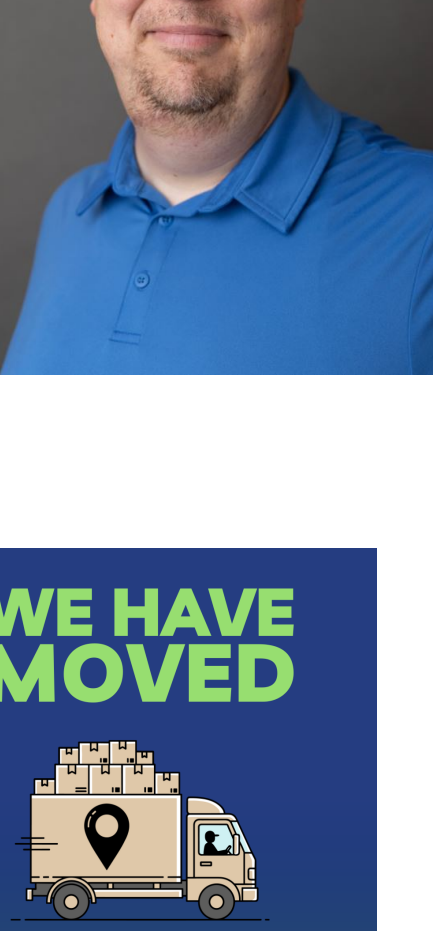


# February 2026 BlueSky Online Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Dan Ondich  
Assistant Director & Principal  
651.202.2012  
[dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org](mailto:dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org)

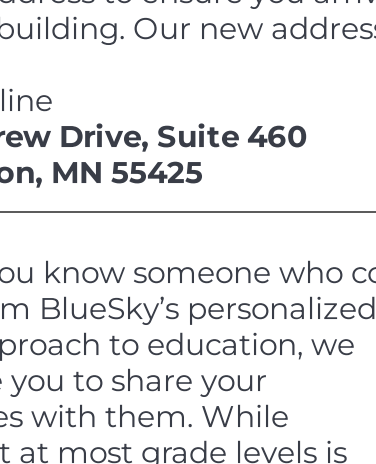


### BlueSky Parents & Guardians:

The first semester of the 2025-26 school year was a great success! Students completed learning experiences that demonstrated curiosity and wonder. They persevered with the independence of online learning through their resourcefulness and determination. They sought out support from our teachers and staff, and most importantly, you, our parents and guardians, have been there to support and advocate for your child. It has been our privilege to work with your student, and we look forward to another successful semester of learning.

This year, we have continued implementing the Minnesota Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. Our focus has been on supporting students to stay on track in their courses. One of the best ways to support your child is to regularly review the academic snapshot together. The colors indicating your child's progress have important meaning. When your child's progress bar turns yellow, it signifies that they are three or more assignments behind and is often the first indicator that additional support is needed. When the progress bar turns red, your child is seven or more assignments behind and is significantly at risk of failure without urgent intervention. Our teachers and support staff also monitor student progress and may reach out to collaborate with you to determine the best way to support your child. If you ever have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teachers or advisor. We're at our best when we work together.

## WE HAVE MOVED



We moved to a new campus on February 1, 2026. Don't worry—we are still located across the street from the Mall of America; we've just moved to an adjacent building. Students will be able to use the brand-new Student Learning Center & Makerspace by the end of February. If you plan to stop by our campus for any reason, we encourage you to double-check our address to ensure you arrive at the correct building. Our new address is:

**BlueSky Online**  
2001 Killbuck Drive, Suite 460  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Finally, if you know someone who could benefit from BlueSky's personalized and flexible approach to education, we encourage you to share your experiences with them. While enrollment at most grade levels is currently at capacity, we are maintaining a waitlist for the 2025-26 school year and will continue to accept a limited number of students. Applications are also open for the 2026-27 school year.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students.

