October

BlueSky Online School - Oct. 2026 Newsletter

Principal's Message

BlueSky Parents and Guardians:

It's been a busy and productive start to the 2026-27 school year! Our staff have enjoyed getting to know our new students and families while reconnecting with those returning from last year. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to celebrating student successes, working through challenges, and supporting students throughout the year.



Dan Ondich
Assistant Director & Principal
651-202-2012
dan.ondich@blueskyschool.org

Monitoring Progress in the Academic Snapshot

The **Academic Snapshot in Moodle** is a great way for students, families, and staff to keep track of progress. In addition to grades and other course information, each course includes a color-coded pacing indicator:

- **Yellow – 3 or more assignments behind:** This is an early indication that some additional support may be helpful. Teachers will work with students to help them get back on pace.

- **Red – 7 or more assignments behind:** More immediate support is needed. Teachers will connect with parents or guardians so we can work together to identify barriers and develop a plan for getting back on track.

The Academic Snapshot helps students, families, and staff recognize progress, celebrate success, and identify when additional support may be needed. You never need to wait for an indicator to change colors to reach out. We encourage families to connect with us anytime there are questions, concerns, or something to celebrate.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Virtual parent-teacher conferences are coming up October 12-14, 2026. Conferences are a great opportunity to connect with your student's teachers and support staff, celebrate what is going well, discuss questions or challenges, and learn more about your child's progress. Information about how to attend conferences was sent in a previous email.

Help Spread the Word About BlueSky!

Finally, we still have limited openings at some grade levels for the 2026-27 school year. Many students and families learn about BlueSky through word of mouth. If you know someone looking for a different school setting, we invite you to share your BlueSky experience with them.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We're looking forward to a great school year!

Counselor Corner

ASVAB Testing

This year, BlueSky will host the ASVAB, and it is open to all 10th-12th grade students. The ASVAB is not just a test that helps determine which military service you qualify for, but also a great career assessment. **This is a great assessment to take if you are still unsure what path you want to take after high school.**

A recruiter will be administering the test at our BlueSky campus on **Tuesday, October 27th**. The test starts promptly at 10 am, and students will have until 4 pm to finish. The test typically takes about 1 - 2 hours to complete, so there is plenty of time to finish it.

Computers will be provided for the test, so you just need to show up on time. BlueSky's campus is located at: **2001 Killebrew Dr., Suite #460, Bloomington, MN**

If you are planning on taking the test, you must register for it using the link in the blue box below. The deadline for registration is October 23rd.

ASVAB Registration Form

College Planning Series

If you or someone you know is looking for more information on the college and financial aid process, we are here to help! This series of virtual college and financial aid webinars are created specifically for students and families to walk through components and steps of applying for college and financial aid. Each session is hosted virtually on Zoom, and is interpreted into Spanish, Hmong, and Somali. We also offer a live Q&A, so come prepared to get all your important college-going questions answered! Review the schedule and register below.

Register Here - College Planning Series

No Application Fee for the Month of October

All Minnesota State colleges and universities are waiving their undergraduate application fee for the entire month of October! Check out the 33 campuses and programs.
Learn about Minnesota's new FREE college program, the North Star Promise Scholarship.

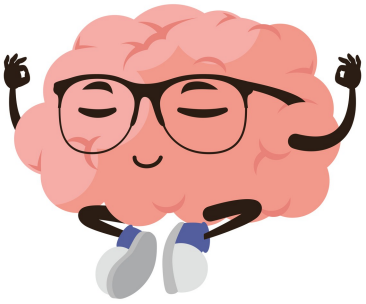


Featured Occupation

Property and Real Estate Managers
Education Required: 2 to 3 years
Outlook: Job Growth 4% and above average job openings
Median Wages: 64,890
Job Duties:

- Prepare budget and financial reports for properties,
- Manage office buildings, apartments, and retail/industrial properties,
- Plan and schedule repairs, remodeling, and construction projects,
- Confer with lawyers to make sure contracts follow laws and regulations,
- Negotiate contracts with companies that provide cleaning, painting, and maintenance services,
- Meet with clients who want to purchase properties,
- Negotiate sale or lease of property.

