. Kaylee enjoys playing video games, educating herself on the less talked about topics and sleeping. She is interested in religious studies, psychology, and helping others. Congratulations, Kaylee!

~ Nominated by Carrie Ostman

### Shoutout to our awesome students!

Cole Peterson has been at BlueSky since last year, choosing the school over his previous virtual school for more flexibility in his schedule. Cole earns the BlueSky Star honor for many reasons, among them these: he is a mature, motivated, and responsible student who balances school and work; he is communicative (which is so important in the online world); and he reaches out when he needs help.

Cole recently did a nice job advocating for himself to make sure that his work in a career-related course was relevant to his interests and thinking-outside-the-box style. In talking about his concerns, he learned more about himself, his goals, and career possibilities. He also furthered connections with his advisor, counselor, and the course teacher.

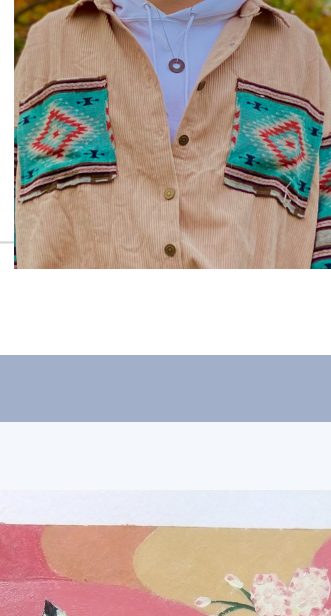
In the future, he hopes to put together his communication skills with his love of showing people the hidden wonders of the world, possibly through professional blogging.

Cole is currently working at Marshalls and he really likes to work. He's a "worker bee" and "neat freak," he says. Keeping things in order. He particularly enjoys keeping an eye on fashion trends there, since one thing he really gets into is choosing his clothes to create fashionable outfits. When he isn't working, he also likes to walk and take photos in nature, and spends a lot of time with his cats, Aspen and Ivy.

