

The Counselor Chronicle

November 2025

"To find joy in work is to discover the fountain of youth" — Pearl S. Buck

Senior Snippet

Are you interested in pursuing a career in plumbing, HVAC, or electrical work? Check out Explore the Trades below!

[Explore the Trades](#)

[Construct Tomorrow](#) is another excellent resource for students interested in the trades. They educate high school students about career opportunities in the union construction trades by hosting engaging and informative events that provide hands-on activities for each trade.

They introduce students to representatives from various trades so they can learn about the union benefits and apprenticeship programs available. They are inclusive in efforts by hosting events statewide, in both rural and urban areas. AND they provide follow-up services to those participants who express interest in union construction trades.

(The events are on the list of [College/Career Fairs](#) found at the bottom of every Counselor Chronicle)

[Construct Tomorrow](#)

Students Planning to go to college next year: The [2026-27 FAFSA Form](#) is Now Available! Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

[26-27 FAFSA Form](#)



Direct Admissions: Are you a 12th grade student graduating this year?

Check your email for your Direct Admission letter and complete the form! These were sent to your BlueSky email on **November 3rd**.

[Direct Admissions MN](#)

Direct Admissions MN is a program that makes college applications more accessible for Minnesota high school seniors. Based on academic records, students are notified that they qualify for admission to specific participating colleges and universities. This helps take the guesswork out of the application process. Most of the schools involved don't require standardized test scores and waive application fees.

[Full List of Participating Colleges](#)

Juniors: Here's a handy [Checklist](#) of things you should be thinking about during your 11th grade year of high school. Not all items may apply to you, and that's okay. But it's a good guideline for things you may want to think about and take action on this year. Check with your Bluesky counselor if you have questions or want to discuss your options.

[Junior Year Checklist](#)

Alumni Spotlight

Alumni Spotlight

SERENA VAN NOTE



Serena Van Note is a 2021 graduate of Bluesky! She is working as a caregiver for Freedom Home Care and was recently promoted to a Lead position. She enjoys living in North Mankato with her one-year-old daughter.

Serena's advice to current Bluesky students: "Don't rush--take your time with life after you graduate. You have a long time to figure out what you want to do in life. Don't feel like you have to figure everything out right away."

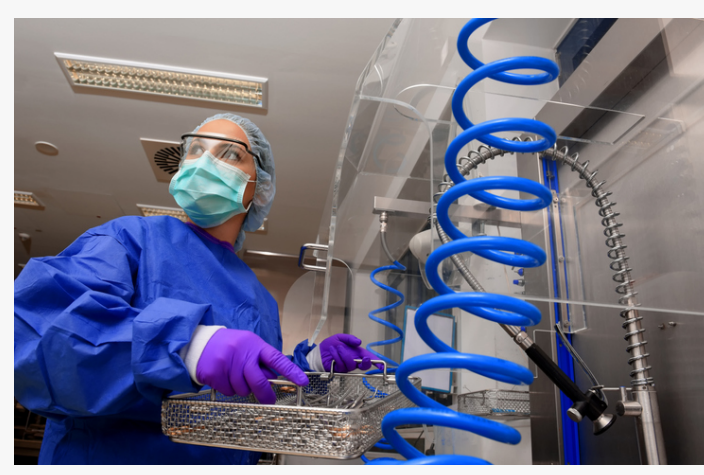
If you know anyone who has graduated from BlueSky and would like to be featured in the Alumni Spotlight section of our newsletter, please have them fill out the [Alumni Spotlight Interest form](#).

[Alumni Spotlight Interest Form](#)

Featured Occupation

- **Occupation:** Sterile Processing Technician
- **Education Required:** HS Diploma & Certificate Program
- **Outlook:** 6% Growth
- **Median Wages:** \$48,990 annually

Job Duties: A sterile processing technician plays a vital role in keeping patients safe by cleaning, sterilizing, and maintaining surgical instruments and medical equipment to prevent infection. They decontaminate and inspect tools, use specialized sterilization methods like autoclaves, and carefully assemble and package instruments for reuse. These technicians also manage inventory, distribute equipment to medical teams, and maintain detailed records to ensure everything is safe, sterile, and ready for each procedure.



ACT Testing



If you are an 11th grader planning to attend a 4-year university, now is a good time to take the ACT for the first time--if you have not yet taken it. If you are unsure about whether or not you should take the ACT, please schedule an appointment with your BlueSky counselor.

Students should have received information about taking the ACT at the BlueSky campus in Bloomington. However, if the BlueSky campus is too far, there is an option that is likely closer to your home. Please check the [ACT locator below](#).

High School Code: BlueSky Charter School 242228

[ACT Test Locator](#)

[ACT Registration Information](#)

2025-2026 NATIONAL TEST DATES SCHEDULE

TEST DATE	REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE	PHOTO UPLOAD & STANDBY DEADLINE
February 14, 2026	January 9	January 23	February 6
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24	April 3
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 29	June 5
July 11, 2026+	June 6	June 24	July 3

If you have any questions, please email us at testing@blueskyschool.org



[Email Carla](#)

651-202-2025

[Email Grant](#)

651-202-2046

[Email Jennifer](#)

651-202-2051

[Email Alisa](#)

651-202-2026

[Scholarships](#)

[College & Career Fair Open Houses](#)