

September 2022 BlueSky Online Newsletter

Superintendent's Message

Welcome to the start of the 2022-2023 school year! We are excited to share our new mascot which will be the BlueSky Comets! We do not have our final mascot yet, but will be sharing that with you all soon.

Virtual Open House Event: Please save the date for our **Virtual Open House Event on September 29th**. This event will be in the evening and will hopefully be informative and fun! We are hosting this virtual event in place of our fall parent teacher conferences. We would like to offer more opportunities for our parents and students to build community and meet each other, so we are going to give this a try this school year. Stay tuned for more details closer to the event date.

Technology System Notification: In order to provide a high quality online education, BlueSky works with a wide variety of technology providers to meet our curriculum, testing and assessment needs. All of our systems are listed within the enrollment forms that you complete each year, but we would also like to list them here for your reference. Not all systems will be used by every student:

- ACT
- Adobe Creative Cloud
- Canva
- CK12
- Clever (and all corresponding systems)
 - edcode.org
 - Design Science (MathType)
- Desmos
- Edmentum (Plato)
- Edpuzzles
- Elmsworth Publishing
- EverFi
- Geogebra
- DL
- Khan Academy
- Knowledge Matters
- KP Education
- MathXL (Pearson)
- MCIS (HS, Jr, Special Education)
- MobxMax
- Nearpod
- Notelights
- Own It!
- PBS Learning Media
- Pear Deck
- PLEI
- Quizizz
- Renaissance Star
- Sora (Ovidio libraries)
 - SWANK K-12 Streaming
 - Virtual Job Shadow
 - WIDA
- Character Strong
- ELLER - Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence
- <https://www.hilltop.org>
- iXL
- HookPad (Hook Theory Music)
- iHandLab
- SoundTrap
- Vocaroo
- SketchUp
- CommonLit

Save Receipts for School Supplies! Minnesota Revenue offers two valuable tax benefits for parents who purchase school supplies for their K-12 students, the K-12 Education Credit and Subtraction. These benefits can reduce parents' taxes to increase their refund, but are only available for those who keep their receipts. Purchases for most school supplies, field trips, and musical instruments for school band are eligible.

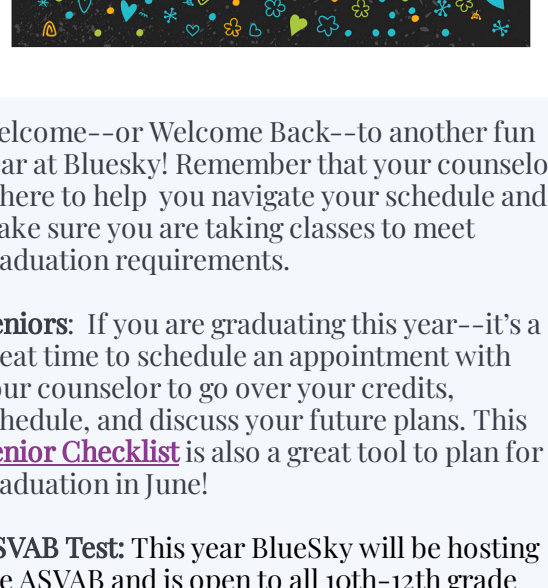
Most Minnesota parents qualify for the K-12 subtraction, which reduces their taxable income. Parents under certain income limits may also qualify for the K-12 credit, which can refund up to 7.5% of their costs - even for parents who don't owe any taxes. Visit the [Minnesota Revenue website](https://www.revenue.state.mn.us) for details.

As always, thank you for choosing BlueSky and allowing us to work with your students!



Amy Larsen
Superintendent
651.202.2010
amy.larsen@blueskyschool.org

Counselor Corner



Welcome—or Welcome Back—to another fun year at BlueSky! Remember that your counselor is here to help you navigate your schedule and make sure you are taking the classes to meet graduation requirements.

Seniors: If you are graduating this year—it's a great time to schedule an appointment with your counselor to go over your credits, schedule, and discuss your future plans. This **Senior Checklist** is also a great tool to plan for graduation in June!

