

## February 2022 BlueSky Online Newsletter

### Principal's Message

We are so proud of all of our students, their individual growth, and their accomplishments during the first semester of the school year. We had 63 middle school students and 163 high school students make it on the honor roll and another 95 students that graduated during the fall term. There were also many students who demonstrated perseverance in overcoming personal challenges and life circumstances while making their education a priority in their lives. The success of all of our students wouldn't be possible without the support of all of our parents and guardians. Thank you!

On February 25th we are holding multiple field trips across the state of Minnesota. All students are encouraged to attend. Family members and friends can also attend most of the events. Check out the Student Activities section below for more information.

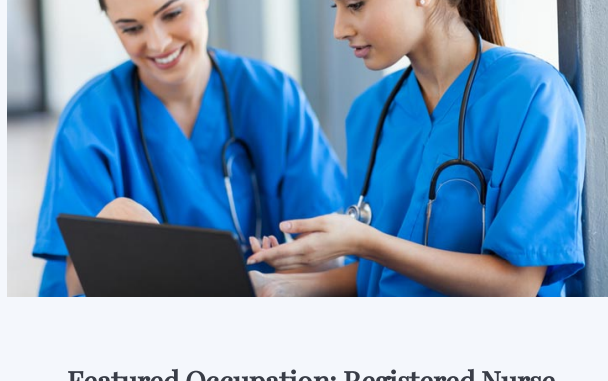
Scheduling for the fall term will begin in February. Our [course catalog](#) along with course descriptions is available on our website. Students may also want to consider working toward completion of a [Career Academy](#). Students that complete a Career Academy will receive a certificate and get to wear green cords at the graduation ceremony in recognition of their accomplishment. Students can register using the [Career Academy Registration Form](#). Please talk with your counselor if you have any questions about scheduling or Career Academics.

We hope you are enjoying your experience with BlueSky! If you are, please make sure to share with family and friends that we are accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year. As always, thank you for allowing us to work with your student!



Dan Ondich  
Principal/Assistant Director  
651.642.0888  
[dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org](mailto:dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org)

### Counselor Corner



- **Education Required:** Associate's Degree
- **Outlook:** 7% growth
- **Median Wages:** \$75,310

Registered nurses are responsible for monitoring a patient's condition, performing medical procedures and administering medicine. They also chart a patient's progress. These professionals work with a range of patients.

**PSEO Informational meeting on Wed. Feb. 3 at 12pm noon. [Zoom link to join.](#)** All students and parents/guardians are welcome to attend to learn more about opportunities to earn college credit while still in high school.

**2022-2023 Registration:** Students will be able to start registering for classes for next year starting the week of February 14th. Keep an eye on your email for more information from your BlueSky Counselor. **NOTE:** Some elective classes are very popular and fill up quickly. Students are encouraged to fill out their registration form early if they want first choice for their classes.

**Summer School:** Just a friendly reminder that only students who pass at least 2/3 of their classes during 2nd semester will be considered for summer school classes. Now is a good time to make plans for success for the semester if you want to take summer classes. (More information about summer school will be coming out in March/April.)

### Social Work Spotlight

As the new semester starts, we want to remind everyone to take time to care for your mental health! We have linked a few awesome resources below that you can check out to support good mental health. Social Work services are always available through BlueSky as well, so feel free to reach out to your Social Worker or Advisor if you are interested!

- [How Parents can Support their Kid's Mental Health](#)
- [Change to Chill Website](#)
- [Mental Health Resources for Students, Educators & School Communities](#)
- [Crisis Text Line: Free 24/7 Support](#)



### Supplemental



We are excited to welcome several new Supplemental students this semester. We hope your learning experience is going smoothly and that you're finding a rhythm as you balance your brick-and-mortar classes and your online classes! Our biggest piece of advice is to be intentional about when/where you're going to be working in your online classes each week and to start strong on Mondays. This can really help with motivation.

Yes, we just started a new term, but we are also gearing up to start fall registration in March! For you non-seniors, we hope you'll consider joining us next year. Be sure to check out BlueSky's many exciting course options on our [website](#), and let Heidi Housh know which course(s) you are interested in taking. It's hard to predict course availability come fall, so the sooner we lock in a spot for you, the better.

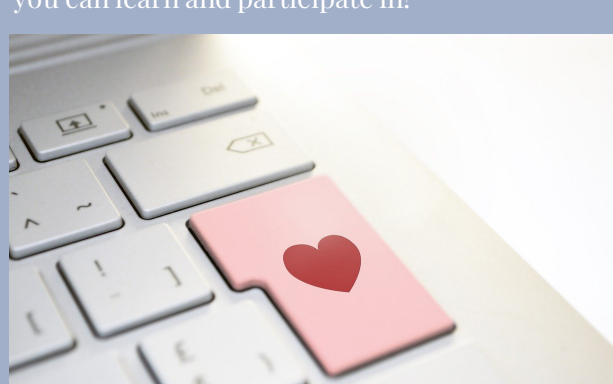
### Student Activities & Information

#### BlueSky Regional Field Trips

We are very excited to announce that on Friday, February 4th, BlueSky is hosting several field trips all across Minnesota. This will be the first time we have attempted to organize a statewide event which will include activity 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. You must register for your activity by February 10th!



