

May 2026

BlueSky Online Newsletter



Superintendent's Message

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, we want to encourage all students to keep up their hard work! With only about four weeks left until the last day of school on June 4, 2026 (May 28th for all eligible graduates), now is the time to stay focused and reach out to your support teams and teachers if you need any extra help.



Amy Larsen
Executive Director
651.202.2010

amy.larsen@blueskyschool.org

BlueSky Board of Director Election

BlueSky will be electing four Board of Directors this May; two teacher members, one community member, and one parent member. Each parent or guardian of a full time BlueSky student is entitled to one vote each. Please complete the electronic election ballot that will be sent to your email no later than May 10th.

BlueSky Graduation Ceremony

This year's graduation ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2026. We are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of our students and look forward to honoring all graduates. The ceremony will be held at Thomas Jefferson High School in Bloomington and will be streamed live via YouTube for those unable to attend in person. All graduation information, including student forms, can be found [on our website](#). Congratulations to the BlueSky class of 2026!

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting

If you are a parent of a student who has an IEP, we would love for you to join a virtual meeting on May 6th from 4:30-5:30. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss issues related to special education at BlueSky and to gather feedback from you. There will be a short presentation on BlueSky's special education program followed by time for questions and for you to provide input. This is also a great time to connect with other parents who share the same concerns or have similar interests and experiences.

[Special Education Advisory Council Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Enrollment for 2026-2027 is Quickly Filling Up

Thank you to those of you who share your BlueSky experience with your friends, family and community members. Many students enroll with us because they have heard good things from you. If you know of someone who would benefit from BlueSky's supportive school environment, please let them know that we are currently accepting enrollment applications for next school year, 2026-2027. However, we are filling up quickly and may soon be on a waitlist. So if they are thinking about enrolling, please have them do so as soon as possible in order to guarantee their spot.

As always, thank you for choosing BlueSky and allowing us to partner with you and your student(s)!

Counselor Corner

Pass/No Credit Option

Every student at BlueSky has the option to request a Pass/No Credit grade for 1 class per semester. The form must be completed no later than the last day of the class. If you have questions about whether or not the P/NC option would benefit your student, please schedule an appointment with their BlueSky school counselor. [Pass/NC Request Form](#).

[Pass/No Credit Form](#)

Summer School

Registration for summer school information has been emailed to all students and their parents/guardians.

BlueSky's summer program is designed for students who are behind in credits and is a 6 week program, June 15 - July 31, 2026. It is recommended to complete ONE class during this session. However, if a student is highly motivated and willing to spend 5-6 hours every day on school work, they may be able to finish 2 classes. The second class will only be added if the first class is completed by July 3rd.

If interested, please complete the [Registration Form](#) as soon as possible. (Soft deadline of May 1st has already passed.) If you need help deciding which class(es) you need, please contact your BlueSky school counselor.

- Availability for summer school is limited
- Preference may be given to the following students:
 - need the classes to graduate over the summer
 - are behind in credits
 - passed at least half of their classes 2nd semester
 - did not fail a summer school class with BlueSky previously
- Students must start their first class within the first 5 days or they will be dropped from summer classes
- This registration does not guarantee acceptance into the Summer School Program.

Summer School Registration Form

Featured Occupation: Bus Driver

Education Required: 4 months to 1 year

Outlook: Above Average, 8.7% growth

Median Wages: \$52,220 annually

Job Duties: Bus drivers play an important role in keeping passengers safe and on schedule each day. Their responsibilities include completing pre- and post-trip vehicle inspections, collecting fares and tickets, and driving along assigned routes while following a set timeline and all traffic laws. They also announce stops, assist passengers with loading and unloading luggage, and operate wheelchair lifts to support those with physical disabilities. In addition, drivers keep accurate records of cash receipts, ticket counts, and distance traveled, helping ensure smooth and reliable service for everyone on board.



Social Work Spotlight

As we head into May, the finish line of the school year is in sight! This time of year often brings a mix of excitement for summer and fatigue from a long school year. While students may feel ready

to be done, there is still important learning—and progress—to be made in these final weeks. Staying engaged right now can be challenging, but it's also a great opportunity for students to build strong habits like perseverance, responsibility, and finishing what they started.

Tips for Students: Staying Engaged Until the End

- Set small, daily goals – Focus on completing one or two tasks at a time instead of thinking about everything at once.
- Create a routine – Keep a consistent schedule for schoolwork, even as motivation dips.
- Take planned breaks – Short breaks can help reset your focus and energy.
- Stay connected – Reach out to teachers or classmates if you're feeling stuck or unmotivated.
- Remember your "why" – Whether it's passing a class, graduating, or reaching a personal goal, keep that in mind.