Social Work Spotlight



As you get more settled into the new school routine, it's completely normal to feel a mix of excitement and stress. Whether you've already found your rhythm or things still feel a bit overwhelming, know that where you are right now is okay!

You don't have to navigate this year alone! In addition to your whole team being here to support you, here are a few valuable resources to keep in mind throughout the year:

- **BlueSky Virtual Calming Room:** Explore tips, interactive tools, and practical strategies designed to support mental health and stress management.
- **Dedicated Social Work Support:** Every student has a designated social worker on their team. Find yours in Powerschool or Moodle. However, please feel free to reach out to *any* staff member whenever you need extra guidance or support.
- **24/7 Nationwide Crisis Support (988):** If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health emergency, call or text **988** anytime for immediate, confidential assistance. Click the link above to learn more about the support available.

BlueSky Library Bookshelf



Hello from the BlueSky Library Bookshelf!

As we settle into our new routines and rhythms, don't forget to take breaks and treat yourself to a good book! As a BlueSky student, you have access to the Sora Library where you will find many books and audiobooks. You can browse by collection, title, or author. You can also take your books on the go and download the Sora app to your device!

- Not sure how to access the library? Look for the "Library" tab at the top of your Moodle.
- Not sure what to read next? Fill out the "Not sure what to read next" form, and we can help you!
- Not seeing a book that you can't wait to read? Email library@blueskyschool.org
- Read a book from the library that you loved (or didn't love so much)? Fill out the book review form.

Check this section in the newsletter for book suggestions, fun library activities, and other book-related news!

Not Sure What to Read Next Form

BlueSky Sora Library

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! All students are welcome to join us for October's event.

Student Learning Center & Makerspace

Did you know that during any typical school-hours, students can visit our Student Learning Center & Makerspace at our Bloomington campus? Students are welcome to come in simply to work on their BlueSky courses and can receive support from one of our educational assistants while they are here.

Students can also take advantage of our Makerspace resources, including audio and video equipment, microphones, cameras, a teleprompter, a Cricut machine, a 3D printer, and high-end Mac computers with graphics and video editing software.

Student Learning Center & Makerspace Registration



Middle School Get Together: Green Minds in Motion

BlueSky Middle School Students!! Join us from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the BlueSky Campus on **Wednesday, October 14** for a hands-on day focused on **REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE. REIMAGINE.** You'll get to create, move, experiment, solve challenges, and see just how many possibilities there are when we stop thinking of things as "trash" and start thinking about what they could become.

Attendance is required however, the students that are not able to attend in person should attend the online portion of the day from 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM.
Please RSVP by **October 7th** to let us know if you are attending in person or online. If you have any additional questions please reach out to info@blueskyschool.org.

Middle School Get Together: Green Minds in Motion Registration Form

Fall Sprinkle Embroidery Cake Decorating!



Want to take a break from the usual school routine and do something actually fun?

Come to our Fall Sprinkle Embroidery Cake Decorating Party on **Thursday, October 22nd from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** at the BlueSky Campus! This is for all full-time students, grades 6-12.

You'll get your own cake to decorate with frosting and sprinkles, and you can create whatever design you want. We'll have tons of sprinkles to work with, so you can make something simple, detailed, colorful, weird, beautiful, or completely chaotic. There are no rules for your artistic masterpiece.

While we're decorating, we'll also have apple cider and hot cocoa to enjoy.

Cost: $5 per student.

Please reach out to info@blueskyschool.org with any additional questions.

Sprinkle Embroidery Cake Decorating Registration Form

BlueSky PayPal

Esports



Are you interested in competitive video gaming? If you are and play one of the video games MNVL has leagues for, then you should fill out the esports interest survey! The Minnesota Varsity League (MNVL) is MN's most competitive high school esports league. It is very competitive but a lot of fun!

If there is enough interest in a game(s), tryouts will be held the week of November 16th. Last year we had a Marvel Rivals team, a Fortnite team, and Chess. If there is enough interest in the game(s) you submitted interest for, you will be contacted about how to join tryouts.

Students must be 13+ and make regular attendance and academic progress in order to play.

