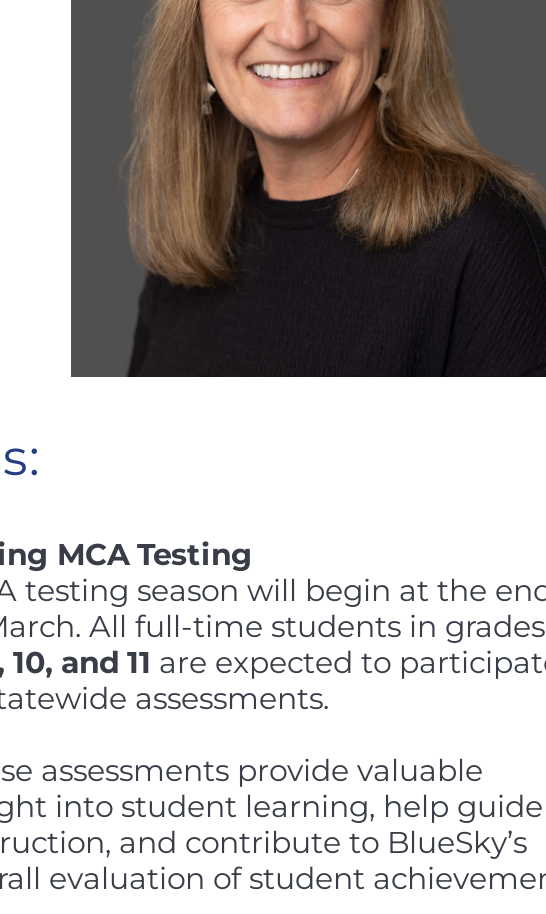


March 2026 BlueSky Online Newsletter

Director of Student Support Message

Cathy Parker
Director of Student Support Services
651.202.2013
cathy.parker@blueskyschool.org



BlueSky Parents & Guardians:

It's hard to believe we are already heading into March, and the fourth quarter is just around the corner. The final stretch of the school year is a busy one, but it's also a great opportunity for students to reflect, refocus, and finish strong.

As we move toward the end of the year, we encourage students to stay engaged, keep up with coursework, and reach out early and often if they need support.

Teachers and support staff are here to help, whether it's clarifying an assignment, creating a plan to catch up, or simply checking in. A quick email, message, or conversation can make a big difference, especially during this final quarter.

Quick calendar reminders for families:
Student Activity Day is Friday, March 27th - Middle school students are required to participate. More information below in the "Student Activities, Events, & Information" section.

Spring Break is March 30th - April 3rd - A well-deserved pause for everyone. We hope students use this time to rest, recharge, and enjoy a break before jumping back in for the final weeks of school.

With warmer days ahead and graduation goals in sight, now is the time to stay focused, communicate openly, and take advantage of the support available. Let's work together to make this last quarter a strong one!

Spring MCA Testing
MCA testing season will begin at the end of March. All full-time students in grades **6, 7, 8, 10, and 11** are expected to participate in statewide assessments.

These assessments provide valuable insight into student learning, help guide instruction, and contribute to BlueSky's overall evaluation of student achievement.

To help make testing as smooth as possible, students will be assigned a testing site based on their location. Please watch for an email with your child's specific testing date and location, along with additional details included below.

For additional question please reach out to testing@blueskyschool.org.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we head into the final quarter of the school year.

Counselor Corner

Registration for Next Year: Remember that your student will register for classes by completing an assignment in Required Career Portfolio (RCP). Counselors plan to complete the registration process by the end of March. Students will be able to see their schedule for next year under Future Schedule in Powerschool. If you have questions about your schedule for next year, please contact your BlueSky counselor.

Featured Occupation: Hearing Aid Specialist

- Education Required:** 1-year certificate program
- Outlook:** 12% job growth
- Median Wages:** \$27,090 annually
- Job Duties:** Hearing aid specialists evaluate patients' hearing and help improve communication through proper hearing aid fitting and care. They perform hearing tests to identify hearing loss, create custom ear molds, and fit and program hearing aids. They also teach patients how to use and care for their devices and provide follow-up support and adjustments. Hearing aid specialists often work with audiologists and stay current on new hearing technologies.



