

# January 2022 BlueSky Online Newsletter

## Superintendent's Message

Welcome back from winter break! We hope you enjoyed time with family and friends and are excited for the new calendar year of 2022.

**SAVE the DATE:** Coming up on Friday, February 25th, BlueSky will be hosting regional field trips. This will be the first time we have attempted to organize a statewide event which will include field trip options in 6 different regions of the state. The intent of offering these student activities is to provide time for all of our students to interact on a social level and meet each other face to face while having some fun, no matter what part of the state they live in. Our staff have put a lot of thought and effort into organizing these activities and we are hoping that most of our students will choose to attend one of the field trips offered on February 25th. A sign up sheet and additional information will be coming out soon regarding the field trip options.

**Energy Assistance Program:** Winter in Minnesota can be challenging because of our cold temperatures and snow. However, Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program is available to help if you find yourself in need of financial support this winter. The Energy Assistance Program helps pay for home heating and water costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households. Find more information on the [Energy Assistance Program](#) website.

**Policy Updates:** BlueSky Charter School Board of Directors is responsible for reviewing and updating all school policies. They have been following a review schedule which includes policies that are referenced in the 21-22 Student/Parent Handbook. Some of these policies may be updated throughout the school year and these changes will be reflected in the [Student/Parent Handbook](#). [Click on our website](#). Please refer to the handbook for any specific policy concerns or contact a [BlueSky board member](#) or myself, [Amy Larsen](#), with questions.

**Be Our Facebook Friend:** If you aren't already, consider following [BlueSky's Facebook page](#) so you can stay informed of all BlueSky events and happenings. Our school community is alive and vibrant and we want to share it with all BlueSky families!

As always, thank you for choosing BlueSky and allowing us to work with your student(s)!



Amy Larsen  
Superintendent  
651.202.2012  
[amy.larsen@blueskyschool.org](mailto:amy.larsen@blueskyschool.org)

## Counselor Corner

**Featured Occupation:** Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers

- **Education Required:** High school diploma & on the job training
- **Outlook:** 8% increase
- **Median Wages:** \$44,000

Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers use hand-held or remotely controlled equipment to join or cut metal parts. They also fill holes, indentations, or seams in metal products. These workers study sketches and specifications to understand the full picture of the structure and materials before they start their work.



PSEO is a Minnesota program that allows students who qualify to take college classes while still in high school. Although it is mostly for 11th and 12 graders, there are some limited options for 10th graders as well. Here's a link to more information about the [PSEO Program](#).

An Informational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 2 @ 12 noon. Here is the link to join: [Zoom](#). Students and parents/guardians who would like to learn more about the PSEO program are welcome to attend. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please email your BlueSky counselor.



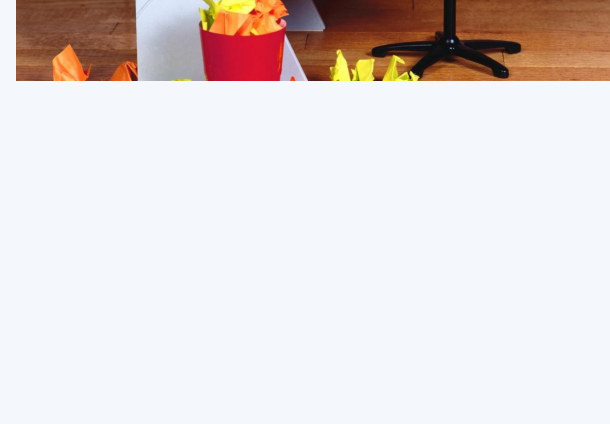
## Social Work Spotlight

With the semester ending we encourage everyone to participate in self care in the New Year. Self care can look like a lot of different things: watching your favorite movie, a technology break, going on a walk, spending time with friends, and more. There are other things that aren't always considered self care, but have a large impact on our overall well being. This could be creating boundaries in your relationships, improving sleep, hygiene, and being kind and understanding to yourself. Make sure to spend some time on self care over break. Happy New Year!



\*\*Note: Last month we talked about bullying, and we wanted to add that any student who reports bullying as a victim or bystander will be fully supported by BlueSky staff. Social workers are also available to talk, please reach out when needed.

