



Career Pathways Guide

>> ENROLLED
>> ENLISTED
>> EMPLOYED



Benson Public Schools

Benson High School

Career Pathways Guide



When selecting courses, students and families should consider the following factors:

Exploring a variety of career pathways to identify potential interests and opportunities.

Meeting academic requirements for graduation to stay on track.

Taking rigorous academic courses that align with future educational goals.

Building on personal strengths while improving skills in areas of growth.

How to Use this Guide:

At Benson High School, we are committed to helping students discover and pursue their unique paths. This guide is designed to assist students and families in understanding how our elective courses and opportunities can support exploration of future career options.

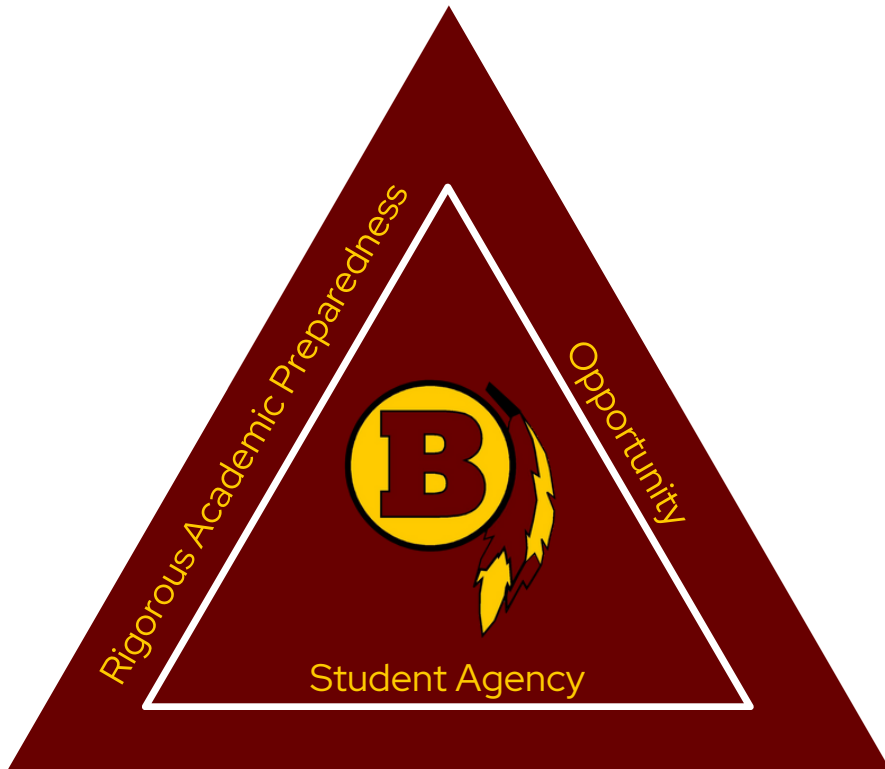
This guide highlights elective courses that can provide valuable preparation and insight into specific career fields. However, it is not a comprehensive list of courses a student must take in their area of interest. Course selection should reflect each student's individual educational and career aspirations.

At Benson High School, we want every student to graduate with a plan and the preparation to be ENROLLED, ENLISTED, or EMPLOYED!

We are excited to support you on your journey to success.

What is your college?

3 Things Students Need



What is WICOR?

5 daily skills to help students take ownership and agency of their thinking and learning

WRITING

INQUIRY

COLLABORATION

ORGANIZATION

READING

Student Agency.

Activate Knowledge and Skills

- Cultivate self-identity with your emotions, thoughts, and values
- Develop and activate leadership traits
- Think critically, act safely, engage responsibly online

Student Agency.

Building Relationships

- Establish and maintain relational capacity with others
- Activate a physical and digital network of support for current and future success

Career Readiness

What are career clusters?

A group of related occupations requiring similar skills and knowledge, where interest and preparation in one job can connect to others in the cluster.



Job Shadow/Internships

- See Mr. Strand – School Counselor
- See Mr. Manzke – Work Based Learning Coordinator
- Work directly with an employer

START

EXPLORING ENVISIONING ENGAGING



LEAVE



ENROLLED ENLISTED EMPLOYED

4

Student Agency

Goal Setting + Stretch Classes

Students select stretch and interest classes each semester, setting goals with advisors to succeed in challenging and favorite subjects.

