

The Counselor Chronicle

February 2026

"Work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it" — Stephen Hawking



Registration for Next Year: Students will be able to register for next year's classes by completing an assignment in RCP (Required Career Portfolio).

- Current 11th Graders: assignment 3.06 is **open now**.
- Current 10th Graders: assignment 2.06 will open on **Monday, Feb. 16th**.
- Current 9th graders: assignment 1.06 will open on **Tuesday, Feb. 24th**.

Counselors will be in advisory time on Tuesday, Feb. 24th, to assist students with the registration process, so be sure to attend!

Some of our elective classes are very popular and fill up fast. Registration in those classes is on a first-come, first-served basis, so the earlier you complete your registration, the better your chances of getting the class(es) you want.

If you have questions about classes or what you need to graduate, please schedule an appointment with your Bluesky counselor.

Senior Snippet

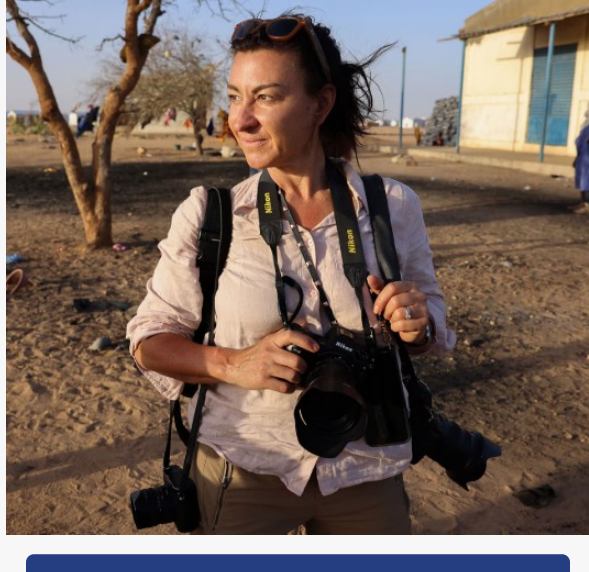
There are several recordings available about college--from past webinars--available by going to this website: [MN Goes to College](#). Check it out!

The next webinar is on Feb. 17th: [Understanding Your Financial Aid Letter](#). Be sure to register to attend or come back to this website later to view the recording.

<p>Explore College Options →</p> <p>Learn more about the many higher education options available here in Minnesota and beyond. Students and families will leave with a better understanding of the differences between different types of higher education institutions.</p>	<p>Apply to College →</p> <p>This session will help simplify the process, providing all the information you need to know about preparing, searching, and applying for college.</p>	<p>Understand Financial Aid →</p> <p>Paying for college should not be a barrier for anyone. This session will help you learn about the many ways to pay for college including grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study.</p>
<p>FAFSA 101 →</p> <p>Learn more about the FAFSA, including specific sections of your application, tips to avoid common errors and more.</p>	<p>Dream Act 101 →</p> <p>If you are an undocumented student, you may be eligible to receive State financial aid and in-state resident tuition by submitting the Minnesota Dream Act application. Join us to learn more.</p>	<p>Scholarships 101 →</p> <p>Learn how to search and apply for scholarships to help you pay for college. We will highlight specific scholarships, provide tools to keep you organized, and tips to make your application stand out!</p>

[MN Goes to College](#)

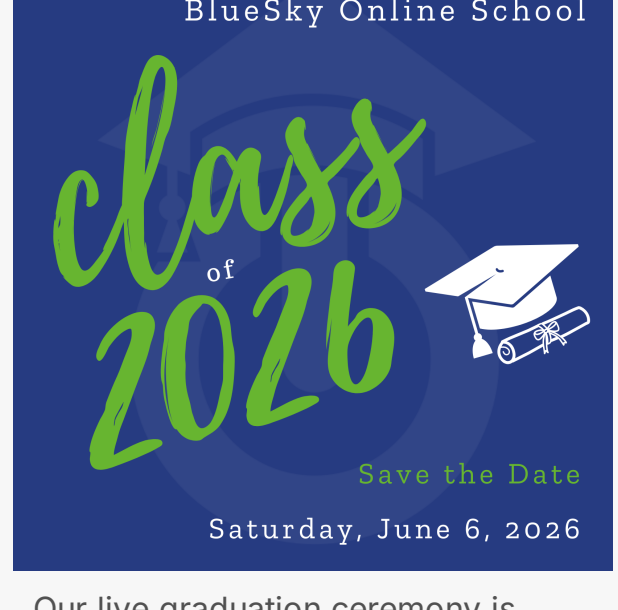
[Understanding Your Financial Aid Letter](#)