Tips for Parents: How to Support Your Student

- Help maintain structure – Encourage consistent wake-up times and dedicated schoolwork hours.
- Check in regularly – A quick daily check-in can go a long way in keeping students on track.
- Celebrate progress – Acknowledge effort, not just final grades.
- Encourage balance – Support time for schoolwork, rest, and outdoor activities.
- Stay in communication – Reach out to teachers or support staff if concerns arise.

Social-Emotional Tips for This Time of Year

- Normalize the "end-of-year slump" – It's common to feel less motivated right now.
- Practice self-talk – Encourage positive thoughts like "I can finish strong" or "I've come this far."
- Focus on what you can control – Effort, attitude, and daily choices matter.
- Make time for movement and fresh air – Even a short walk can boost mood and focus.
- Practice gratitude – Reflect on what went well this year and what you're proud of.

As we wrap up the school year, let's work together to support students in finishing strong. These final weeks matter, and with encouragement, structure, and support, students can end the year feeling proud of what they've accomplished. If you or your student need additional support, please don't hesitate to reach out to the School Social Work Team—we're here to help!

Wishing you a strong finish and an exciting start to summer! ☀️

BlueSky Library Bookself

Hello again from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf-

Keep your eyes open for summer reading opportunities in June's newsletter



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

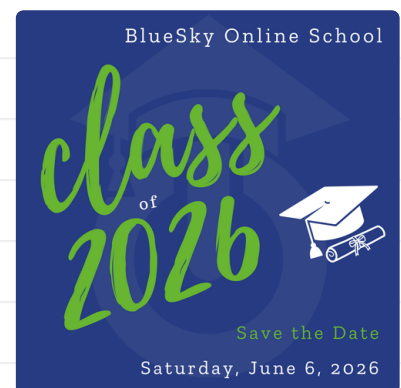


Student Activities, Events, & Information

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.

This year's graduation ceremony will be held on **Saturday, June 6th, 2026**, at 12:00 PM (noon) in the auditorium of [Thomas Jefferson High School](#).

Please complete the following graduation forms by the indicated due date. Please contact [Sarah Miner](#) with any additional questions.



Graduate Slideshow Form - Due May 13th

Graduate Guest Seat RSVP - Due May 22nd

Live Graduation Ceremony Schedule – Saturday, June 6th

- 9:30 am-10:00 am – Senior breakfast
 - 10:00 am-10:30 am – Dress Rehearsal line up/ cap & gown, tassel, and cord distribution
 - 10:30 am-11:15 am – Dress Rehearsal
 - 11:15 am – 11:45am – Class Photos
 - 11:45 am – 12:00 pm – Ceremony lineup
 - 12:00 pm – Ceremony begins
-



More fun summer field trips and activities are on the way - stay tuned!

Since our students are all over Minnesota, we would love to hear from you. Let [Sarah Miner](#) know if you have a cool spot near you that would make a great BlueSky field trip. We're always up for a new adventure!

BlueSky Star Students

Shoutout to our awesome students!

Dylan Brantner is a featured BlueSky star for the month of May because of his exceptional work ethic and wonderful communication skills. Dylan has a knack for completing his weekly assignments early in school week and his time management skills are top notch. Dylan noted, "My biggest skill I have developed is realizing the more you procrastinate, it ends up making everything else worse, therefore making you work harder in the long run." He tries his best to get things done as soon as possible, but is also careful not to rush.

Dylan, an 11th grader, came to BlueSky because he was looking for a beneficial change and his twin sister was already attending BlueSky. A big positive that Dylan communicated is that he experiences less social pressures and stress as a BlueSky student, compared to his previous school experience. In addition to that, he also enjoys his classes, the assignment content and feels he has grown as a student since joining BlueSky School.

Dylan shared, "Outside of Bluesky, I like to play video games. My favorite game is Fallout 76! Since Christmas of '25, going into '26, I have gained 152 levels. I also like to repair technology/things for fun as a hobby as it challenges me to learn new things that most people don't every day." Congratulations, Dylan! Keep on shining!!

~Nominated by Carrie Ostman

BlueSky Star

Dylan Brantner



BlueSky Star

Dusty Mattson



Many students join BlueSky with strong tech skills and some online experience. In rare situations of 'non-techy-ness,' a student like Dusty Mattson finds us. Moodle, Clever, PowerSchool, Zoom – it was all new to Dusty and thus started a series of phone calls with his teachers to navigate this new learning environment. Casie Hammel, his elective teacher writes, "I was very impressed with his commitment to meeting weekly on Zoom to successfully complete The Real You. He was consistently polite and a pleasure to work with." His counselor, Grant Cameron echoed these same attributes!