ASVAB Test: This year BlueSky will be hosting the ASVAB and is open to all 10th-12th grade students. The ASVAB is not just a test that helps determine which military service you are qualified to join, but it is also a great career assessment. **This is a great assessment to take if you are still unsure of what path you want to take once you are done with high school.**

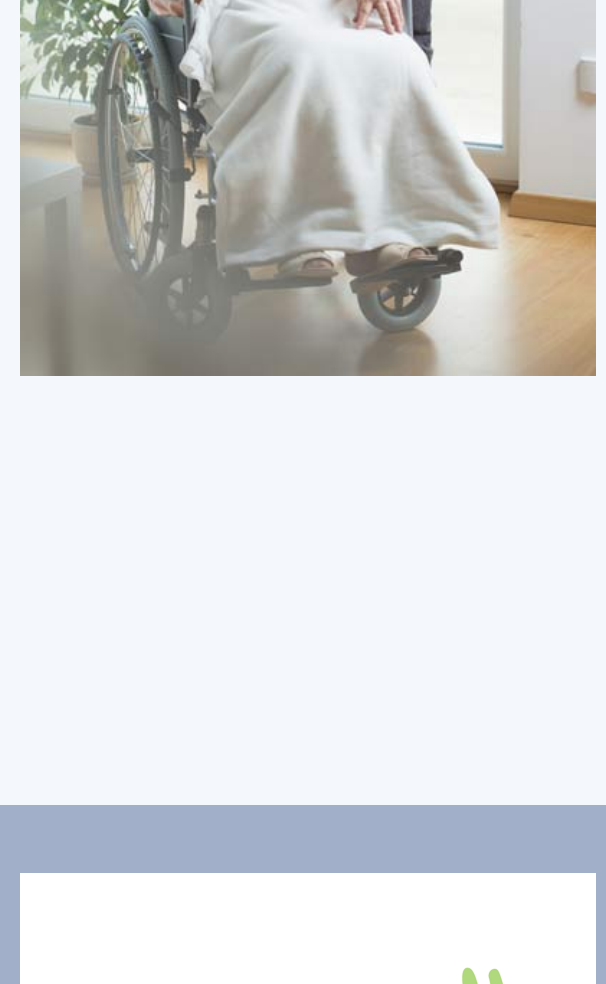
A recruiter will be administering the test at our BlueSky campus on **Thursday, October 13th**. The test starts promptly at 1pm, and students will have until 4pm to finish. The test typically takes about 1-2 hours to complete, so there is plenty of time to finish it.

Computers will be provided for the test, so all you have to do is show up on time. BlueSky's campus is located at: 209 Killbuck Dr Suite 300 Bloomington, MN

If you are planning on taking the test, you must register for it by filling out this [ASVAB Registration Form](#). The deadline for registration is **October 6th**.

- **Featured Occupation:** Personal Care Aide (PCA)
- **Education Required:** high school diploma and on-the-job training
- **Outlook:** 31% growth in the next 10 years-
- **Median Wages:** \$29,320 yearly

The Personal Care Aide will assist the elderly, convalescents, or persons with disabilities with daily living activities in the person's home or in a care facility. Duties performed at a place of residence may include keeping house (making beds, doing laundry, washing dishes) and preparing meals. The Personal Care Aide may provide assistance at nonresidential care facilities and may advise families, the elderly, convalescents, and persons with disabilities on nutrition, cleanliness, and household activities.



Social Work Spotlight

BlueSky High School students have access to School Social Work support services as a part of a three person support team including a Counselor, an advisor and a School Social Worker. Middle School students also have support from School Social Work. Our names are listed on your dashboard so that you can contact your specific listed workers. All of our contact information is below. You can also ask your Advisor or Counselor to contact us as well. School Social Workers at BlueSky are a mental health resource, a source for outside agency referrals for you or your family's needs. Our goal is to help support the barriers that can, at times, get in the way of learning at BlueSky. Support can be provided in many different virtual ways. We wish you all a great start to the school year. Please contact us with any questions.

- [Carla Rothen](mailto:Carla.Rothen@blueskyschool.org), 651-202-2076
- [Casey Lammert](mailto:Casey.Lammert@blueskyschool.org), 651-202-2076
- [Amy Schumberg](mailto:Amy.Schumberg@blueskyschool.org), 651-202-2030
- [Lynn Rieche](mailto:Lynn.Rieche@blueskyschool.org), Phone: 651-202-2062
- [Meagan Andrews](mailto:Meagan.Andrews@blueskyschool.org), 651-202-2052