Esports Interest Survey

If you have any questions about MNVL or BlueSky's Esports program, text, email, or Zoom chat Grant Cameron, the Esports Program Coordinator: 651-202-2046, grant.cameron@blueskyschool.org

National Honors Society

At BlueSky, we are proud to have an active chapter of the nationally recognized program, National Honor Society (NHS). Every fall semester, BlueSky full-time students in grades 10-12, who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0, and were enrolled with us the previous spring semester, are invited to submit a candidate information form indicating their interest in NHS and achievements in the areas of Character, Leadership and Service.

In addition to last year's members, we are excited to welcome Audrey Frenchick, Jackson Hammes, Zionna Schrader, Lan Stoll, and Kiera Truedson as new members for the 2026- 2027 school year.

All members contribute to actively participating in service projects, both within our school and within their communities.

For more information on BlueSky's NHS Chapter, please contact advisor, Jaclyn Weber at jaclyn.weber@blueskyschool.org.

BlueSky Star Students

Shoutout to our awesome students!

Kaya Mickolajak

I am honored to highlight Kaya Mickolajak, a senior, as this month's BlueSky Star. Kaya's journey with BlueSky began in 7th grade, and this is her sixth year attending!

The most positive aspect of BlueSky for Kaya has been the flexibility, along with the opportunity to explore her interests by selecting from the large number of elective courses. While Kaya acknowledges that motivation is not always easy, one method that helps increase her motivation is completing all of her schoolwork before Friday so she can enjoy a longer weekend break.



Kaya's best advice for other BlueSky students is not to fall behind on the weekly ToDo list and to schedule things ahead of time so you don't become overwhelmed. Kaya's favorite classes so far have been American Sign Language and Visual Communications. Outside of school, Kaya dedicates time to cooking, drawing, being outdoors, writing, playing video games, and spending time with her nephew.

Kaya hopes to eventually have a job where she can explore her interests and gain hands-on experience. Congratulations on a well-deserved honor, Kaya! We are excited to be a part of your journey and look forward to seeing you excel in the future.

~Nominated by Hanna Coleman



Sebine Bunner

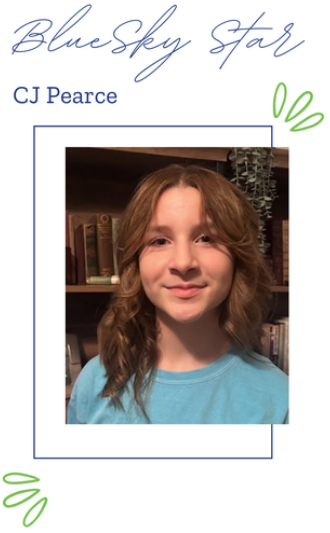
Congratulations to Sebine Bunner, a BlueSky Star for the month of October. Sebine began her journey at BlueSky in the fall of 2021 and is currently a high school senior. Throughout her time at BlueSky, she has been an exceptional student, balancing both high achievement in her classes each semester and competing as a gymnast outside of school. Sebine came to BlueSky because she realized how much she loved online school during COVID. After doing some research, she determined that BlueSky would be the best fit for her and her family, and she has embraced being a BlueSky student here ever since.

When asked how she stays successful at BlueSky, Sebine shared, "I find success at BlueSky by completing my weekly to-do list early every week and staying organized. Online school has taught me how to manage my time better, and how to stay on task." She also likes how flexible her schedule can be at BlueSky. She can decide which classes and assignments she wants to focus on each day.

When she's not working on her schoolwork or doing gymnastics, Sebine enjoys hanging out with friends and family, walking her dogs, and shopping. Excited about her future, Sebine has committed to Quinnipiac University for D1 gymnastics after she graduates. Her dedication as a student and athlete will pay off as she prepares for her next chapter. Keep on shining, Sebine!

~Nominated by Carrie Ostman

CJ Pearce



CJ Pearce is an amazing 6th-grade student who is in her first year at BlueSky. It has been a joy interviewing CJ and getting to know her more! Although she has only been with us for a few weeks, CJ has already shown that she is willing to work through challenges and ask for help when she needs it. What a great start!