## Counselor Corner



### Registration for next year

- Students will be able to register for classes by completing an assignment in iCamp. Reminder: many of our popular classes fill up early, and students are registered based on the date they complete the registration form. The earlier you complete the assignments below, the better your chances of getting the classes you want!
- **11th Graders/continuing Seniors:** Assignment 3.06 starting Feb. 9th
  - **10th Graders:** Assignment 2.06 starting Feb. 16th
  - **9th Graders:** starting Feb. 24th. (Please be sure to attend Advisory on Tuesday, February 24th. A counselor will be available to discuss registration for next year.)

### Summer School: It's not too early to start thinking about summer school. More information will come out in April. But it's important to remember that students who want to take summer classes must pass at least half of their Semester 2 classes—so start the semester off strong so you're eligible for that opportunity!

**SENIORS:** For those graduating this year and planning to attend college in the fall, two helpful webinars are available. Be sure to register in advance by clicking the webinar title.

**FAFSA 101—February 10th**  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us to learn more about the FAFSA, including specific sections of your application, tips to avoid common errors, and more. (FAFSA is the Free Application for Financial Aid.)

**Understand Your Financial Aid Offer—February 17th**  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Learn more about how to read and understand your financial aid offer letter from a college.



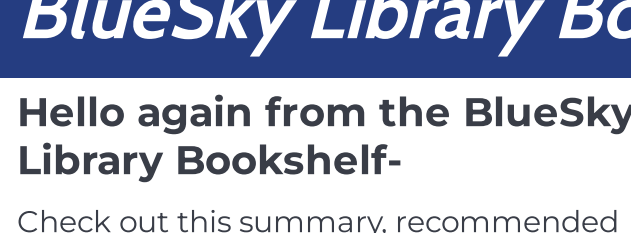
### Featured Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistant

- **Education Required:** 2 years & certificate
- **Outlook:** 18% job growth
- **Median Wages:** \$66,050 annually
- **Job Duties:** Occupational therapy assistants help patients develop physical strength and dexterity to accomplish daily tasks. They usually assist one or more occupational therapists in a facility and may perform a range of tasks, including helping patients with stretches or strength exercises, arranging therapy rooms, and maintaining equipment. They might also maintain patient records, schedule appointments, and assist in other clerical work.



### National ACT Testing Information

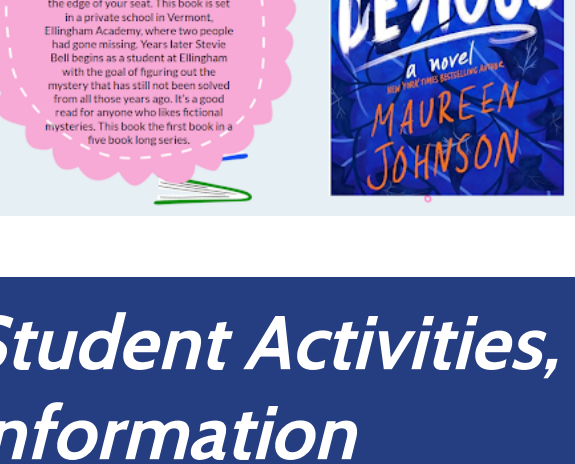
Use <https://www.act.org/> to sign up for a testing location near you. If you have questions about the ACT, please contact your BlueSky counselor.



### 2025-2026 NATIONAL TEST DATES SCHEDULE

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LAST REGISTRATION DATE	PROBABLE ACADEMIC YEAR
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24	April 5
June 11, 2026	May 8	May 29	June 5
July 11, 2026	June 5	June 24	July 3

## Social Work Spotlight



Did you know that BlueSky has its own virtual calming room?