## Supplemental



Happy New Year, everyone, and welcome back. It's a new year for all of us and there will soon be new classes for those of you not on a flex schedule.

- The last day of Semester 1 Thursday, January 13 and classes close at 4:00pm that evening. Work hard to get those grades where you want them!
- We will send you, your parents, and your counselor a transcript with your grade and credit earned before the end of January.
- Semester 2 courses begin on Tuesday, January 18.

We are still enrolling for Semester 2 if you have any online learning needs or know of someone who does. Know that our elective courses, social worker led courses, and ASL courses are all full at this time. In addition, our math courses are quickly filling up. Contact [Heidi Honish](#) to get things rolling or if you have any questions.

## Student Activities

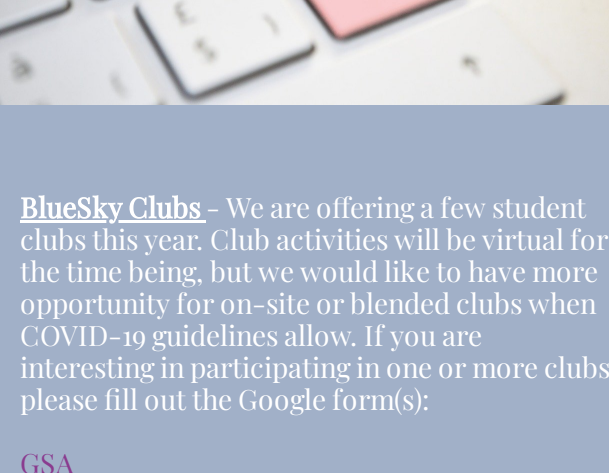


Details coming soon!!!



**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 Fortaleza with the flag of Spain! Other landmarks include San Juan, a Caribbean national forest, botanical gardens, and a beach with an island restaurant and snorkeling contact. [Click here](#) 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.

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

## BlueSky Library Bookshelf



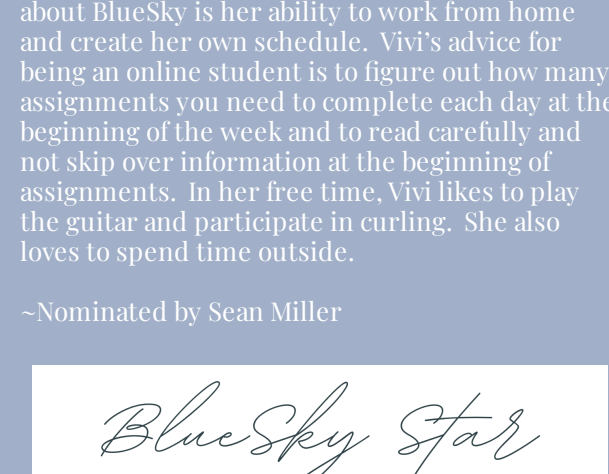
## Hello from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf

Hello BlueSky readers! There was a reading contest going on over winter break! Please have students fill out the Winter Break Reading Contest form in Moodle to get entered for a BlueSky related prize. If students are not sure about what book to read next, there are many collections featured in the Sea Library.