Dusty is thoughtful, shows a strong math affinity and has a genuine interest in learning. These characteristics guided me to his nomination for the BlueSky Star Award. He's very bright and reflective and we've seen his online engagement, writing skills and analysis increase consistently this year. Jaclyn Weber writes, "I have the pleasure of working with Dusty frequently on assignments for English 4. He always shows up with kindness, honesty, and is ready to work hard!"

Dusty shared he might have been in some trouble at his last high school and was searching for a place to earn his diploma. He recommended to others to get needed credits done first then try something new or different. "You may enjoy it or not but you still learn something. Explore your options." He likes his life outside of school hanging with his buddies, working or spending time with his extended family. His I-Search paper centered on jobs as a dog handler with either apprenticeship or military training in this field. He is still considering his options. His advice to his younger ninth grade self, "I should have focused more on earning money."

Congratulations, Dusty. Your team is enjoying your good work.

~Nominated by Julie Endersbe

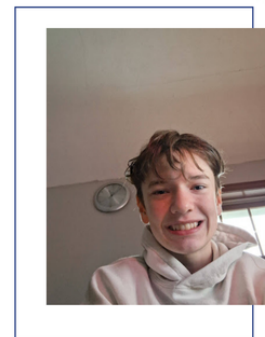
I'm excited to spotlight Enzo Rock who's mastering the art of balancing schoolwork, hobbies, and staying motivated—while still making time for fun!

One of the things Enzo loves most is baking. He has a sweet tooth and enjoys experimenting with new recipes. There's something special about making treats and seeing if his family enjoys the creations.

When it comes to online learning, Enzo has found a routine that works. He's discovered that it helps to break up the day by doing part of the work in the morning and the rest at night. Avoiding studying in the same space where he sleeps helps him stay focused and organized. This balance between work and rest has made online learning a more enjoyable experience.

BlueSky Star

Enzo Rock



A great school day for Enzo involves getting a solid 5-8 assignments done, making sure to get 8 hours of sleep, and staying on track with his classes. Having a good routine is key, and it's clear Enzo knows how to keep things moving smoothly. We are so lucky to have Enzo at BlueSky!

When stress starts to build up, he's learned how to take a step back and recharge. Whether it's going for a walk, taking a relaxing bath, baking something new, or even playing with cats, Enzo has found plenty of ways to unwind. It's one of the perks of online school—being able to take breaks and do things that help reset your mind.

Enzo's motivation is driven by a mix of goals, including earning liveschool points and making the A honor roll! The recognition that comes with these achievements keeps him focused and determined to do his best.

Looking ahead, there's something exciting on the horizon: a brand-new waterpark is opening in Enzo's town this summer! It's sure to be the perfect place to cool off and have fun with friends and family during the warm months.

And here's a fun fact: Enzo has gone parasailing! Not everyone has done this or would get the chance too! Very cool Enzo! It's clear he knows how to balance school, hobbies, and self-care. I wish Enzo continued success as he continues with the rest of the school year—and plenty of fun when summer finally arrives!

~ Nominated by Rashel Lane

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 Larsen](#) - Superintendent/Executive Director

[Dan Ondich](#) - Principal/Assistant Director

[Cathy Parker](#) - Director of Student Support Services

[Beth O'Connell](#) - Dean of Students

[Mandy Kasowicz](#) - Director of Special Education

[John Mizeur](#) - Registrar

[Ben Jones](#) - Student Information Specialist

[Danielle Sanders](#) - School Operations Manager

[Sarah Miner](#) - Admin Assistant

Counselors - scheduling and class changes

[Dawn Mensing](#)

[Rashel Lane](#)

[Grant Cameron](#)

[Alisa Snyder](#)

[Jennifer Anderson](#)

[Carla Anderson-Diekmann](#)

Advisors - navigating school

[Hanna Coleman](#)

[Julie Endersbe](#)

[Danielle Fackler](#)

[Dawn Nicol](#)

[Carrie Ostman](#)

[Sean Miller](#)

[Laura Welciek](#)

[Abby Henderson](#)

[Chet Johnson](#)

Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance

[Casie Hammel](#)

[Cayla Rother](#)

[April Scharnberg](#)

[Lynn Riebe](#)

[Megan Andrews](#)

Supplemental - Students taking up to 50% of their courses at BlueSky

[Heidi Housh](#)

[Janette Willenbring](#)

Mark Your Calendar



MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 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](#)



BlueSky Online School

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