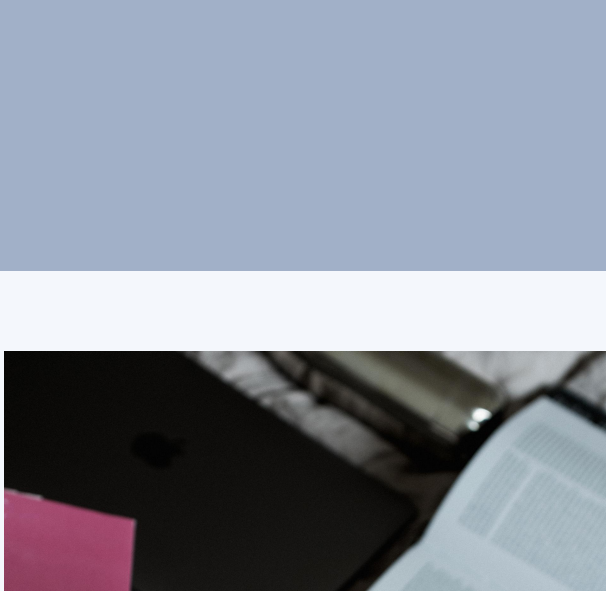
Supplemental

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We warmly welcome back Supplemental students and families who have been with us in the past and are thrilled to welcome new students and families who are new to us. Here's to a great year ahead!

Even though email may not be the coolest form of communication for teens these days, we encourage our Supplemental students to get in the habit of checking their BlueSky gmail accounts at least a few times each week. Your teachers will be communicating via email, as well as your Supplemental Team (Heidi and Janette).

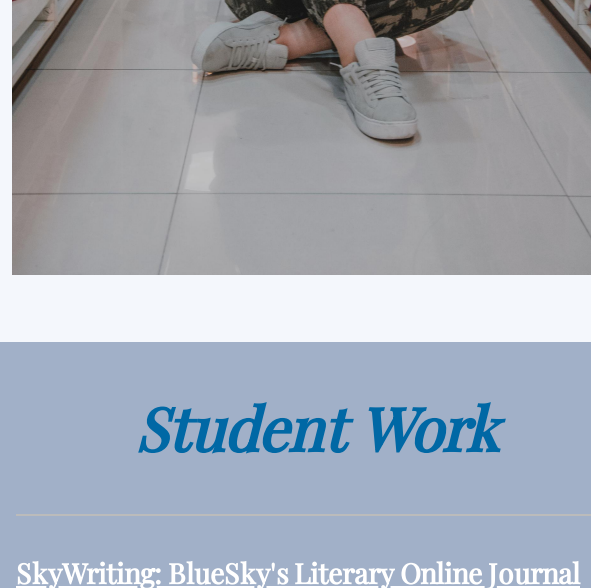
We're still enrolling students for this school year, so feel free to spread the good word about the Supplemental Program if you know of someone who finds themselves in need of some learning flexibility this year.

As always, call or email [Heidi Haugh](mailto:Heidi.Haugh@blueskyschool.org) or [Janette Wilkenhuth](mailto:Janette.Wilkenhuth@blueskyschool.org) with any questions or concerns as we all find a new rhythm this fall. We're in this together and here to make this experience as positive as possible for all involved!