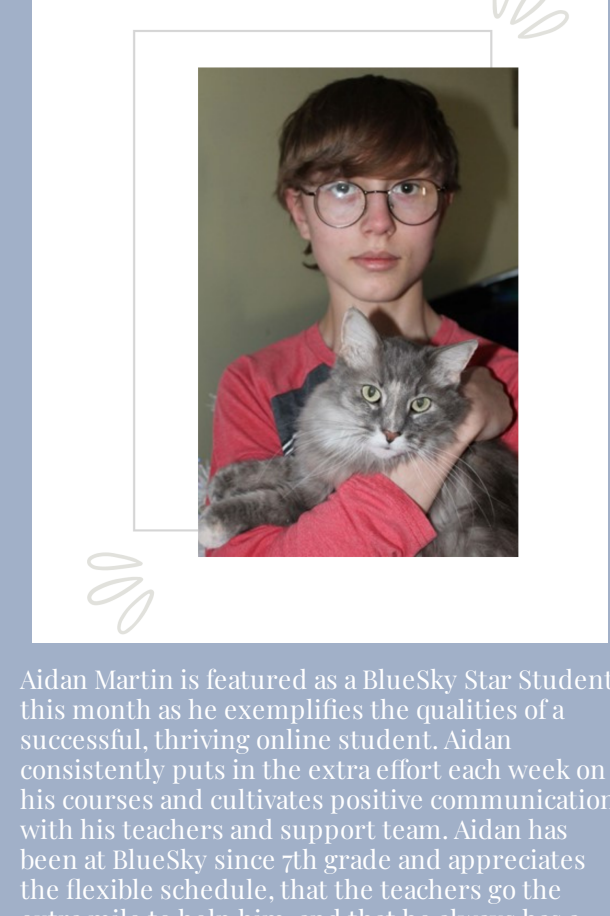


Sam Saville, English teacher at BlueSky, shared her "To Be Read" collection for winter break to give students an idea of what to read next.

Don't see a title that is interesting? Please email the [Library Committee](#).



## BlueSky Stars



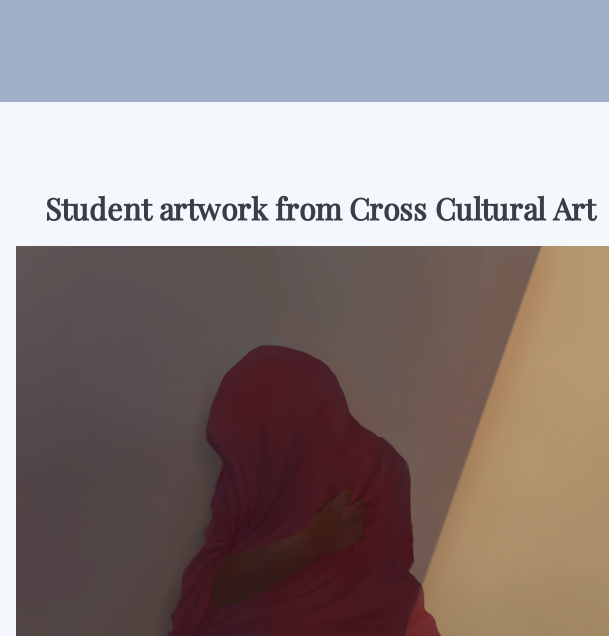
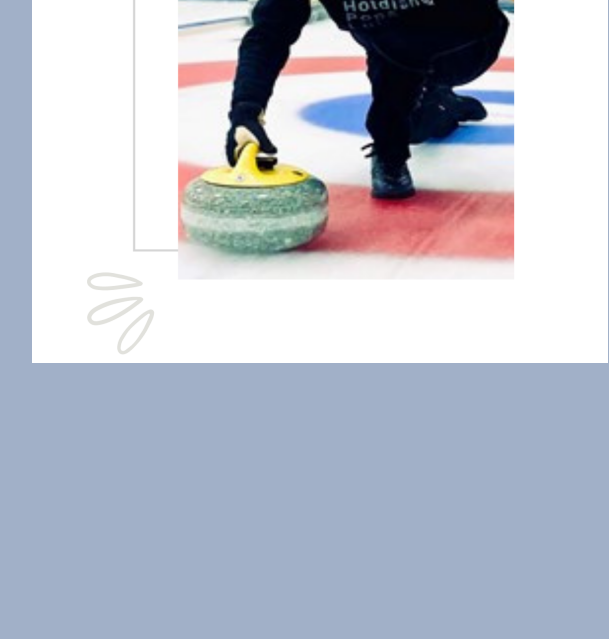
Aidan Martin is featured as a BlueSky Star Student this month as he exemplifies the qualities of a successful, thriving online student. Aidan consistently puts in the extra effort each week on his courses and cultivates positive communication with his teachers and support team. Aidan has been at BlueSky since 7th grade and appreciates the flexible schedule, that the teachers go the extra mile to help him, and that he always has a team cheering him on. His motivation to work on school each day comes from knowing that his teachers and support team want him to succeed, along with the support and love of his family (especially his cat). Aidan shines through his hard work as one of his teachers shared: "The critical thinking, organization, and textual evidence presented in Aidan's responses are nothing short of amazing." Aidan's tips for success are to "come up with a plan for your schoolwork for the week, keep your schedule organized, and set up alarms for your live sessions." Outside of school, Aidan enjoys playing games, going on walks, listening to music, playing with his cat, and spending time with family. We are so proud of Aidan, thankful to have him as part of our BlueSky family, and excited to see what the future holds for him!