**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!



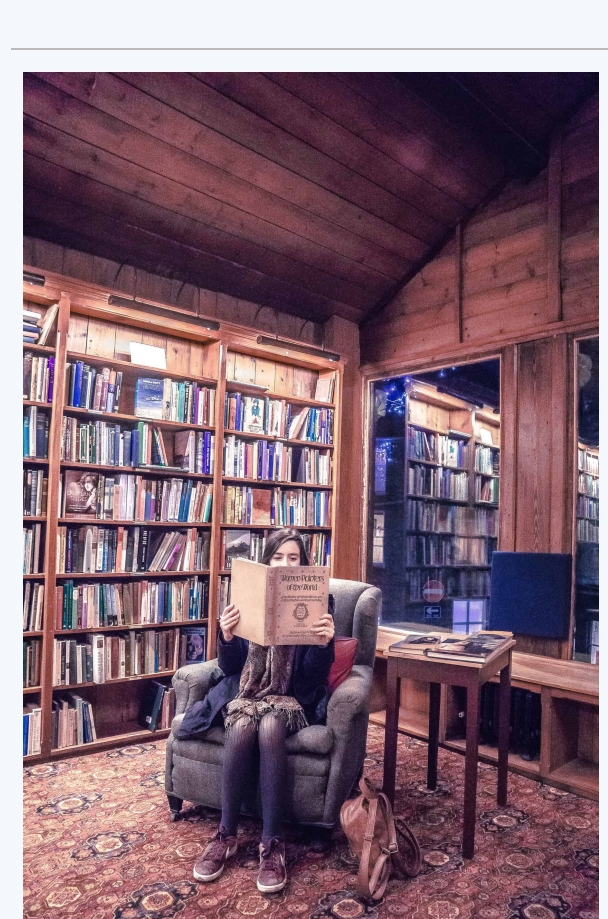
**BlueSky Clubs** - We are offering a few student clubs this year. Club activities will be virtual for the time being, but we would like to have more opportunity for on-site or blended clubs when COVID-19 guidelines allow. If you are interested in participating in one or more clubs, please fill out the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

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

**School Store** - Have you been looking for a place to purchase some BlueSky apparel? Well look no further than our school store. 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](#).



### BlueSky Library Bookshelf

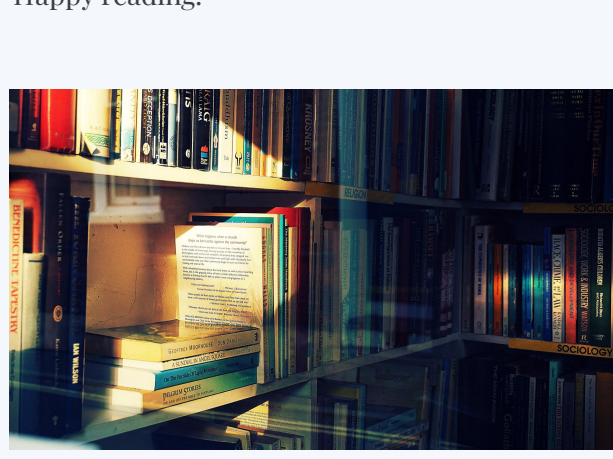


#### Hello again from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf-

Interested in suggesting books to students but not sure where to start? Check out these Book Talk Slides featuring books found in the BlueSky Library!

- [FLUJOL](#)
- [Illuminae](#)
- [Solo](#)
- [Savage Falls](#)

If a student would like to see a title added to the library, please email [library@blueskyschool.org](mailto:library@blueskyschool.org). Happy reading!



### BlueSky Stars



I am nominating Hannah Cook as a BlueSky star because of her consistent hard work, strong performance, and success in online coursework while also successfully dedicating time and energy to other activities. Hannah is an 11th grader who came to BlueSky during her 10th grade year. When the pandemic began, she experienced some online coursework and found that she liked learning independently. Since her brother Calvin had already been a BlueSky student, she knew the structure and program had the potential to be a great fit for her. Hannah likes having a quiet and distraction-free environment to learn in and having the freedom to work independently. When she isn't doing online school she is a competitive dancer and trains three or more hours every day. She also finds time to hangout with friends and cheer on her brother racing snowmobiles. Hannah encourages other BlueSky students to start the week with their most challenging class or the one with the most assignments to get that taken care of right away, and stay dedicated to completing the ideal number of assignments each school day. Hannah is an exemplary student in her ability to use BlueSky's flexibility to pursue other interests and adventures, and find great academic success in the process. Way to go, Hannah!