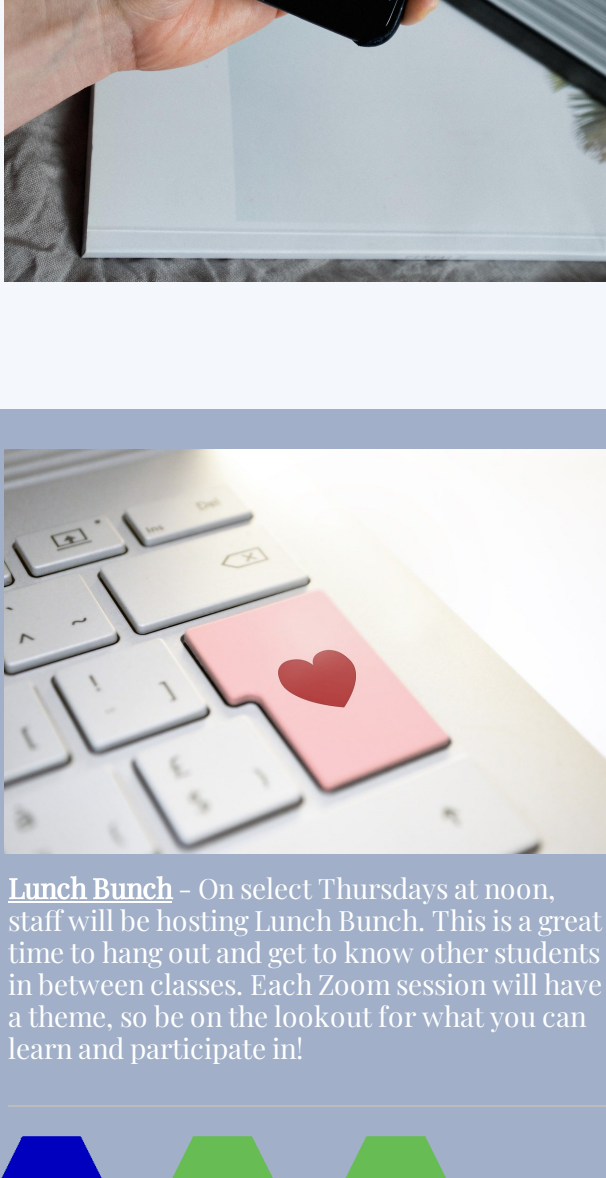


Student Activities

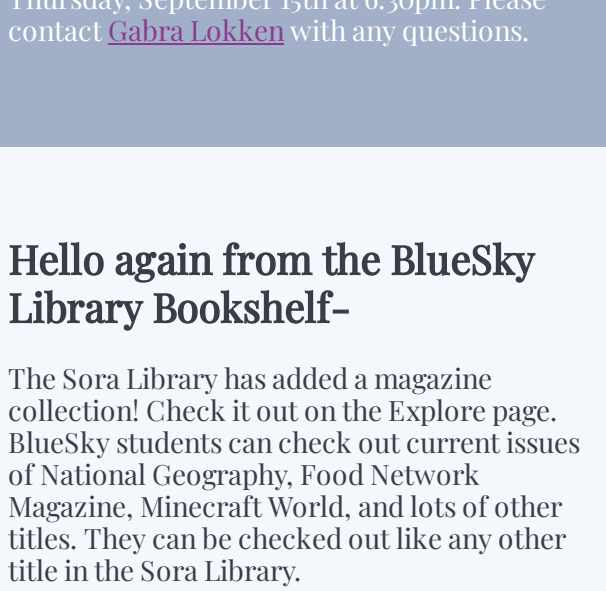
BlueSky is joining an eSports League!! - Do you play Valorant? Are you interested in playing on an eSports team? Are you in 10th-12th grade? If the answer is yes to all three of these questions, then contact [Grant Cameron](mailto:Grant.Cameron@blueskyschool.org) for more details. There are only a few spots left!!



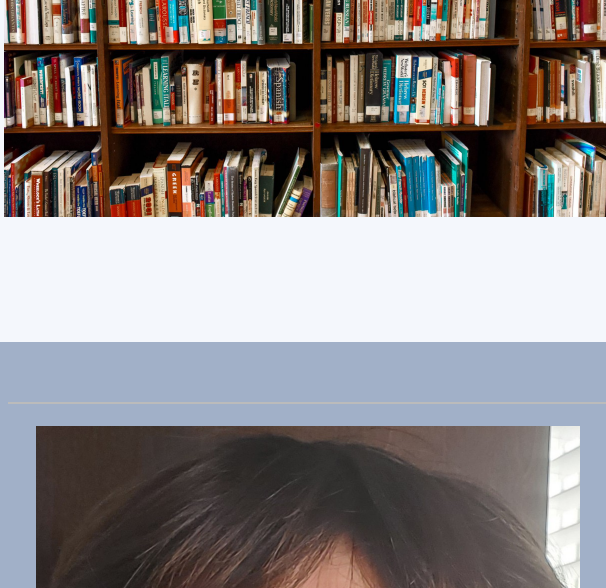
Middle School Get Together - Be sure to mark your calendar for our middle school get together on **Thursday, October 6th**. More details about the event and how to RSVP will be sent to your BlueSky email.



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 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 - If you haven't done so already, be sure to fill out the [BlueSky student club interest form](#). In a distance learning environment these clubs can be a great way to meet and connect with other students that have similar interests as you!