~ Nominated by Karen Krao

### BlueSky Star

Cole Peterson

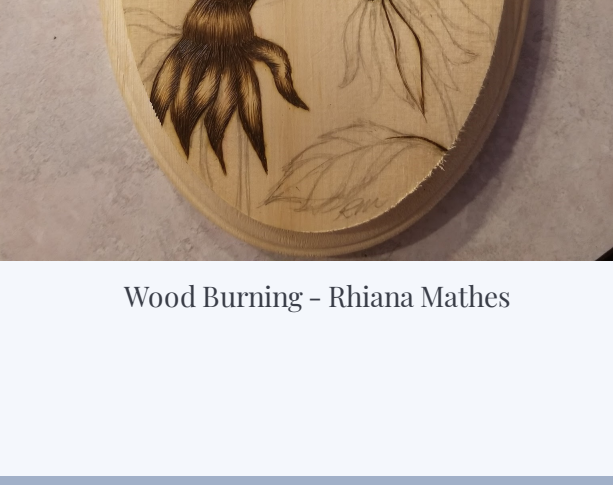


## Student Work

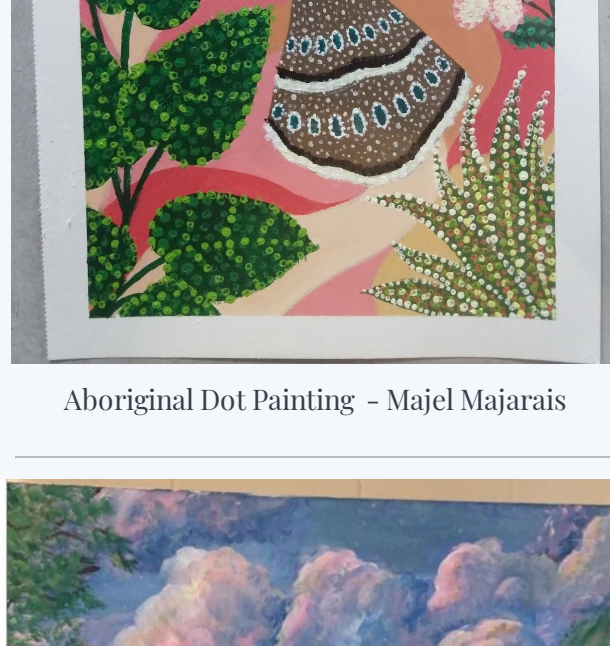
### Student work on various art mediums



'T'Spy' - Vivi Alosso



Wood Burning - Rhiana Mathes



Aboriginal Dot Painting - Majel Majarais



Silver Lake Interpretation - Cordelia Noyes

## 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 Laitson - 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 Lynne Hosen - Director of Special Education  
John Heger - Student Information Specialist  
John Mizer - Registrar  
Melissa Vane - Testing Coordinator  
Sarah Miner - Admin Assistant

**Counselors** - scheduling and class changes  
Dawn Messier  
Grant Cameron  
Amy Chicoine  
Jennifer Anderson  
Kath Anderson-Dickinson

**Advisors** - navigating school  
Laura Weick  
Danielle Fackler  
Dawn Nicol  
Carrie Edman  
Scott Miller  
Kelly Hanson  
Hanna Coleman  
Karen Kruse  
Patrick Karr

**Social Workers** - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance  
Candyn Disch  
Cassie Hammett  
Cathy Butler  
April Schwabert  
Joan Riche

**Supplemental**  
Heidi Hausch  
Janette Willenbring

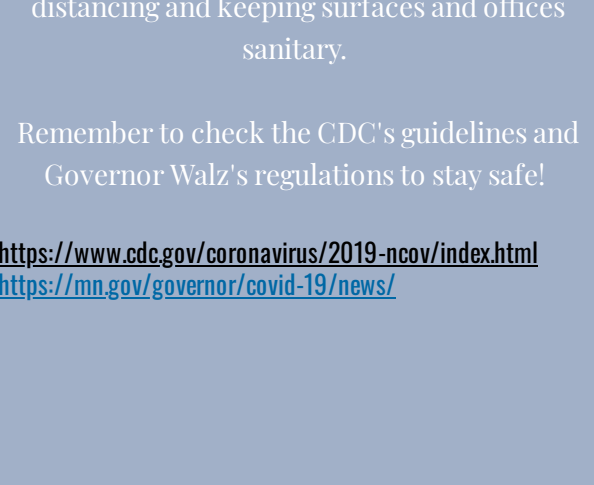
## Mark Your Calendar

- November 4, 2021: Last day of first quarter
- November 8, 2021: First day of second quarter
- November 25-26, 2021: No school
- December 23-24 - January 2, 2022: No school
- January 14 & 17, 2022: No school (staff only)
- January 19, 2022: Last day of second quarter
- January 28, 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

READ MORE



## COVID-19 Updates

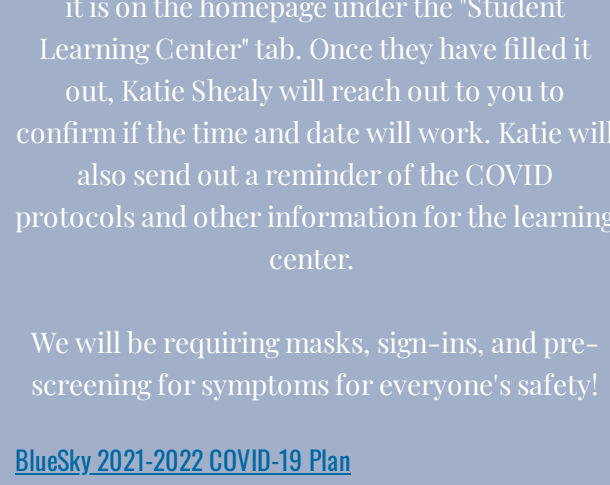


### Staying Sanitary

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://mn.gov/governor/covid-19/news/>



### 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 "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 2021-2022 COVID-19 Plan](#)