

December 2021 BlueSky Online Newsletter

Director of Student Support Message

The holiday season is upon us and before we know winter break will be here. We hope that you were able to enjoy a couple days off last week to rest, relax and recharge. There are 3 1/2 more weeks of school before the winter break so continue to work hard. Please note that BlueSky's winter break starts on **December 23rd** and runs through **January 2nd**.

BlueSky offers individual support to fit your needs not only academically but emotionally. BlueSky student's three-person team: advisor, counselor, and social worker, compassionately work together to help meet the needs of our students. If you need someone to talk to or need help identifying resources in your community during this holiday season, please reach out to your BlueSky support team.

20-21 Annual Report
Each year, school districts develop a World's Best Workforce (WBWF) and Annual Report, engage in an annual public meeting with stakeholders, and release the annual report publicly on district websites. Under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11, the annual report and annual meetings are focused on strategies and initiatives that the district engaged in to meet the goals and the progress made on those goals in the prior school year. The goals must address the following areas:

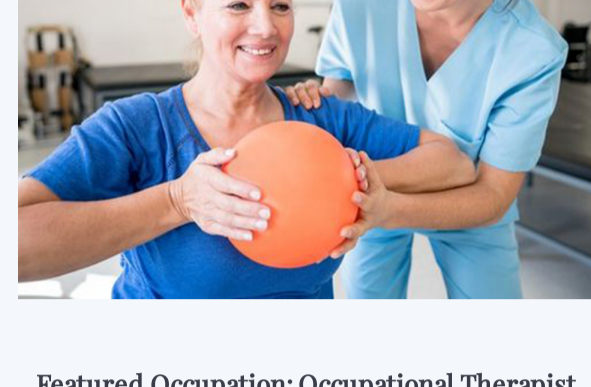
- All children are ready for school.
- All third-graders can read at grade level.
- All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed.
- All students are ready for career and college.
- All students graduate from high school.

In addition, WBWF legislation requires that districts submit a summary of the annual report to MDE (Minnesota Department of Education) each year. BlueSky has recently added our [20-21 Annual Report](#) and [World's Best Workforce Summary](#) to our website. Take a look at both documents to find out the results of BlueSky's goals as well as learn all about the innovative programs we have implemented as a way to support each and every one of our students.



Cathy Parker
Director of Student Support Services
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cathy.parker@blueskyschool.org

Counselor Corner



Featured Occupation: Occupational Therapist Assistant

- **Education Required:** Associate's Degree
- **Outlook:** 31.19% Growth in the next 10 years
- **Median Wages:** \$25,750 per year

Occupational therapy assistants carry out activities and exercises with clients based on a treatment plan developed in collaboration with an occupational therapist. Occupational therapy assistants monitor and assist with activities to make sure they are performed correctly and to provide encouragement. They also record their client's progress for use by the occupational therapist.

Maya Career Immersion Programs: Discover what a career in health care looks like and get an exclusive inside look at a wide range of health care careers. You are invited to apply to be a part of a talented group of diverse, Minnesota high school incoming juniors and seniors at our week-long Career Immersion Program offered June 19-24, 2022.

Applications accepted between Jan. 1 and March 15, 2022. Applications are taken from current sophomores and juniors (2021-2022 academic year) in public, private, charter, or home-based high schools, who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Students who have GPAs in the 2.5-3.5 range are ideal candidates for this program. [Application for Admission](#)



Social Work Spotlight

Bullying is an issue that impacts many students across our nation. In 2019, 1 in 5 students reported being bullied in a survey. Since the early 2000s, schools have been working to prevent and raise awareness of bullying, yet less than half of those who reported being bullied in the survey actually told an adult at school about it. So, what can you do? In addition to being able to identify bullying, it is also important to understand why the bullying may be occurring or why the victim is not reporting it.

- Why the bully does it:
- For pleasure — they enjoy it
 - For popularity — they want to be noticed
 - They learned it (indirectly) — saw others do it (parents, siblings, friends, etc.)
 - They did not receive enough attention and affection from others, specifically parents or teachers

- Why the victim does not report it:
- Worried they will be seen as weak
 - Fear that teachers and others will not do anything, not help the issue — can lead to more self-loathing and isolation



For more information on bullying statistics, click [here](#).

For more information on what you and your school can do, click [here](#).

For personal accounts, here are two TED Talks by youth who inform others of their experiences: [Perspective of someone who was bullied](#) and [Perspective of a victim who became a bully](#).

