

BlueSky Parents, Guardians, and Students:

We are looking forward to starting another exciting school year on September 6th! All returning students in grades 10-12 are encouraged to attend a live welcome back session at 9:00 AM on September 6th to learn about changes taking place this year and review student expectations. This session can be accessed through the Student Commons in Moodle. Students in grades 6-8 will cover this during their scheduled 9:00 AM advisory time and students in 9th grade will cover this during their advisory time scheduled for 9:30 AM. New students will complete an orientation prior to the start of the school year. Parents are welcome to join with their students.

We will be making updates to our school wide announcement system that will require students and parents to opt into receiving text messages. In order to receive important announcements about BlueSky events, activities, conferences, scheduling, and system down time it is important that you opt in so you can receive these messages. Please text "YES" to 87569 or reply "YES" to the message you receive in the next 2-3 weeks requesting you opt in to receiving text messages.

We have many new staff members that we would like to welcome to the new school year! You will soon be able to find their contact information and brief biography on our [website](#) under the "About" section, then "Staff":

Mandy Kasowicz, Special Education Director
Brent Rekstad, American Sign Language Teacher
Megan Anderson, School Social Worker
Sam Engle, Special Education Teacher
Brooke Lea, Special Education Teacher
Christine McNabb, Special Education Teacher/504 Coordinator
Allison Anderson, Special Education Teacher
Emily Torvik, English Teacher
Kelly Johnson, 6th Grade Teacher
Kim Pike, IT Implementation Specialist
Kevin Jack, IT Support
Danielle Saunders, Operations Manager

BlueSky is joining an eSports League!! Do you play Valorant? Are you interested in playing on an Esports team? Will you be in 9th-12th grade in the fall? If the answer is yes to all three of these questions, then contact [Grant Cameron](#) for more details!

The first day of school will be here before you know it. Please remember that all students will need many of the same school supplies that they needed in a brick and mortar school. We appreciate parent support in having your student(s) prepared to start their classes on the first day of school. All students should have the following materials.

Required:

- Daily access to Windows 10 or higher/Mac OS 10.13 or higher computer (iPads and Chromebooks may work for some courses but are not fully supported)
- Headset (or mic and speakers)
- Webcam
- High speed internet (5 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload minimum recommended)

Check out our [Tech Requirements](#) page to complete a device check and speed test.

Contact info@blueskyschool.org if you need assistance getting a computer or high speed internet.

Recommended:

- Pens/pencils
- Folders
- Notebooks
- Colored pencils (art and science classes)
- Printer
- Planner/calendar
- Course specific materials (review [HS course catalog](#) & [MS course catalog](#))

Does your student need a 2022-23 school ID card? Contact info@blueskyschool.org. Please include your student's legal name, date of birth and current mailing address. Also include a current headshot that can be used on the ID.

Did you know that many parents and students hear about BlueSky through word of mouth? If you know someone that is looking for another school setting please let them know about BlueSky and share your story. We are an independent public school of choice, meaning parents and students can choose to enroll, even if online school options exist in their local district. We serve students in grades 6-12 and still have enrollment openings for the 2022-23 school year.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Amy Larsen, Superintendent
Dan Ondich, Principal
Cathy Parker, Student Services Director
Mandy Kasowicz, Special Education Director

Note from the New Director of Special Education

Hello BlueSky families!

I am proud to be on the BlueSky team as the new Director of Special Education. This is my eighteenth year in education, where I started my career as a case manager at the high school level and then moved into various leadership positions. Currently, this is my sixth year as a Director of Special Education. This summer has been full of reviewing Individual Education Plans and learning the ins and outs of what it means to be part of the BlueSky team. Very quickly, I learned that BlueSky's commitment to students is at the core value of each decision made.

I am looking forward to getting into classes, meeting families, and working alongside case managers through the IEP process. This team of teachers is committed to supporting students and it is an honor to be here.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions regarding special education services.

Mandy Kasowicz-Director of Special Education