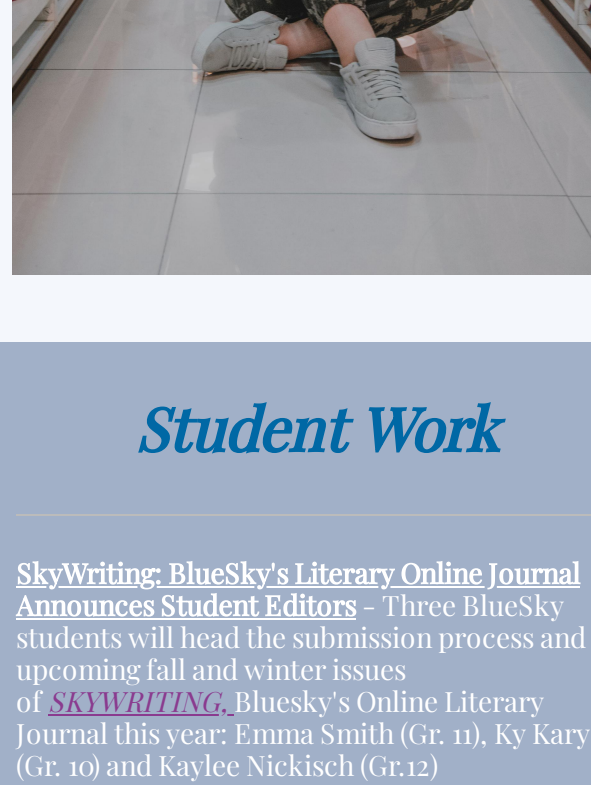


BlueSky is going to Puerto Rico - Fall time and supplemental students have the opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico for spring break from **March 27-31, 2023!**

Itinerary and pricing can be found [here](#). The price is subject to change so it's beneficial to enroll as soon as possible to lock in the price.

An informational zoom meeting is being held on **Thursday, September 29th at 6:30pm**. Please contact [Gabriel Lopez](mailto:Gabriel.Lopez@blueskyschool.org) with any questions.

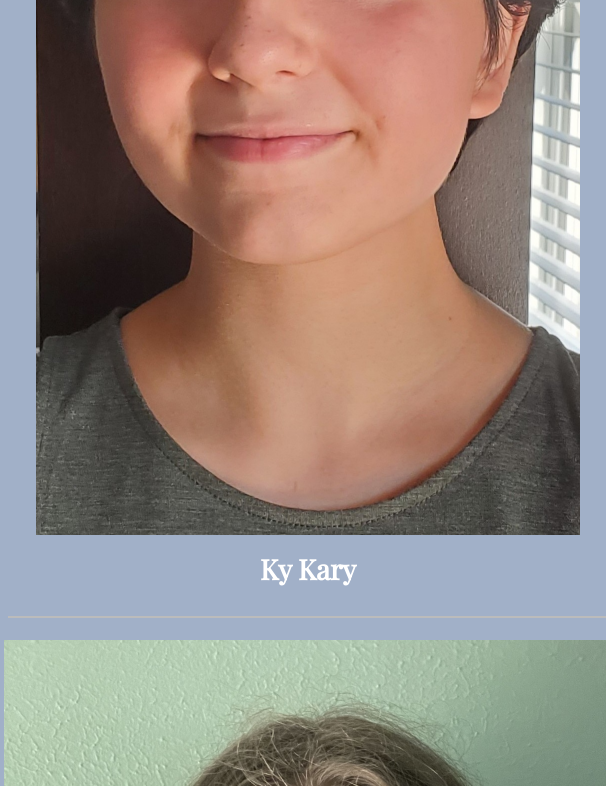
BlueSky Library Bookshelf



Hello again from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf!

The Sora Library has added a magazine collection! Check it out on the Explore page. BlueSky students can check out current issues of National Geographic, Food Network Magazine, Minecraft World, and lots of other titles. They can be checked out like any other title in the Sora Library.

If you want to jump into reading early in the school year, check out this title! [Madam T. T. book talk](#).



Student Work

SkyWriting: BlueSky's Literary Online Journal Announces Student Editors - Three BlueSky students will lead the submission process and upcoming fall and winter issues of **SKYWRITING**: BlueSky's Online Literary Journal this year: **Kiana Smith** (Gr. 10), **Ky Kary** (Gr. 10) and **Kaylee Nickisch** (Gr.12)

This editorial team will work to create submission guidelines and review submissions from the Creative Writing course this fall. The winter issue will open submissions to any BlueSky student.

Check out the spring premier issue of **SKYWRITING** and read some creative student work including short fiction, poetry, and memoir located on the [school website](#) under "Resources"

Those interested in working with **SKYWRITING** need to complete the Creative Writing course first. The Creative Writing course is open to all students (grades 9-12). Students will need to talk with their counselor if interested in adding this elective course to their schedule this year.