Supplemental



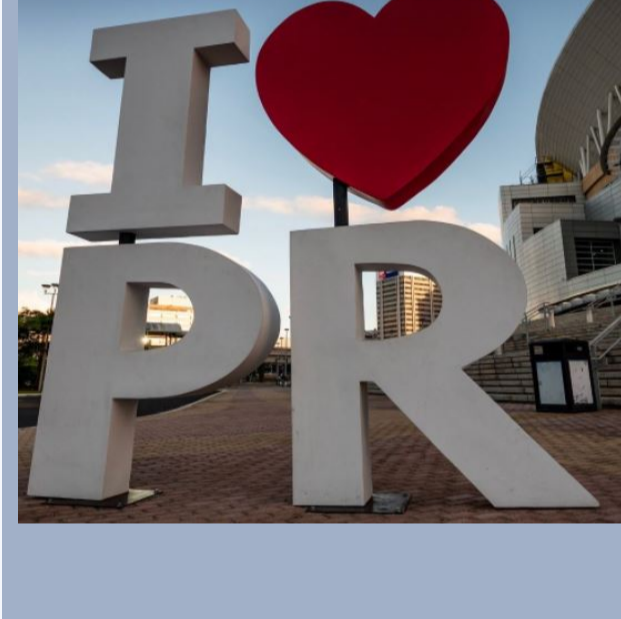
We are quickly coming to the end of Semester 1 for those of you taking classes on a semester schedule. Take note of the following calendar information:

- BlueSky winter break dates are December 23 - December 31. We are back in session on Monday, January 3.
- Students will still have access to their courses during all BlueSky breaks throughout the year. Just be patient with teacher grading and communications.
- Last day for Semester 1 is Thursday, January 13, 2022.
- No school for students on Friday January 14 and Monday, January 17, 2022.
- First day of Semester 2 is Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

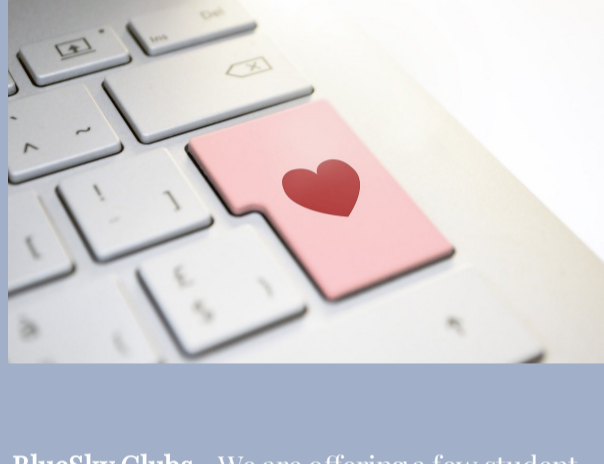
If you're not signed up for any Semester 2 courses and would like to be, please reach out to Heidi Hensch to get the process rolling.

Student Activities

We're Going to Puerto Rico in 2022! Join BlueSky students and staff on a trip to Puerto Rico from March 27th - 31st, 2022. Participants will see La Isla del Encanto with the flair of Spain! Other landmarks include San Juan, a Caribbean national forest, botanical gardens, and a beach with an island ecovision and snorkeling! Contact [Gabriela Lokken](mailto:Gabriela.Lokken@blueskyschool.org) for more information.



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)



Planning a field trip on December 17th details soon to come!!!

BlueSky Library Bookshelf

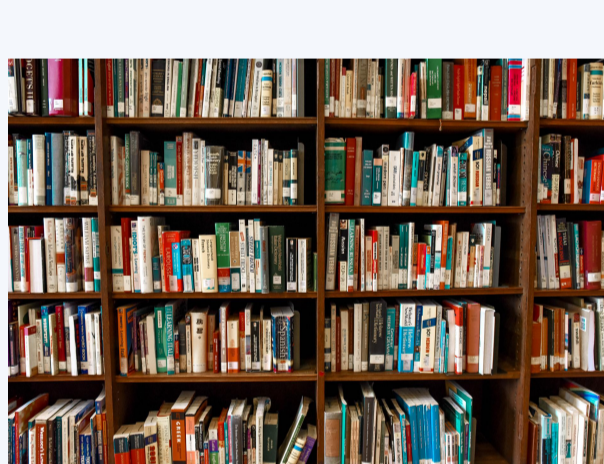


Hello again from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf-

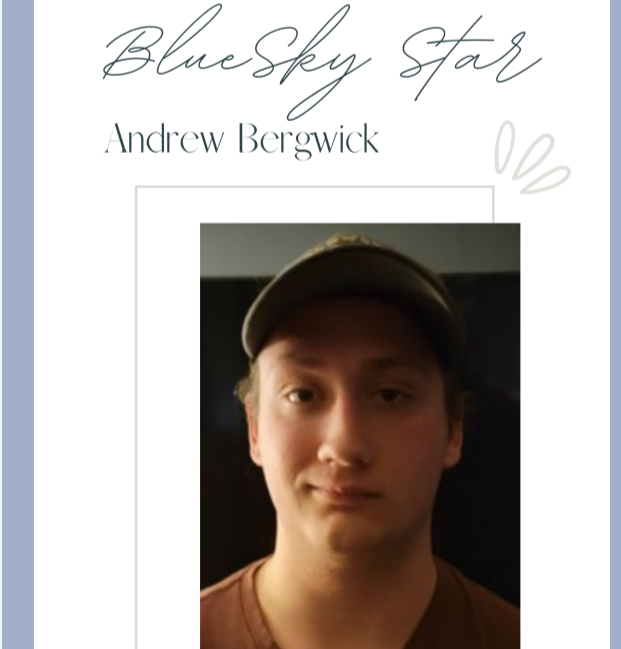
The fall collection is still available on the Sora library homepage. It is easy to locate the other collections from the past in the Sora collections as well. These collections have a wide variety of titles to choose from with many reading levels represented.

