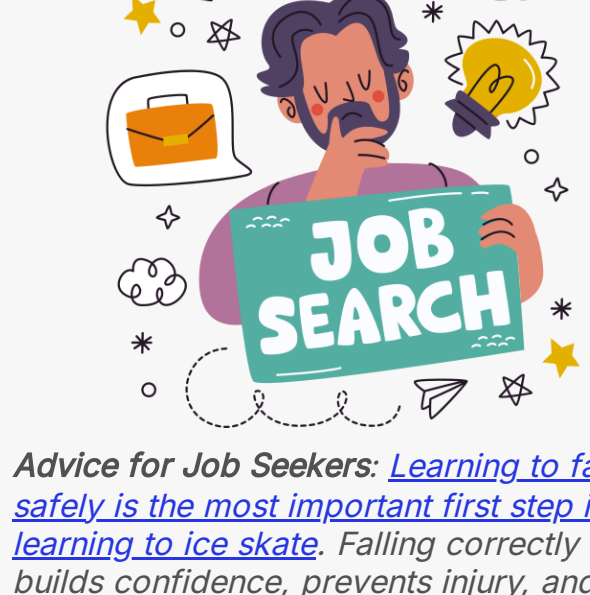


The Counselor Chronicle

March 2026

"No work is insignificant" — Eleanor Roosevelt



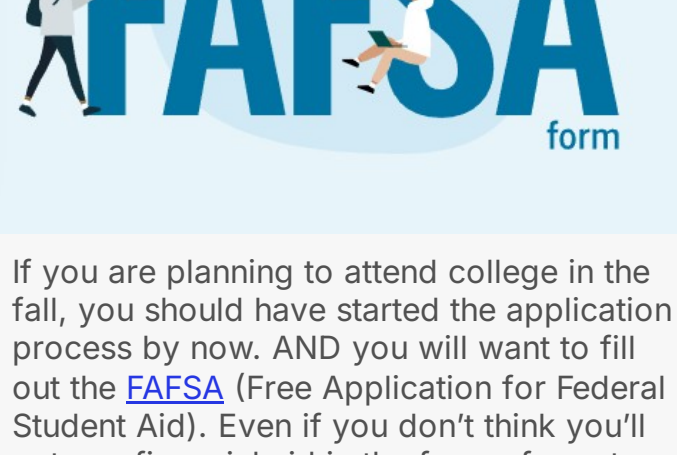
Advice for Job Seekers: [Learning to fail safely is the most important first step in learning to ice skate.](#) Falling correctly builds confidence, prevents injury, and develops muscle memory. It may be a stretch, but job hunters and career explorers can learn a lot from that strategy of learning to fall first.

No matter a person's stage of life, looking for a career or a job is hard work and involves a lot of rejection. Career exploration requires persistence, resilience, and the ability to get back up after falling down.

[Putting out feelers for jobs requires a thick skin to deal with the inevitable rejection.](#) A recent college graduate who wanted to work in publishing wrote to a potential mentor who had been recommended to her by one of her teachers. The potential mentor wrote back immediately: "Are you out of your mind?" or words to that effect. "Be prepared to wash dishes for at least six months, and even then success is not assured."

No one wants to receive a reply like that, but most job seekers will. The world is not filled with optimistic cheerleaders who will encourage and support us. But if you've prepared for failure, for falling before you ever learn to skate, you will be much better prepared to get up off the ice and skate off into your future career. You might not win a gold medal, but you might snag a satisfying job.

Senior Snippet



If you are planning to attend college in the fall, you should have started the application process by now. AND you will want to fill out the [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Even if you don't think you'll get any financial aid in the form of grants or scholarships, you will need to fill this out to be eligible for student loans. Need help figuring all this out? That's what your Bluesky Counselor is for! Schedule an appointment with them soon to get assistance!

[FAFSA](#)

The Minnesota West Community & Technical College Financial Aid office joined forces with the Southwest Minnesota State University Financial Aid office to create an informational [Financial Aid video](#) for the 2026-2027 school year. This recorded video will take you through 4 key parts of the financial aid process.