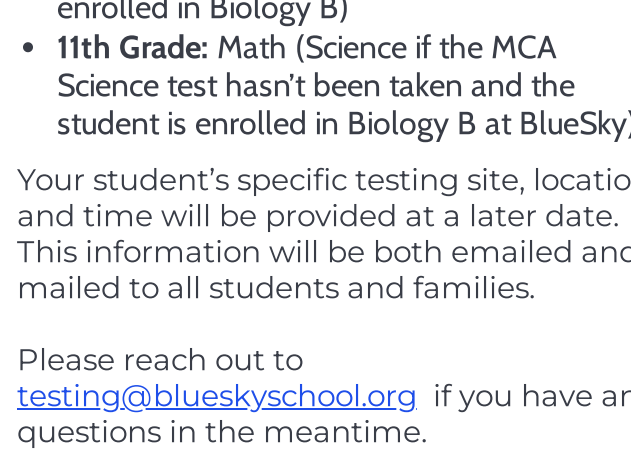


The virtual calming room was created by a group of BlueSky staff members for students. The space was designed to include resources that support stress management and calming strategies to help us take care of our mental health. Which is even more important in Minnesota's frigid winter months. The virtual calming room is available 24/7! The link is available on the Moodle home page.

## BlueSky Library Bookshelf

### Hello again from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf!

Check out this summary, recommended by a BlueSky student.



If a student would like to see a title added to the Sora library, please email [library@blueskyschool.org](mailto:library@blueskyschool.org). Happy reading!

## Student Activities, Events, & Information

BlueSky may be virtual, but our connections are real. Each month, we gather for in-person events and activities that help students meet new friends, try new things, and share great experiences together.

## TESTING

**BlueSky MCA Testing:** BlueSky MCA Testing will take place between March 23rd - April 17th at various locations across Minnesota. Here's a breakdown of testing by grade level:

- **6th and 7th Grade:** Reading and Math
- **8th Grade:** Reading, Math, and Science
- **10th Grade:** Reading, Science for students enrolled in Biology B
- **11th Grade:** Math (Science if the MCA Science test hasn't been taken and the student is enrolled in Biology B at BlueSky)

Your student's specific testing site, location, and time will be provided at a later date. This information will be both emailed and mailed to all students and families.

Please reach out to [testing@blueskyschool.org](mailto:testing@blueskyschool.org) if you have any questions in the meantime.

## SLAY-OHD

Over-Dressed  
Over-Stimulated

**Junior/Senior Prom:** Get ready to dress up, turn us, and dance the night away! The Over Dressed & Over Stimulated Junior and Senior Prom is happening Friday, May 8, 2026, from 5:00 to 9:00 PM at the BlueSky Campus!

Music, fun, and all the prom vibes are coming your way, so start planning that outfit now. More details coming soon, stay tuned!

## BlueSky Online School Class of 2026

Saturday, June 6, 2026

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 Coliseum 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. We'll send you 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.

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.

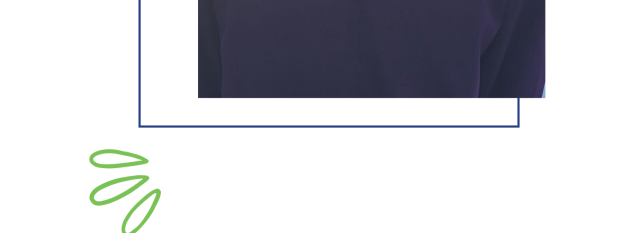
Filling it out doesn't guarantee a speaking spot, but it does let us know you're interested and ready to be considered!

**Student Speaker Interest Form**

## BlueSky Star Students

### Shoutout to our awesome students!

#### BlueSky Star Lan Stoll



Lan Stoll is a wonderful example of a BlueSky Star Student. Lan chose BlueSky for its flexibility, which has been essential in supporting his individual needs. Being able to set his own schedule and determine the order in which he completes assignments has allowed him to stay engaged and productive, even when traditional schedules are challenging.

What Lan appreciates most about BlueSky is the supportive and welcoming staff. He shared that he never feels judged or discouraged when asking questions, even if he needs clarification more than once. This positive environment has helped him feel comfortable reaching out for support and has strengthened his desire to keep learning, even when the material feels challenging.