Seniors: If you are planning to attend college next year and have not yet applied- NOW is the time to do so. Your counselor can help you with that, as well as the financial aid process. Just ask!

National ACT Testing Information

If you are planning to attend a 4-year college after high school, now is a great time to sign up to take the ACT this spring or summer. (See more information below.) Not sure if taking the ACT is a good fit for you? Ask your BlueSky counselor. Use <https://www.act.org/> to sign up for a testing location near you.

TEST DATE	TEST LOCATION	TEST REGISTRATION	TEST RESULTS
April 11, 2026	March 8	March 29	April 3
April 13, 2026	March 8	March 29	April 5
July 11, 2026	June 8	June 24	July 3

Social Work Spotlight

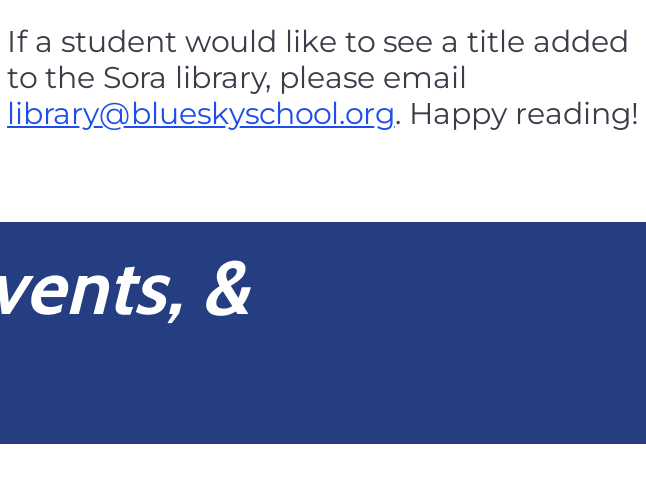
The month of March Madness (for you basketball fans) begins. Just like the players on the court, it is important to take care of your mental health.

The school social work team would like to introduce you to "court side" strategies to support your mental health:

- Practice Before the Game (Take Care of You)
 - Get enough sleep- 8-9 hours each night
 - Move your body- 30 minutes each day- this doesn't have to be big!
 - Connect with others- by phone, in person it could be family, friends or neighbors
 - Breakfast, lunch, and dinner = brain power
 - Coastal strategies by visiting the [Virtual Calming Room](#)
- Control the Dribble (Control What You Can)
 - Focus on your effort, attitude and choices
 - Positive Play by Play (Self- Talk)
 - Trying saying: "I'm still learning", "One play at a time" vs. "I'm bad at this", "I always mess up"
 - Reset at Halftime (Breaks)
 - Drink water
 - Take a break (ex: 20 minute nap)
 - Step outside for fresh air
 - Talk to a trusted adult
 - Pass the Ball (Ask for Support)
 - Let someone know when you're overwhelmed
 - Ask for help
 - Talk to a trusted adult
 - Reach out to your advisor, school counselor, or social worker
- Play the Game (Stay Focused)
 - Let someone know when you're overwhelmed
 - Ask for help
 - Talk to a trusted adult
 - Reach out to your advisor, school counselor, or social worker

BlueSky Library Bookshelf

Hello again from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf-
Save the date for a community read! Before spring break, students will be able to check out the book *Where Wolves Don't Die* by Anton Truer.



This book won the 2025 Minnesota Book Award for Young Adults. Anton Truer is normally a non-fiction writer and his titles like this one usually focus on issues affecting Indigenous Minnesotans face each day.

Join other students and staff members in reading this title over spring break!

If a student would like to see a title added to the Socia library, please email librarian@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.

We are heading to **Vertical Endeavors** on Friday, March 13, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, and we are excited for a fun afternoon of climbing.

Spots are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. A spot is not guaranteed until the \$15 admission fee has been paid. If the trip fills, you will be notified if you are placed on the waitlist. All students must have a completed waiver on file before participating in the outing.

COMETS ESPORTS

Hey Gamers! BlueSky is once again participating in the **Minnesota Varsity League** and the spring season is coming up in April.

