

May 2022 BlueSky Online Newsletter

Principal's Message

The end of the school year is just a few short weeks away on June 1st. It has been a pleasure working with all of our students this past year. All of our students have demonstrated tremendous growth, independence, perseverance, and resilience, and we could not be more proud of their accomplishments in the past year.

This year we will be conducting the Minnesota Student Survey in 8th, 9th, and 11th grade from May 2nd through May 6th. The Minnesota Student Survey is one of the longest-running youth surveys in the nation. It is a triennial survey that began in 1989. The survey is an anonymous statewide school-based survey conducted to gain insights into the world of students and their experiences. Students complete the survey anonymously and can skip any questions they are not comfortable answering. If you do not want your child to participate in the survey you can contact their advisor.

Next year we will begin working on revising our language arts and social studies curriculum. We are currently looking for parents, students, and community members to serve on a district curriculum advisory committee for one or both of these subject areas. Members will provide input and guidance on the sequencing of curriculum, resources used, instructional strategies, accessibility, representation of diversity, and equity inclusion throughout the curriculum. Both committees will meet once each quarter. Language arts will start meeting in the fall and social studies will start meeting in the spring. If you are interested in serving please contact [Daniel Ondich](#).

This year's graduation ceremony will be on June 11, 2022 at noon. We are proud to have over 150 students earning their diplomas this year. The ceremony will be held at St. Paul College and streamed live in recognition of all students that graduated in the past year. Congratulations to the BlueSky class of 2022!

Did you know that many students and parents hear about BlueSky through word of mouth? If you are aware of someone who would benefit from BlueSky's supportive school environment please let them know about us and share your story. We are currently accepting enrollment applications for the 2022-2023 school year for grades 6-12.

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



Dan Ondich
Principal/Assistant Director
651.202.2012
dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org

Counselor Corner



Featured Occupation: Preschool Teacher

- **Education Required:** Associate's Degree
- **Outlook:** 18% growth
- **Median Wages:** \$31,930

Instruct children (normally up to 5 years of age) in activities designed to promote social, physical, and intellectual growth needed for primary school in preschool, day care center, or other child development facility.

Summer School: Information and registration for summer school classes has been emailed out to all eligible students. If you plan to take summer school classes, please complete the [Registration Form](#). If you need help deciding which classes you need, please contact your BlueSky counselor.

Availability for summer school is limited.

Preference may be given to the following students:

- need the classes to graduate over the summer
- are behind in credits passed at least half of their classes 2nd semester
- did not fail a summer school class with BlueSky previously

Students must start the first class within the first 5 days or they will be dropped from summer classes.

This registration does not guarantee acceptance into the Summer School Program. You will need to confirm your registration at the end of May with your school counselor.

Safe Harbor: In March and April during 9th grade advisory time, BlueSky hosted guest speaker Kate LePage from Safe Harbor to talk about internet safety. If you are interested in learning more about what was discussed, please access these resources:
[Online Safety Guide for Parents](#),
[Podcast: Myths of Trafficking](#),
[Initial Safe Online Use](#)
Also, here are the recordings for two of the presentations: [Part 1](#) from March 22, and [Part 3](#) from Apr 5, 2022

Social Work Spotlight

With the end of the school year approaching, students and parents may be feeling overwhelmed with testing, final assignments, and tying up loose ends. We encourage everyone to reduce stress through practicing mindfulness, and BlueSky staff recently learned about Mindful Movement, so we wanted to share! Mindful Movements are ways you can move your physical self to help reduce and cope with mental health. This can help to regulate high emotions, release tension related to stress, and focus the mind by triggering the nervous system and brain.



Below are 2 videos featuring Move Mindfully that have great short exercises to try.

- [Move Mindfully: Signature Practice](#)
- [Help Focus and Attention by Supporting the Brain Body Connection](#)

Supplemental



Even though the weather doesn't feel like it lately, we are quickly rounding the corner to the end of the school year.

Seniors, take note of your last day of class - May 22. Your classes will remain open until 11:50pm that evening. We will email your transcripts to your school (and you) the week of May 23rd, so that your school has what they need for the end of the year. If you haven't yet shared your plans with us for next year, please let [Heidi](#) or [Janette](#) know; we would love to celebrate your success.

For the rest of you who haven't yet solidified next year's schedule and believe the Supplemental Program is the right fit, we are still taking enrollments. Just email us to let us know which course(s), and we'll explain next steps.

Student Activities & Information

5th Annual South of the River Pow Wow - Saturday, May 21st at Burnsville High School. Please [RSVP](#) by May 18th.



Pre-graduation Pizza Party - Hey graduates! Join us at the BlueSky campus on Wednesday, May 25 from 12pm - 3pm to pick up your cap & gown, watch an improv comedy show put on by ComedySportz, and have some pizza. Please [RSVP](#) by May 20th.



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!



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](#).



Graduation is right around the corner. Please complete this [form](#) by Friday, May 20th to provide important information for the graduation ceremony.