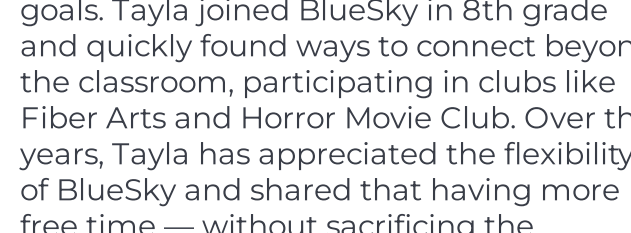
Lan finds success at BlueSky through strong communication, a willingness to learn, and flexibility. Knowing that there are adults who genuinely want to help, not just because it's their job, but because they care, has made a meaningful difference in his academic experience and personal growth.

Outside of school, Lan has a wide range of interests, including wildlife (both prehistoric and modern), reading and writing, playing Dungeons & Dragons, fencing, search-and-rescue work, outdoor survival skills, and Pokemon. These interests reflect his curiosity, creativity, and commitment to learning beyond the classroom.

Please join us in congratulating Lan on his well-deserved recognition as a BlueSky Star Student!

~Nominated by Chester Johnson

#### BlueSky Star Tayla Emerfall



Tayla Emerfall, a senior at BlueSky, has been nominated as this month's BlueSky Star because of her drive to always improve and dedication to reaching her goals. Tayla joined BlueSky in 8th grade and quickly found ways to connect beyond the classroom, participating in clubs like Fiber Arts and Horror Movie Club. Over the years, Tayla has appreciated the flexibility of BlueSky and shared that having more free time — without sacrificing the challenge and understanding of the curriculum — has made learning feel both manageable and meaningful. One of the most impactful aspects of Tayla's experience has been the relationships formed with teachers. She shared that every staff member she's met is approachable and genuinely eager to help, making it easy to ask questions or seek support. These strong teacher-student connections have helped Tayla develop a true sense of belonging, reminding all students that, even in an online setting, no one learns alone. Staying motivated online hasn't always been easy, but Tayla shares that breaking assignment lists into smaller, daily goals and staying ahead when possible has been key. When it comes to advice for other BlueSky students, Tayla's message is simple but powerful: staying on task and getting work done early truly matters.

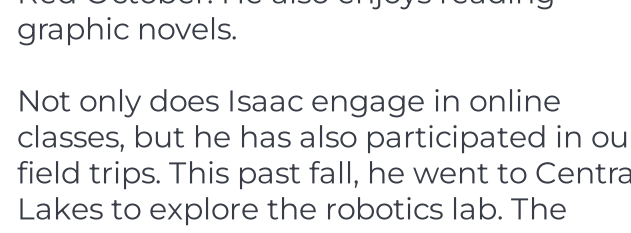
English has long been a favorite subject of Tayla's, but ASL courses have left a lasting impression. Learning not only the language itself but also the history of Deaf culture was an unexpected and unforgettable experience. Outside of school, Tayla enjoys immersing herself in mass media: books, TV shows, movies, music, and especially writing. Summers are spent outdoors with friends, alongside plenty of quality time with beloved dogs and cats.

Looking ahead, Tayla's next steps are exciting. After graduation, plans include attending Southwest Minnesota State University and majoring in Professional Writing. Her career paths are still taking shape, with interests ranging from social media to the music industry.

Congratulations, Tayla!

~Nominated by Hanna Coleman

#### BlueSky Star Isaac G.



Isaac G. joined BlueSky this fall after careful research to find a school that was the right fit for him. His previous school experience was less than positive, and he wanted to find a place that better suited him. Isaac has been a wonderful addition to our school. He brings humor to his classes and engages students in discussions.