-Nominated by Laura Welcick

### Shoutout to our awesome students!

Helen came to BlueSky at the beginning of her Freshman year after finding that in person school was not a good fit for her. Since starting at BlueSky, Helen has earned all A's. She plans out her week by looking at her to-do list and then dividing her assignments evenly throughout the week. Helen thrives on routine; she plans out her assignments over breakfast each morning and then gets straight to work. Her favorite class at BSO is World Music, because she loves music and learning about other cultures. In her free time, Helen likes to crochet, read, ski and fish. Helen is still deciding where she wants to go to college and what she wants to study.

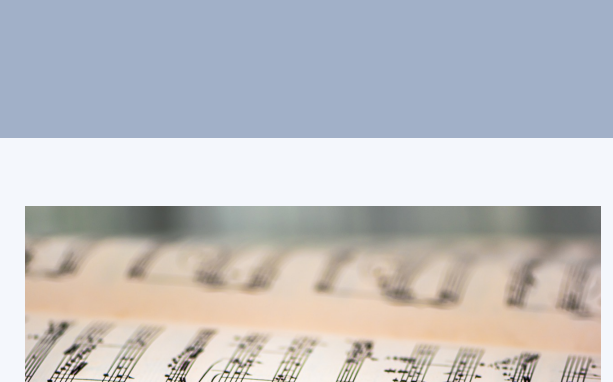
- Nominated by Patrick Karr



### Student Work

Music Appreciation students created their own mixtape based on a theme they chose. They picked the songs, designed a cover and wrote liner notes.

- [K-Pop Mixtape - Aidan Martin](#)
- [Green Day Mixtape - Nich Christenson](#)



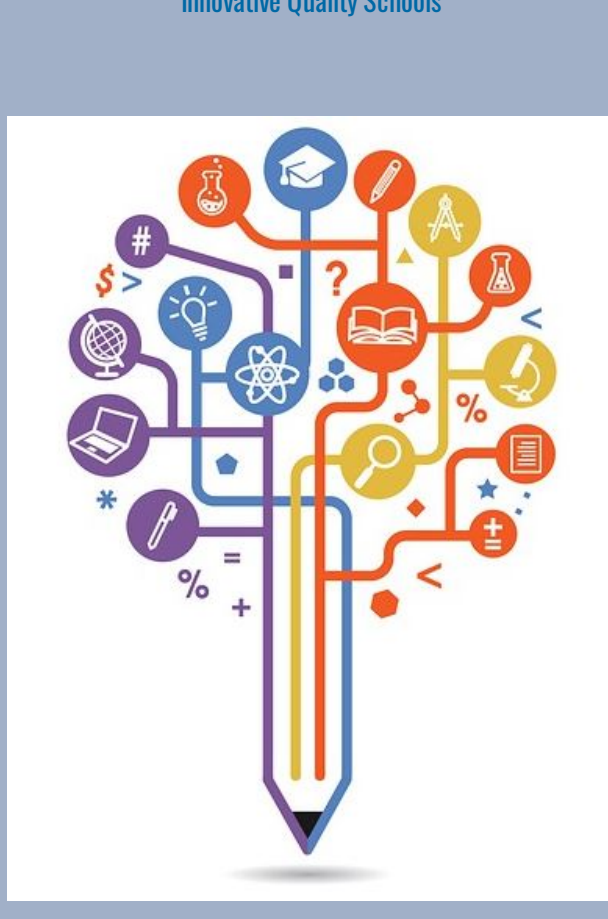
Students in Songwriting and Music Production used what they learned in class to create a **Magnum Opus**

- [Celeste - Idan Withbroit](#)
- [Unnamed - Cooper Johnson](#)

### Resources

Contact Information for Questions and Resources  
Main Line: 651-642-0888  
Staff List with Contact Information

Authorizer - Laurie Schroeder (651)-234-0900  
Innovative Quality Schools



Office - enrollment, transcripts, record requests  
Amy Larsen - Superintendent/Executive Director  
Dan Ondich - Principal/Assistant Director  
Erika Parkke - Director of Student Support Services  
Beth O'Connell - Dean of Students  
Heidi van der Horst - Director of Special Education  
Sara Her - Student Information Specialist  
Tina Mizum - *Retiree*  
Melissa Linn - Posting Coordinator  
Sarah Miner - Admin Assistant

Counselors - scheduling and class changes  
Dawn Mensinger  
Erin Cameron  
Amy Chelting  
Jennifer Anderson  
Earl Anderson-Dickmann

Advisors - navigating school  
Laura Welcick  
Danielle Fackler  
Hannah  
Earle Ostman  
Scott Miller  
Kelly Hanson  
Hanna Coleman  
Kevin Krato  
Patrick Karr

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance  
Caralyn Dusch  
Easte Hummel  
Lara Bultner  
Ariell Schambert  
Yann Biele

Supplemental  
Heidi Housh  
Janette Wilkibring

### Mark Your Calendar

- February 21, 2022: No school
- February 25, 2022: BlueSky regional field trip
- 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
- 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://mn.gov/governor/covid-19/news/>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>



#### 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](#)