~Nominated by Hanna Coleman

## Shoutout to our awesome students!

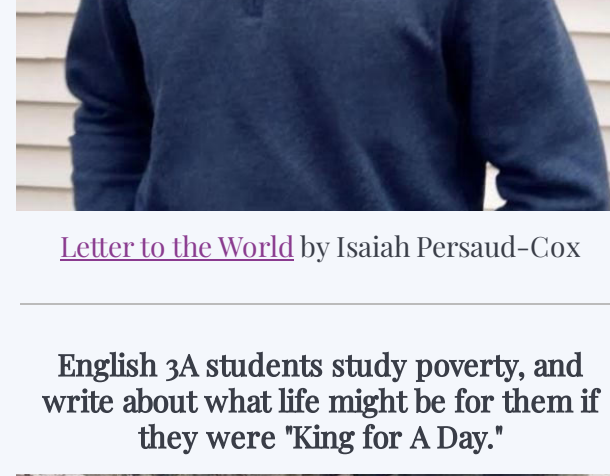
Vivi Allosso is featured as a BlueSky Star Student this month as she exemplifies the qualities of a successful, thriving online student. Vivi is a ninth grader and has been attending BlueSky since seventh grade. She consistently attends and participates in her classes. Her favorite thing about BlueSky is her ability to work from home and create her own schedule. Vivi's advice for being an online student is to figure out how many assignments you need to complete each day at the beginning of the week and to read carefully and not skip over information at the beginning of assignments. In her free time, Vivi likes to play the guitar and participate in curling. She also loves to spend time outside.

~Nominated by Sean Miller



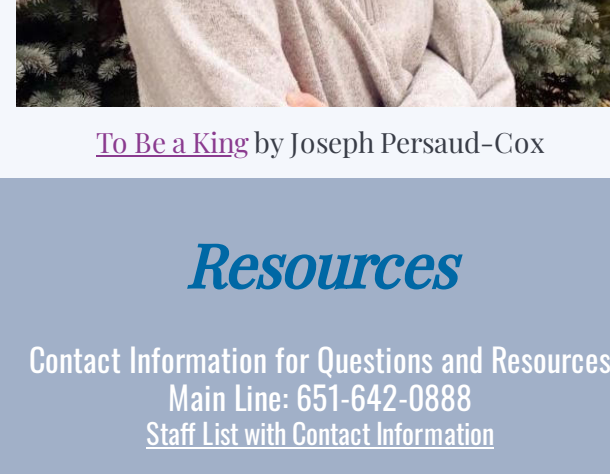
## Student Work

English 3A gives students a chance to "talk to the world" in hopes to make things better.



[Letter to the World](#) by Isaiah Persaud-Cox

English 3A students study poverty, and write about what life might be for them if they were "King for A Day."