When an assignment felt difficult during her first week, CJ became frustrated but reached out to Mrs. Johnson for support. That's exactly what we want BlueSky students to do! With help during WIN time, she worked through the assignment and eased her frustration. CJ appreciates the flexibility that BlueSky provides, especially because her family likes to travel. CJ enjoys visiting family and exploring new places while traveling.

Outside of school, CJ is an active and talented cheerleader and dancer. She attends cheer every Sunday for two hours and participates in both cheer and tumbling. This year, she has moved to a higher level, which is helping her become stronger and more flexible. She especially enjoys being part of her cheer team and describes the members as a big family. CJ also participates in lyrical, tap, jazz, and street jazz dance and dreams of one day being part of a global girl group similar to a k-pop group.

When she needs time to relax, CJ enjoys listening to music, spending some quiet time by herself, or calling her best friend of four years to cheer her up and play games. CJ also loves animals, especially cats, and enjoys spending time with her many pets. I have no doubt that CJ will have a great school year at BlueSky and wish her much success!

~ Nominated by Rashel Lane

Student Work

Our students are doing some pretty amazing things!

This section is a chance to celebrate their creativity, hard work, and accomplishments by sharing projects, artwork, writing, and other work BlueSky students are proud of.

Student Spotlight: Eagle Scout Project

We are proud to celebrate BlueSky student Marcellus Egge and his recent Eagle Scout project, which brings together community service, leadership, and a meaningful commitment to honoring the American flag. Marcellus identified a need in his community and turned that idea into a project

that will provide a permanent place for local residents to properly retire worn flags. Read the full article below to learn more about his project, the people who supported him along the way, and the impact he is making in his community.

Eagle Scout project honors the flag

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



If you are looking for information about your school, there are plenty of resources on our website. Here are a few things you can find:

Technology Issues:
Email support@blueskyschool.org or submit a Helpdesk ticket (link found in Moodle for students)

How to Monitor Your Student's Progress:
Check out our Parent Access page with video tutorials and information about the student dashboard

In-Person Support:
Looking for someone to support your student face to face? Read the Student Learning Center section of our website and submit a form to request onsite support.

Attendance:
Email attendance@blueskyschool.org or call 651-202-2020 to report a student absence

Student Handbook:
Learn more about absences, bullying, internet safety, and other student expectations in the 26-27 Student Handbook.

Important Contacts:

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*
Christine Graupman - *Admin Assistant*
Sophia Olivieri - *Temporary 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!

- **October 2, 2026: No school (staff only)**
- **October 12, 2026: Virtual school assembly - Indigenous Peoples Day**
- **October 14, 2026: Middle School Get Together: 11am-3:30pm @ BlueSky Campus**
- **October 12-14, 2026: Parent/student virtual conferences**
- **October 15-16, 2026: No school**
- **October 22, 2026: Sprinkle Embroidery Cake Decorating: 10am-12pm @ BlueSky Campus**



- ***October 23, 2026: Registration for ASVAB testing closes***
- **October 27, 2026: ASVAB Testing 10am-4pm @ BlueSky Campus**
- **October 28, 2026: ACT Testing 9am-1pm @ BlueSky Campus**

- November 6, 2026: Last day of first quarter
- November 6, 2026: Student activity day
- November 9, 2026: First day of second quarter
- November 11, 2026: Virtual school assembly - Veterans Day
- November 26-27, 2026: No school

- December 4, 2026: No school (staff only)
- December 24, 2026 - January 1, 2027: No school (winter break)

2027

- January 18, 2027: Virtual school assembly - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 20, 2027: Last day of second quarter
- January 21-22, 2027: No school (staff only)
- January 25, 2027: First day of third quarter

- February 15, 2027: No school

- March 12, 2027: No school (staff only)
- March 26, 2027: Last day of third quarter
- March 26, 2027: Student activity day
- March 29, 2027- April 2, 2027: No school (spring break)

- April 5, 2027: First day of fourth quarter

- May 7, 2027: No school (staff only)
- May 27, 2027: Last day of school for graduating seniors
- May 31, 2027: No school

- June 4, 2027: Last day of school
- June 5, 2027: Graduation

2026-2027 School Calendar

BlueSky Online School
2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 460, Bloomington, MN 55425

Phone: 651.642.0888
Fax: 651.642.0435
Email: info@blueskyschool.org