Applying What You Know

- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Adaptability
- Perseverance

Practice Teamwork and Self-Management Skills

Personal Health & Wellness Classes

- Strength & Conditioning
- Personal Fitness
- Indoor / Outdoor Recreation
- Competitive Team Sports

Self Management

- Time Management
- Team Work
- Professionalism
- Initiative
- Organization
- Independence



Academic Preparedness

Class of 2028 & Beyond Graduation Requirements

** Class of 2026 & 2027 requirements, more detailed information, and advanced course replacements can be found in the Registration Guide

English (4.0 Credits)	English 9, English 10, English 11, English Elective
Math (3.0 Credits)	Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2
Science (3.0 Credits)	Integrated Science 9, Biology, Chemistry
Social Studies (3.5 Credits)	US History, World History, Economics, American Government
Business (1.0 credit)	Computer Applications, Personal Finance
Fine Arts (1.0 Credits)	All Art & Music Courses, See Registration Guide for more options
Physical Education/Health (1.0 Credits)	PE 9, PE 10, Health
Electives (12+ Credits)	Your choice of courses that support your interests and goals
Total Required Credits	28 Credits



Scan here for the full BHS
 <<< Registration Guide

College Admission Recommendations

*1 Credit = 2 Trimesters	2-Year of Technical College	Traditional 4-Year College	Selective 4-Year College
English	4 Credits	4 Credits	4+ Credits
Math	3 Credits	3-4 Credits	4+ Credits
Science	3 Credits	3-4 Credits	4+ Credits
Social Studies	3.5 Credits	3.5 Credits	3.5+ Credits
World Language	Not Required	2 Credits	2 Credits

Early College at BHS

College General Education Requirement	BHS College Courses
Communication	MState Public Speaking, MState College Writing
Natural and Health Sciences	MState Biology I, MState Biology II, MNWest CNA, MNWest Health Careers
Mathematics	MState College Algebra, MState College Trigonometry, MState Statistics
History, Social, Behavioral Sciences	MState General Psychology, MState Macro-Economics, MState Micro-Economics, MState Personal Finance
Human Diversity	MState Sociology



Concurrent Enrollment		PSEO (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options)
- Transferability depends on each college - Strong teacher and college support - Credit based on course grade		- Transferability depends on each college - Teacher support unknown (Not connected to BHS) - Credit based on course grade



Opportunity Knowledge

The Benson Public School District is committed to innovative learning opportunities to reach the potential of every student through exceptional academics, activities, and staff.



- Explore multiple career fields
- Find courses that match your interests
- Build your skills
- Make a plan that fits your path

**Boost Your Readiness For
COLLEGE & CAREERS!**



College & Career Preparation Classes at Benson High School

Work Force	Military	College/Trades/Tech. School
• Talk with Parents • Job Shadow • Work Based Learning • Internships	• Talk with Parents • Take ASVAB Test • Meet with Recruiter	• Talk with Parents • Take ACT • Attend College Fairs • Attend Campus Visits • Apply to Schools



AGRICULTURE

RELATED COURSES, ACADEMICS, AND EXPERIENCES

Recommended Career and Technical Courses	Related Courses	Academic Preparation	Recommended Experiences
• Intro to Agriculture • Construction/Ag Mechanics • Fish & Wildlife • Science in the Barnyard • Soil & Landscape • Foundations of Ag	• Biology • MState Biology I • MState Biology II • Chemistry • Drones • Small Engines • Metals/Adv Metals • Trades Construction • CNC Design	Students considering a 4-year or advanced degree in this area should supplement interest courses with additional math and science.	• FFA • Business Professionals of America (BPA) • On-the-Job Training

BENEFITS OF A JOB IN AGRICULTURE

- **Lots of Options** – From animal science and mechanics to food science and business, there's a career path for every interest.
- **High Demand** – Skilled workers are needed, which means strong job security and growth opportunities.
- **Innovative & High-Tech** – Drones, robotics, and precision farming make agriculture one of today's most advanced industries.
- **Make a Difference** – Help feed the world, protect the environment, and support your community.
- **Flexibility** – Work outdoors, in labs, offices, or even start your own business.





BUSINESS



RELATED COURSES, ACADEMICS, AND EXPERIENCES

Recommended Career and Technical Courses	Related Courses	Academic Preparation	Recommended Experiences
- Exploring Computers - Personal Finance - Computer Applications - Business Careers - MState Personal Finance	- MState College Algebra - MState College Trigonometry - MState Introduction to Stats - MState Public Speaking - MState College Writing	A strong background in math, writing, and speaking are key, in addition to a variety of electives in all career fields.	Business Professionals of America (BPA)

BENEFITS OF A JOB IN BUSINESS/ADMINISTRATION

- **Endless Career Paths** - From marketing and finance to human resources and entrepreneurship, business skills apply everywhere.
- **In-Demand Skills** - Strong communication, organization, and leadership are needed in every industry.
- **Opportunity to Lead** - Manage teams, make big decisions, and help organizations grow.
- **Flexibility** - Work in small businesses, large corporations, nonprofits, or start your own company.
- **Strong Earning Potential** - Many business careers offer great pay and room for advancement.