[Financial Aid Video](#)

1. Introduction
2. Understanding Financial Aid Basics
3. Understanding Minnesota State-Specific Aid Programs
4. Key deadlines and tips

Another very valuable resource is also the [Federal Student Aid YouTube Channel](#). This channel will provide in-depth videos on topics such as -

- Gathering information for the FAFSA Form
- Understanding the FAFSA Form
- Completing different sections on the FAFSA
- What happens after FAFSA Submission

[Federal Student Aid Youtube Channel](#)

Direct Admission

Graduating Seniors, if you have **NOT** filled out your Direct Admissions survey, be on the lookout for an email from "MN_OHE - Do Not Reply", or ohe@state.mn.us. This email will include a survey link with post-secondary schools where you are guaranteed admission. This is a great opportunity to be admitted to several colleges without having to fill out separate applications. If you need help completing this survey or have questions about this, please contact your school counselor.

For those graduating seniors who have already completed the survey, be on the lookout for communication from schools you previously selected. Often, schools where you have been accepted will ask for follow-up documents or additional information.



[Read More About Lallalin Mahasrabhaisal](#)

Women in non-traditional careers: There are many ways to learn job skills. One is formal education. Another is an apprenticeship. Sometimes a combination of the two works. And then there is the do-it-yourself approach taken by a famous Thai chef who now lives in Britain, Lallalin Mahasrabhaisal (called May for short). May had owned a small supermarket-café, which was quite successful. But the chef quit abruptly, and her building was repossessed when the economy tightened. May taught herself Thai cooking by watching YouTube videos. Her mother insists that May got some help from her, too. But in any case, May learned to cook in an unorthodox manner and used her newfound skills to become an acclaimed Thai chef.

Whatever approach you take to acquiring job skills and achieving a satisfying career, it's important to pay attention to personal interests, skills, and aptitude. May loved Thai food and missed it when she moved to Britain, but she had not been much of a cook before. Even though her own children preferred English or Italian cuisine, May realized there was a market for authentic Thai food in Britain. And she was right. Food critics called her food "exciting" and "flawless." May was able to carve out a fulfilling and successful job for herself through the humble help of YouTube. Not everyone can follow in May's footsteps, but May looked beyond stale stereotypes—like the idea that the best chefs are men—and made room for herself in an unconventional setting.



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](#)

[Graduate Slideshow](#)

[Guest Seat RSVP](#)

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](#)

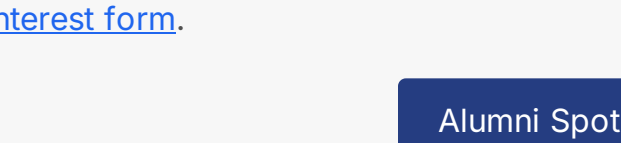
Alumni Spotlight



Skyler Foster is a 2021 graduate of BlueSky. She joined BlueSky midway through her 10th-grade year. After graduation, she attended Dakota State University, earning a General Studies degree with minors in Photography, Computer Graphics, and Marketing.

After graduating from college, she toured Europe for a couple of weeks, which was a valuable experience for her. "It was one of the best things I did for myself. Even though it was absolutely terrifying, I am so glad I ended up doing it because it gave me reassurance I can do big things on my own."

Skyler currently lives in Aitkin, Minnesota, working as a Personal Care Assistant for Golden Heart.



She also does photography on the side. It's mostly a hobby, but she is able to do some freelance work on occasion. She has a "pretty big" family because she includes the friends closest to her.

Skyler's advice to our BlueSky students: "For anything (in life), always do your research and find out what's best for you because we all are not the same person. And you hear a lot of similar advice when reading these, but that means it's probably true."

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](#)

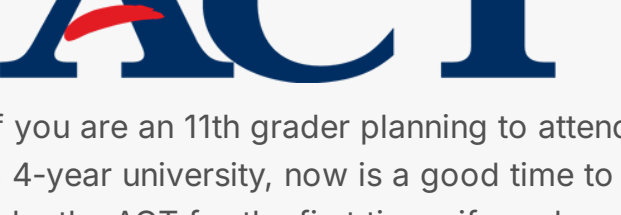
Featured Occupation

- **Occupation:** Dog Boarding Business Owner
- **Education Required:** High School Diploma or equivalent. The owner must obtain proper licenses and permits, as well as access to a building and land zoned for safe housing and caring for multiple dogs.
- **Outlook:** 11% Growth
- **Median Wages:** \$65,000 - \$75,000 annually

Job Duties: Owning a dog boarding business takes a lot of care and responsibility. Owners work hard each day to keep pets safe, healthy, and comfortable by cleaning and sanitizing spaces, providing food, exercise, and attention, and watching closely for any health concerns. They also manage staff, follow local rules and safety guidelines, and make sure every dog is placed in a secure and well-supervised environment. Along with caring for the animals, owners communicate with pet families, share updates, handle emergencies if needed, and promote their services so they can continue providing a safe and welcoming place for pets.