The Library Committee is also able to order books if students are interested in titles that are not in the Sora library. These requests are up to the committee's discretion but this is the best way to ensure the Library Committee is keeping titles students would like to read in the library. Anyone can email these requests to library@blueskyschool.org

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness is a great story to read from the February 2021 collection to check out....Happy Reading!



BlueSky Stars



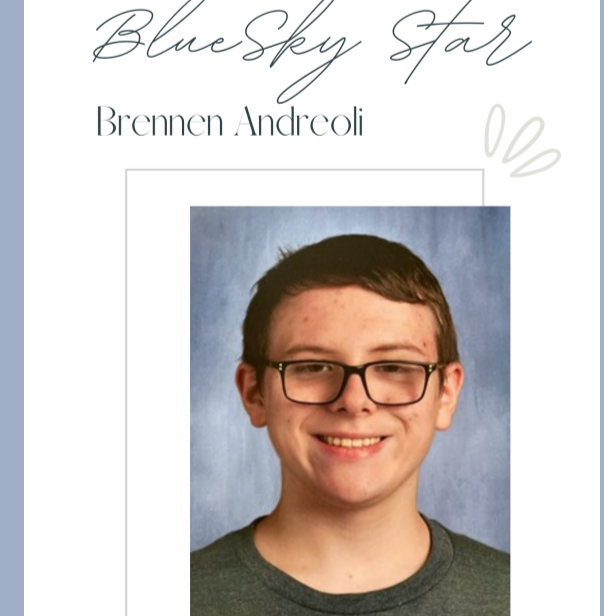
Andrew Bergwick has earned his spot among the BlueSky Star Students. In fact, Andrew last school year when he was a 10th grader. He was a 2000 student last year, but has proven to be top notch this year as an 11th grader. His confidence shines through. Andrew said he has learned many things while at BlueSky, including history, algebra, grammar and punctuation. He also reports to have learned about potential careers after high school while at BlueSky. Andrew's advice for other BlueSky students includes working hard, staying focused and having confidence that you can do anything you set your mind to. He loves to hang out with his family when he is not doing school work. He also plays video games with his brother and friends. I can't wait to see what his bright future holds for him.

- Nominated by Kelly Hanson

Shoutout to our awesome students!

Brennen Andreoli, a new student to BlueSky this year, is featured as this month's BlueSky Star because he is very engaged in his classes and turns in high quality lessons. He also does a terrific job of communicating with the BlueSky staff which is so important in this online environment. Brennen decided to join BlueSky when he found out that his local school wasn't going to do distance learning this year because he realized how much he enjoyed distance learning (during the COVID shutdowns). Brennen feels he excels here at BlueSky due to his ability to choose his own schedule when working on his classes throughout the week. For example, he can decide to focus on just one class at a time or mix it up. He really likes all the people he works with here as well. One of Brennen's teachers said, "He is a great student and such a hard worker. He calls me ten minutes before our meetings to make sure I remember to open the zoom room a few minutes early." In his spare time, Brennen enjoys playing video games and drawing. Congratulations, Brennen and thank you for being a true BlueSky Star Student!

- Nominated by Dawn Nicol



Mark Your Calendar

- 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 20, 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](#)



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Resources

Contact Information for Questions and Resources
Main Line: 651-642-0888
Support@blueskyschool.org
Authorizer - Tom Tapper (651)-234-0900
Innovative Quality Schools



- Office** - enrollment, transcripts, record requests
Amy Larsen - Superintendent/Executive Director
Dan Ondelich - Principal/Assistant Director
Cathy Parker - Director of Student Support Services
Beth O'Connell - Dean of Students
Hertie van der Horst - Director of Special Education
Sara Lee - Student Information Specialist
John Mizeur - Registrar
Melissa Vagne - Testing Coordinator
Sarah Miner - Admin Assistant

- Counselors** - scheduling and class changes
Ethan Menden
Janni Cameron
Amy Chioicini
Jennifer Anderson
Garth Anderson-Dickmann

- Advisors** - navigating school
Liaun Weick
Danielle Fackler
Dawn Nicol
Larrie Ostman
Sean Miller
Beth Hanson
Hanna Coleman
Kaitie Kraco
Patrick Karr

- Social Workers** - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance
Kaitie Shealy
Easie Hammel
Cathy Rothler
Avery Schumbers
Lyann Riche

- Supplemental**
Heidi Hensch
Janette Wilkenbrige

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 sanitizing surfaces and offices.

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://m.govt.com/covid-19/news/index.html>



Coming to BlueSky

If there is a need to come in, there is a farm on Moodle for students to fill out if you are coming in. It is called "Learnnet 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](#)