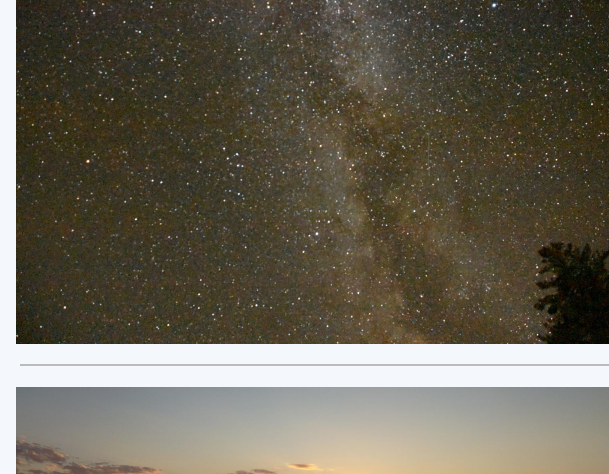


[To Be a King](#) by Joseph Persaud-Cox

## Student artwork from Cross Cultural Art



Majed Majarais



Photos taken by Caleb Anseth



## Resources

Contact Information for Questions and Resources  
Main Lines: 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 Ouelich - Principal/Assistant Director  
Caleb Parker - Director of Student Support Services  
Heidi Krummel - Dean of Students  
Heidi van der Horst - Director of Special Education  
Sara Hec - Student Information Specialist  
John Miranz - Registrar  
Bekah Kline - Testing Coordinator  
Sarah Altier - Admin Assistant

Counselors - scheduling and class changes  
Dawn Menniger  
Leah Lamerton  
Anna O'Shea  
Jennifer Anderson  
Garth Anderson-Dickmann

Advisors - navigating school  
Lynn Whiteley  
Danielle Eckler  
Dawn Nicol  
Garrie Ostmann  
Sean Miller  
Kelly Hanson  
Hanna Coleman  
Sarah Krazo  
Patrick Karr

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance  
Candice Kirsch  
Cassie Hummel  
Gayla Roiter  
Auril Schumbers  
Evan Bieche

Supplemental  
Heidi Honish  
Lanette Wilkubridge

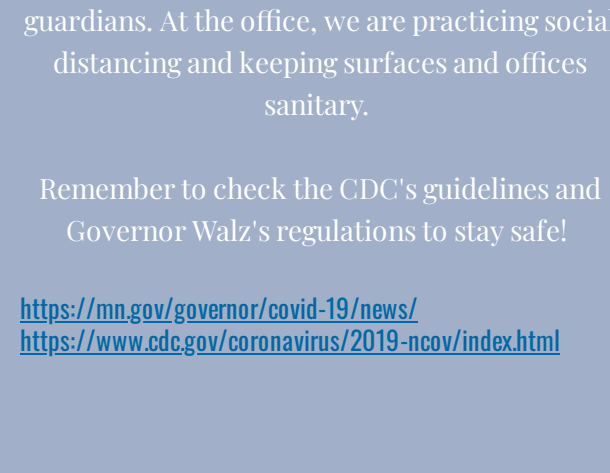
## Mark Your Calendar

- January 14 @ 12, 2022: No school (staff only)
- January 15, 2022: Last day of second quarter
- January 18, 2022: First day of third quarter
- February 21, 2022: No school
- February 25, 2022: BlueSky regional field trips
- March 10-11, 2022: No school (staff only)
- March 24, 2022: Last day of third quarter
- March 25, 2022: No school
- April 4, 2022: First day of fourth quarter
- May 30, 2022: No school
- June 2, 2022: Last day of school
- June 11, 2022: Graduation!

[READ MORE](#)



## COVID-19 Updates

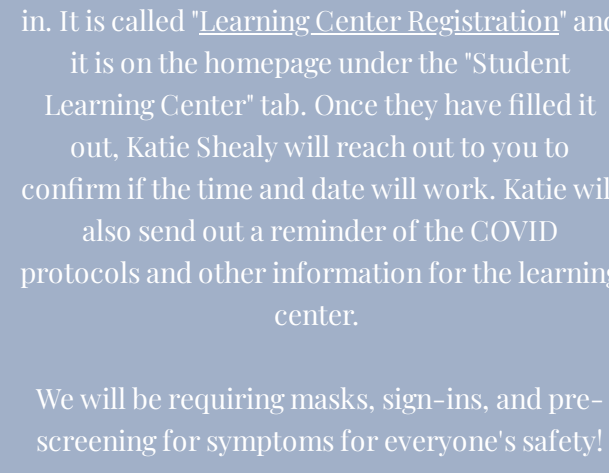


### Staying Sanitary

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/covid19/resources/>  
<https://www.governor.wisconsin.gov/2019/06/01/index.html>



### Coming to BlueSky

If there is a student to come in, there is a form on Moodle for needs 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, stem-lins, and pre-screening for symptoms for everyone's safety!

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