ARTS

RELATED COURSES, ACADEMICS, AND EXPERIENCES

Recommended Career and Technical Courses	Related Courses	Academic Preparation	Recommended Experiences
• Studio Art • Concert Band • Concert Choir • Graphic Communications • Theater Technology	• English 12 • Short Stories • MState Public Speaking • CNC Design	A solid liberal arts education, with a focus on skill development in one or more medium. Also, exposure to business and entrepreneurship courses	• Ensemble Music Opportunities • Marching Band • Musical & Theater Production • Competetitive Music and Art Experiences • Yearbook Editing

BENEFITS OF A JOB IN ARTS/COMMUNICATION

- **Creative Expression** – Turn your ideas and talents into meaningful work that inspires others.
- **Wide Career Options** – From graphic design and music production to digital media and IT, creativity meets technology.
- **High-Demand Skills** – Communication, design, and tech skills are valuable in almost every industry.
- **Constant Innovation** – Work with the latest tools, software, and trends in an ever-evolving field.
- **Personal Fulfillment** – Build a career doing what you love while making an impact through creativity and connection.





ENGINEERING MANUFACTURING



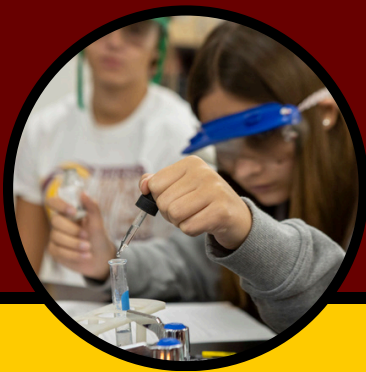
RELATED COURSES, ACADEMICS, AND EXPERIENCES

Recommended Career and Technical Courses	Related Courses	Academic Preparation	Recommended Experiences
• Industrial Tech 9/10 • Intro to CAD • CAD II • Metals • Adv Metals • Trades • Small Engines • Woods • Construction / Ag Mechanics • CNC Design • Advanced Woods • Drones • Work-Based Learning	• World Languages • MState Trigonometry • MState Statistics • MState College Algebra	Students planning to work in the skilled trades may want consider apprenticeship opportunities. A balance of hands-on and academic preparation is important.	• FFA • Work-Based Learning

BENEFITS OF A JOB IN ENGINEERING/MANUFACTURING

- Hands-On Problem Solving - Design, build, and improve the systems and structures people rely on every day.
- High Demand & Job Security - Skilled workers and technical experts are needed across many industries.
- Innovation at Work - Use advanced tools, robotics, and technology to create real-world solutions.
- Great Earning Potential - Many technical and engineering careers offer strong wages and advancement opportunities.
- Build the Future - From roads and buildings to products and supply chains, your work shapes the world around you.





HEALTH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY



RELATED COURSES, ACADEMICS, AND EXPERIENCES

Recommended Career and Technical Courses	Related Courses	Academic Preparation	Recommended Experiences
• Computer Applications • Personal Fitness • Senior High Phy. Ed. • MState Biology I • MState Biology II • MnWest CNA Course • MNWest Health Careers	• World Languages • MState Sociology • MState General Psychology	A mix of Health, Science, and Social Studies courses. Students aiming for a 4-year or advanced degree in Health Science should also have a strong foundation in math and writing.	• Business Professionals of America (BPA) • CNA or other related work experience in long-term care facilities • Participation in Athletics • Strength & Conditioning (Before/After school)

BENEFITS OF A JOB IN HEALTH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY

- **Make a Difference** – Help improve lives through healthcare, research, and innovation.
- **High Demand** – Skilled professionals are always needed in medical, research, and technical fields.
- **Endless Career Options** – From nursing and lab work to biomedical engineering and data science.
- **Lifelong Learning** – Constant advancements keep the work exciting and intellectually rewarding.
- **Strong Earning Potential** – Many roles offer competitive pay and opportunities for specialization.