When I asked Isaac what helps him be successful here, he shared that working hard is what helps him succeed in school. He said, "Put your mind to it and keep going to get things done." Isaac shared that it has taken effort to stay on task at times. To help him stay focused, he uses a task list for assignments. He shared that it helps him know what he needs to work on.

In his free time, Isaac said he "Plays video games, reads books and [does] other stuff that's more appealing to me". Currently, he's reading Tom Clancy's The Hunt for Red October. He also enjoys reading graphic novels.

Not only does Isaac engage in online classes, but he has also participated in our field trips. This past fall, he went to Central Lakes to explore the robotics lab. The highlight was interacting with a robotic arm named Timmy; the companion is Jimmy. He said the robots are big, and it's "better to work alongside the technology," as most likely any job he will encounter will involve technology.

In true Isaac humor, he shared something that hasn't been helpful: His messy desk. No judgment here, Isaac!

~ Nominated by Dawn Mensing

## Student Work

Students in Life Skills wrapped up the semester by diving into fun, hands on ways to care for the planet and make everyday choices that matter.

They put their learning into action by creating eye-catching posters that highlight simple, real life ways anyone can live more sustainably and be a great steward of the environment.



Turn lights off - Brody Urbanski



Nature - Sarah Vetteson



Power down = Save up - Roen Sipe

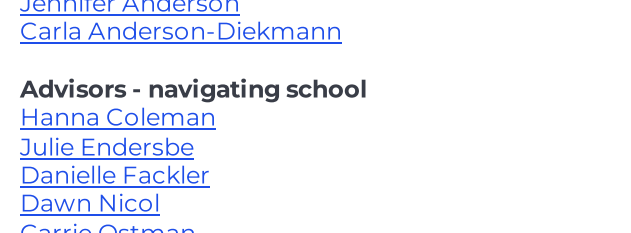


Scroll Less Live More = Aalyah Jones

8th grade supplemental student Ashleigh Berlien delivered an amazing ice skating performance to Defying Gravity at the Ice Theatre of New York City Skate Center in Harlem.

Ashleigh has been skating since age 3 and is now a high level competitive figure skater and USFS Triple Gold Medalist. This season, she's performing a fun Harley Quinn themed long program. She is feeling confident, prepared, and ready to take on high level competition like never before.

Send Ashleigh your BlueSky conat support and follow her skating journey on Instagram at [asha\\_icebear!](#)



## Resources

Contact Information for Questions & 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 Laitson - Superintendent/Executive Director  
Cathy Badger - Principal/Assistant Director  
Beth O'Connell - Director of Student Support Services  
John Moberg - Registrar  
Betsy Johnson - Director of Special Education  
Danielle Sanders - School Operations Manager  
Sarah Miller - Admin Assistant  
Christine Graubman - Admin Assistant

Counselors - scheduling and class changes  
Dawn Mensing  
Bridget Laska  
Grant Cameron  
Alexandra  
Jennifer Anderson  
Cynthia Peterson

Advisors - existing school  
Hanna Coleman  
Julia Erdinger  
Danielle Erdinger  
Dawn Nicol  
Cynthia Peterson  
Sean Miller  
Sarah Miller  
Allyla Henderson  
Sarah Peterson

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance  
Cecile Hammett  
Cynthia Peterson  
Alex Schreiber  
Lynne Kline  
Morgan Andrews

Supplemental - Students taking up to 50% of their courses at BlueSky  
<https://www.blueskyschool.org>  
Janette Willenbring

## Mark Your Calendar

- February 4, 2026: No school
- March 6, 2026: No school (staff only)
- March 27, 2026: Last day of the third quarter
- March 30, 2026: First day of the fourth quarter
- April 6, 2026: First day of the fourth quarter
- April 30, 2026: Spring Middle School Onsite Day
- May 1, 2026: No school (staff only)
- May 25, 2026: No school
- June 4, 2026: Last day of school
- June 6, 2026: Graduation

[READ MORE](#)