A Creative Writing Club open to all BlueSky students is in the works for this fall. Watch the student newsletter for more info later in October.



Emma Smith



Ky Kary



Kaylee Nickisch

BlueSky Star

Bluesky Star * Students

Each month, two students are featured in the monthly newsletter as a BlueSky star.

Students are nominated by our Student Services Advisors based on their demonstration of hard work, perseverance, resilience, integrity, strong communication skills, and more!

Look for the next BlueSky stars in the upcoming October Newsletter!

Mark Your Calendar

- September 6, 2022: First day of school
- September 29, 2022: Parent-Student virtual open house
- October 6, 2022: Middle School get together
- October 7, 2022: No school (staff only)
- October 20-21, 2022: No school
- November 4, 2022: Last day of first quarter
- November 7, 2022: First day of second quarter
- November 24-25, 2022: No school
- December 21, 2022 - January 2, 2023: No school/winter break
- January 14-19, 2023: No school (staff only)
- January 19, 2023: Last day of second quarter
- January 20-21, 2023: No school (staff only)
- January 24, 2023: First day of third quarter
- February 20, 2023: No school
- March 2, 2023: No school (staff only)
- March 24, 2023: Last day of third quarter
- March 27-April 2, 2023: No school (spring break)
- April 3, 2023: First day of fourth quarter
- May 2, 2023: No school (staff only)
- May 30, 2023: No school
- June 2, 2023: Last day of school
- June 10, 2023: Graduation

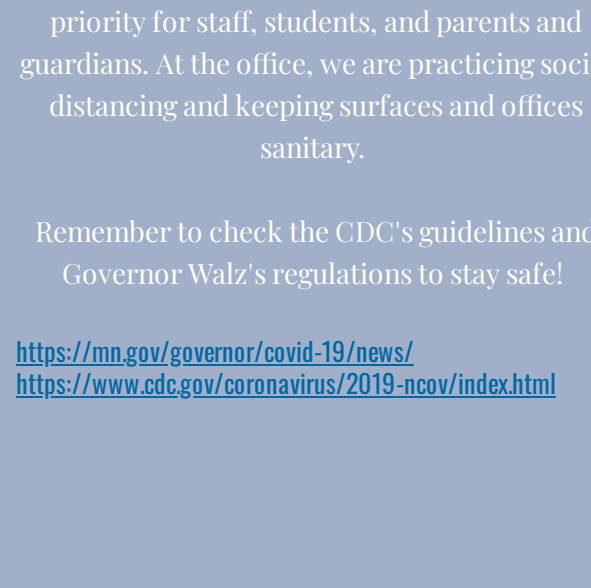
[READ MORE](#)



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 Ondlich - Principal/Assistant Director
Cathy Parker - Director of Student Support Services
Beth O'Connell - Dean of Students
Mandy Koenig - Director of Special Education
John Mizcar - Registrar
Melissa Vance - Testing Coordinator
Sarah Mincer - Admin Assistant
Kevin Jack - IT Support Attendance

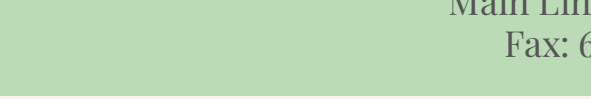
Counselors - scheduling and class changes
Dawn Mendler
Grant Cameron
Amy Chealson
Jennifer Anderson
Garth Anderson-Dickmann

Advisors - navigating school
Laura Coleman
Laura Wickick - Dean of Students
Danielle Jackson
Hawn Nicol
Carrie Oatman
Sean Miller
Kath Miller

Social Workers - school, family and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance
Casey Lammert
Carla Rothen
April Schumberg
Lynn Rieche
Meagan Amerson

Supplemental
Heidi Haugh
Janette Wilkenhuth

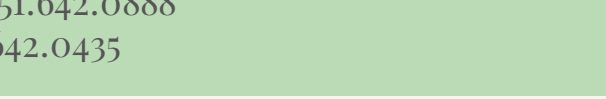
COVID-19 Updates



Slaying Sanitary

Staying healthy and safe is our number one priority for staff, students, and parents and guardians. All the offices 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/evidence/ev0143/evid1>
<https://www.dhs.gov/emergency/2019-covid/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 "Learnmate Center Registration" and it is on the homepage under the "Student Learning Center" tab. Once they have filled it out, someone will reach out to confirm if the time and date will work. You will also be sent 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](#)