HUMAN SERVICES

RELATED COURSES, ACADEMICS, AND EXPERIENCES

Recommended Career and Technical Courses	Related Courses	Academic Preparation	Recommended Experiences
• Computer Applications • Accounting • MState Sociology • MState General Psychology	• World Languages • Minnesota History • Pop Culture	Strong academic preparation in English Language Arts and Social Studies.	• Experience Coaching or Leading Youth • National Honor Society (NHS) • Student Council • Peer Tutoring

BENEFITS OF A JOB IN HUMAN SERVICES

- **Make an Impact** – Help individuals, families, and communities improve their quality of life.
- **Wide Range of Roles** – From social work and counseling to childcare and community programs.
- **Personal Fulfillment** – See the difference your work makes every day.
- **Strong Job Outlook** – Growing demand for compassionate, skilled professionals in many settings.
- **Meaningful Connections** – Build relationships and support people through life's challenges.





EDUCATION

RELATED COURSES, ACADEMICS, AND EXPERIENCES

Recommended Career and Technical Courses	Related Courses	Academic Preparation	Recommended Experiences
• Computer Applications • Accounting • MState Sociology • MState General Psychology • MState Public Speaking • MState College Writing	• World Languages • Minnesota History • Pop Culture	Strong academic preparation in English Language Arts and Social Studies.	• Experience Coaching or Leading Youth • National Honor Society (NHS) • Student Council • Peer Tutoring

BENEFITS OF A JOB IN EDUCATION

- Inspire the Next Generation - Make a lasting impact by helping students learn and grow.
- Variety of Roles - Teach, coach, counsel, or lead —there's a path for every passion.
- Lifelong Learning - Continue to grow your own skills while helping others reach their potential.
- Community Connection - Build strong relationships and contribute to your local community.
- Rewarding Work - Few careers offer the same level of purpose and personal fulfillment.





ENLISTING

ACTIVY DUTY
RESERVES
NATIONAL GUARD
SPLIT TRAINING & CIVILIAN OPTIONS



ENROLLED OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEMBERS
• 4-year degree required Pathways: ◦ Military Academies ◦ ROTC During College ◦ Officer Candidate School	• High School Diploma • Infantry Roles & Other Training • Full-Time & Part-Time Options

ARMY FULL/PART TIME 	MARINE CORPS FULL/PART TIME 	NAVY FULL/PART TIME 
Full Time	Full Time	Full Time
<u>Army.</u> As the oldest branch of the U.S. Military, the Army protects the security of the United States and its resources.	<u>Marine Corps</u> The Marine Corps is often first on the ground in combat situations.	<u>Navy</u> The Navy delivers combat-ready Naval forces while maintaining security in the air and at sea.
Part Time	Part Time	Part Time
<u>Army Reserve</u> The Army Reserve trains part time near home until needed, and members deploy alongside the Army.	<u>Marine Corps Reserve</u> Marine Corps reservists train domestically and deploy with the rest of the Corps.	<u>Navy Reserve</u> The Navy Reserve trains close to home. They serve in the U.S. or abroad in support of the Navy's mission.
<u>Army National Guard</u> Army National Guard members deploy with the Army on a part-time basis. Their service focus is on the state level, but they may also serve nationally.		

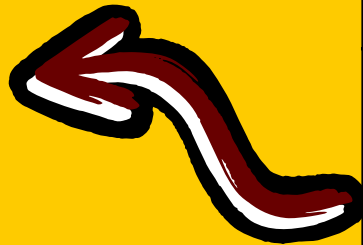


ENLISTING

ENLISTED MEMBERS
MILITARY OFFICERS



 **TODAY'S
MILITARY**



HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT MILITARY SERVICE?

- Visit Your School Counselor
- Talk to a Military Recruiter
- Attend a BASE on Military Service
- Visit: www.todaysmilitary.com

 AIR FORCE FULL/PART TIME	 SPACE FORCE FULL/PART TIME	 COAST GUARD FULL/PART TIME
Full Time	Full Time	Full Time
<u>Air Force</u> The Air Force protects American interests at home and abroad with a focus on air power.	<u>Space Force</u> The Space force defends U.S. interests on land, in the air, and from orbit with a range of advanced training and technology	<u>Coast Guard</u> The Coast Guard is a maritime force offering military, law enforcement, humanitarian, regulatory and diplomatic capabilities.
Part Time		Part Time
<u>Air Force Reserve</u> The Air Force Reserve trains and serves on a part-time basis, performing flying and other specialized missions for the Air Force. <u>Air National Guard</u> The Air National Guard trains part-time to assist, first on the state level, but they may also serve nationally.		<u>Coast Guard Reserve</u> The Coast Guard Reserve typically trains and serves near home, offering the chance to contribute part-time and make a difference.



Benson
Public
Schools



BENSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