Tryouts will be held the week of March 23rd (exact dates and times TBD).

Do you play Marvel Rivals? Fortnite? Chess? Rocket League? If playing one of these games competitively against other students from schools across the state of MN sounds fun to you, then you should try out for a team!

If you have questions, would like more information, or want to participate in tryouts, contact [Grant.Cameron](mailto:Grant.Cameron@blueskyschool.org) at: 651-202-2046

Get ready for a school day that feels a little more like an adventure!

On Friday, March 27, we are hosting our virtual student activity day, and you get to choose where you will go. From outer space to underwater worlds to underground caves, there is something seriously exciting waiting for you.

We're so excited to invite you to the 6th Annual Indigenous Student Organization (ISO) **Zilgan Powwow** on **Saturday, March 28, 2026**.

All Middle School students are required to attend one of the virtual field trips. Be sure to pick the experience that sparks your interest. **Attendance credit will be given after a small reflection piece is completed!**

Check your email inbox for more information coming soon!

This special gathering will take place at the Ward Wells Field House at the University of Minnesota Duluth. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together in community, celebrate culture, and support Indigenous students and traditions.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to [Jennifer Anderson](mailto:Jennifer.Anderson@blueskyschool.org) or [Aari Scharnberg](mailto:Aari.Scharnberg@blueskyschool.org).

If a student would like to see a title added to the Socia library, please email librarian@blueskyschool.org. Happy reading!

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).

Here is what you need to know:
- Tickets are \$15 per person
- BlueSky students may bring **one** guest
- The RSVP & Dance Form must be completed before purchasing your ticket

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!

Here is what you need to know:
- Tickets are \$15 per person
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Cap & Gown Form
Due by April 3rd

RSVP to attend

Graduate Sideshow
Due by May 13th

Dance Form

BlueSky Online School

BlueSky PayPal

BlueSky is heading to Puerto Rico! Full-time and supporting students, as well as alumni are invited to join us for an unforgettable spring break trip from March 27 to April 1, 2027.

Save the Date
Saturday, June 6, 2026

Want to learn more? Reach out to [Gabri Losken](mailto:Gabri.Losken@blueskyschool.org) with any questions.

Prices may change, so enrolling early is the best way to lock in your spot!

SAVE THE DATE
150+ ARTISTS POWWOW
March 28th 2026
6th Annual Indigenous Student Organization (ISO) Zilgan Powwow
1pm & 7pm
Feast: 5pm
Ward Wells Field House
University of Minnesota
Duluth Campus
Reservations are welcome
Reservations are limited

Itinerary & Pricing

SLAY-DND
OUR-DRESSED
OUR-STIMULATED

Since our students are all over Minnesota, we would love to hear from a **Let Sarah Minez** know if you have a cool spot that you would make a Great BlueSky field trip. We're always up for a new adventure!

It is officially time to mark your calendars because our Junior/Senior prom is happening on **Friday, May 8th** from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the BlueSky campus!

Adam's family and advisor have been some of his biggest supporters. His advisor Sean sends updates and encouragement, which helps Adam stay motivated throughout each week.

This year's theme, "Overdressed & Overstimulated." Think bold. Think extra. Think dramatic. This is your moment.

After high school, besides the Marines, Adam's goal is to find a career where he can make a lot of money. Congratulations, Adam! Keep up the great work!

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She loves to read, write, watch movies, and take summer vacations with her family. She spends quite a bit of time helping to take care of her autistic and tube-fed brother which she enjoys because she loves watching him grow.

With her creativity, determination, and positive support system, Jordan is on track for a fantastic year. It has been a joy getting to know Jordan more and having her at BlueSky.

In the future, she would like to become a Para in a local elementary school and write books on the side. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Brooklynn!

Adam's family and advisor have been some of his biggest supporters. His advisor Sean sends updates and encouragement, which helps Adam stay motivated throughout each week.

She is shared that what helps her excel as a student is that she sets a personal goal of getting her work done by Wednesday or Thursday every week. This allows her to start work on Sundays if she chooses and to be done early.

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