BlueSky Library Bookshelf



Hello again from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf

Look for two exciting activities that will happen before the end of the school year. There will be a scavenger hunt to get familiar with the Sora Library which will get students ready for the summer reading program. Students will be able to fill out a reading tracker for prizes throughout the summer and learn about new titles. Take a look at this new book talk slide, it's for an audiobook available called [Five Total Strangers](#).

If a student would like to see a title added to the library, please email library@blueskyschool.org. Happy reading!



BlueSky Stars



Congratulations to 11th grader, Sam Waller, a BlueSky Star for the month of May. Sam came to BlueSky because it was the best option for him during the start of the 2020 school year with all the uncertainties that his own high school was dealing with. Sam quickly found success navigating our online school setting and has been thriving ever since. The thing Sam likes the most about BlueSky is that he can make his own school schedule that works best for him and he can better manage his school, work, personal life and sleep hours. At BlueSky, Sam notes that he has been able to learn subjects that have always been hard for him in the past in a way that he can understand. He's very pleased at his achievements in those classes. Sam's hobbies outside of BlueSky are: playing disc golf each day, playing tournaments and weekly leagues, trying to improve from the week previous and he also enjoys writing at night. Sam shared, "I have nearly filled 3 journals since fall of 2020." Sam currently works at a deli and his church. In the past he has enjoyed summers working with kids at Trout Lake Camps but this summer he is looking forward to working as a lifeguard all summer. Keep up the great work, Sam!

-Nominated by Carrie Ostman

Shoutout to our awesome students!

Lara Eckberg is featured as this month's BlueSky Star Student because she is a fabulous example of a wonderful student AND person! Lara is in 11th grade this year and came to us this past fall as a full-time post-Secondary Education (PSEO) student. Thus, her entire senior year she has been taking college classes! Wow! Not only does Lara work hard on her daily assignments but she is also very communicative with her support staff. Lara's favorite thing about BlueSky is being able to make her own schedule. And her advice to fellow BlueSky students is to make a schedule and stick to it! And personally, in her spare time Lara enjoys hanging out with her friends, reading, and drawing. After graduation, Lara plans to attend Minnesota State University Moorhead to study biology for public health before attending medical school. This girl is going places!!!

-Nominated by Danielle Fackler



Student Work

7th graders in Behind the Music have been working on writing their own music this quarter using a website called Noteflight. They wrote a 16 measure composition, and then revised what they wrote to make it even better!

- [Jake's Music](#)
- [Lauren's 16 Measure Composition](#)
- [Schine's 16 Measure Composition](#)
- [Hailey's 16 Measure Composition](#)
- [Jake's Composition](#)



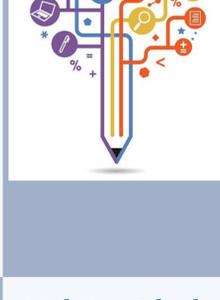
Persuasive commercials made by 6th grade students.

- [Why slime should be allowed in class](#) - Abby Walls
- [The Babysitters Club](#) - Mackenzie Murray
- [North Ballet Academy](#) - Malea Bicknese
- [Why you should read comics, graphic novels, & manga](#) - PJ LeBlain
- [All in one gaming console](#) - Ryder Johannsen
- [Minecraft](#) - Toby McCargar

Resources

Contact information for Questions and Resources
Main Line: 651.42.0888
Staff List with Contact Information

Authorizer - [Laurie Schneider](#) (651)-234-0900
Innovative Quality Schools



Office - enrollment, transcripts, record requests
[Amy Larsen](#) - Superintendent/Executive Director
[Dan Ondich](#) - Principal/Assistant Director
[Cathy Parker](#) - Director of Student Support Services
[Kath O'Connell](#) - Dean of Students
[Heidi Hensch](#) - Director of Special Education
[Sara Hart](#) - Student Information Specialist
[John Mizner](#) - Registrar
[Melissa Yare](#) - Testing Coordinator
[Suzanne Murre](#) - Admin Assistant

Counselors - scheduling and class changes
[Dawn Messier](#)
[Grant Cameron](#)
[Amy Dickinson](#)
[Jennifer Anderson](#)
[Cathy Anderson-Dickmann](#)

Advisors - navigating school
[Laura Weick](#)
[Danielle Fackler](#)
[Diana Neal](#)
[Carrie Ostman](#)
[Sean Miller](#)
[Kelly Hanson](#)
[Hanna Colkman](#)
[Sarah Larson](#)
[Patrick Karr](#)

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance
[Carlynn Fischer](#)
[Cassie Hamann](#)
[Cayla Bolter](#)
[Ariell Schaefer](#)
[Lynn Biele](#)

Supplemental
[Heidi Hensch](#)
[Janette Wilkenbringer](#)

Mark Your Calendar

- May 15, 2022: Junior/Senior Prom
- May 21, 2022: South of the River Pow Wow
- May 25, 2022: Pre-graduation pizza party
- 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 Witz's regulations to stay safe!

- <https://www.gov/governor/covid-19/news/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/euro/images/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.

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