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](#).

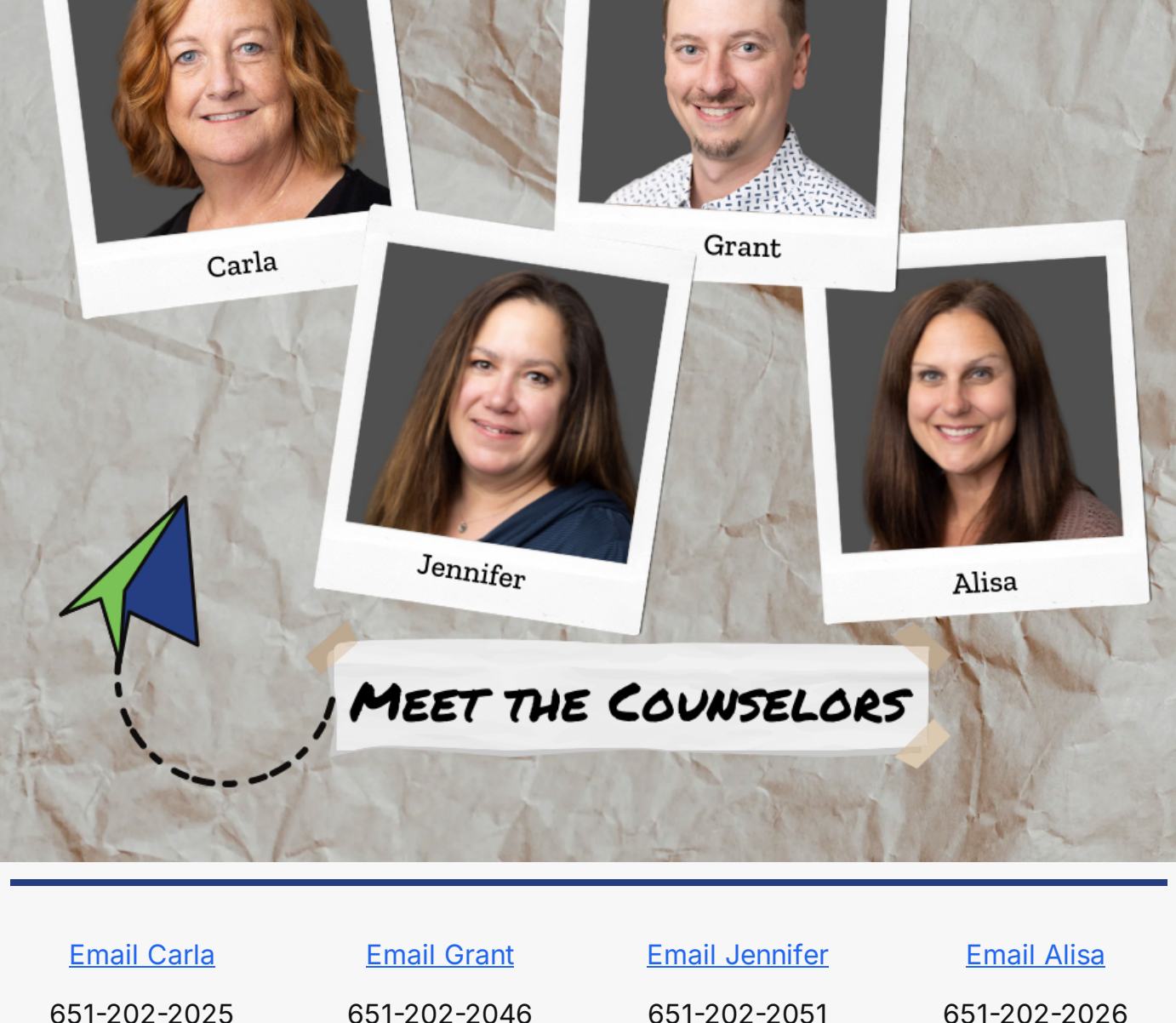
High School Code: BlueSky Charter School 242228

[ACT Test Locator](#)

[ACT Registration Information](#)

2025-2026 NATIONAL TEST DATES SCHEDULE			
TEST DATE	REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE	POST-ONLINE STANDBY SEATING
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24	April 3
June 13, 2026	May 6	May 29	June 3
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](#)