Women in non-traditional careers: Lynsey Addario (b. 1973) never expected to grow up to be a world-famous photojournalist when her father gave her a used camera when she was twelve. Addario came from a fairly modest background. Both her parents were hairdressers who later divorced, and her father was given the camera by a client. But Addario took to the camera and learned to use it to tell powerful stories. The casual gift from her father became an instrument that led Addario to worldwide acclaim and a MacArthur "genius grant."

If Addario had followed a more conventional career path (it's estimated that only about 15% of photojournalists are women), she might have missed out on a fulfilling, important, and ultimately lucrative career. Addario was lucky enough—and savvy enough—to see beyond easy, stereotypical career choices.

[Read More About Lynsey Addario](#)



Our live graduation ceremony is happening on Saturday, June 6, 2026, and we cannot wait to celebrate with you! We'll be hosting our event in the auditorium at Thomas Jefferson High School (4001 W 102nd St, Bloomington, MN 55437).

Please take a moment to fill out the forms below, whether you'll be joining us in person or celebrating elsewhere. More information on the day's schedule and how to reserve guest seats will be headed your way soon!

Graduates attending the live ceremony will receive a cap, gown, and tassel, while those celebrating from afar will have their diplomas mailed after the ceremony.

[Cap & Gown Form](#)

Please upload your senior portrait to our [Senior/Graduate Gallery](#). Photos are to be of the senior/graduate only. Please allow a few days for newly submitted photos to be added to the gallery.

[Senior/Graduate Gallery](#)

Want to take the mic at graduation and give the class of 2026 a moment they'll never forget? If you're feeling inspired, brave, or just really love a spotlight, toss your name into the hat using the [Google form](#) below.

Filling it out doesn't guarantee a speaking spot, but it does let us know you're interested and ready to be considered!

[Student Speaker Interest Form](#)

Alumni Spotlight

Alumni Spotlight

RACHEL (MICHELS) JOHNSON

Rachel (Michels) Johnson is a 2016 graduate of BlueSky Online. She spends her free time with her four children, and a bonus kiddo as well, in her hometown of St. Peter, Minnesota. They are her daily motivation.

Rachel enjoyed online high school so much that she continued with an online program at Rasmussen College, earning her Associate's Degree as a Health Administrative Assistant. Her GPA was 3.96! Since graduating from college, she has worked in various healthcare settings in a supervisory role, first as a Quality Improvement Coordinator, and then as an Operational Program Director.



Rachel's advice for current BlueSky students is "Don't Give Up! Graduating will open doors to your future, even if it feels hard right now. Things will be so different 10 years from now."

She states that for a while, she didn't think she would graduate on time, but with the support of her teachers at Bluesky, she ended up finishing her classes EARLY.

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:** Paralegal
- **Education Required:** Two-Year Associate Degree
- **Outlook:** 1% Growth
- **Median Wages:** \$61,010 annually

Job Duties: Paralegals support lawyers by investigating and gathering case facts, researching relevant laws and regulations, organizing and maintaining legal documents, and drafting correspondence and legal materials such as contracts and confirmation letters. They obtain affidavits and other formal statements, assist during trials by handling exhibits and reviewing transcripts, and file briefs, appeals, and other documents with courts or agencies. They also communicate with clients, witnesses, and attorneys to schedule interviews, meetings, and depositions. Their specific responsibilities vary by area of law and firm size: some handle cases from start to finish in smaller firms, while others focus on particular phases of a case in larger firms.



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	LATE REGISTRATION	PHOTO UPLOAD & STAMPED RESULTS
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24	April 3
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 29	June 5
July 11, 2026*	June 5	June 24	July 3

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

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| Email Carla | Email Grant | Email Jennifer | Email Alisa |
| 651-202-2025 | 651-202-2046 | 651-202-2051 | 651-202-2026 |

[Scholarships](#)

[College & Career Fair Open Houses](#)