# BENSON HIGH SCHOOL | 1400 MONTANA AVENUE, BENSON, MN 56215

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

# NEWSLETTER

**DECEMBER 2025**

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to another issue of our monthly newsletter! We're excited to continue sharing the great things happening at Benson High School and keeping you connected with the work our students and staff are doing each month. There's always more happening than we can fit on a couple pages, but we're glad to highlight some of this month's standout moments.

## Braves Etc. Store

Looking for a great way to show your Braves pride? Visit the Braves, Etc. School Store, which features a variety of Braves apparel, accessories, and gift items for students, families, and fans.

The School Store is open on school days from 11:52am - 12:37pm. For additional information, contact Mrs. Razink at bravesetc@benson.k12.mn.us or 320-843-2710 ext. 2339. New merchandise is added regularly, so be sure to check back often. All items can be picked up and paid for directly in the School Store.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

12/24 - 1/2
Holiday Break

1/5 - School is back in session

1/5 - School Board Meeting @ 5:30pm (Wi-Fi Cafe located at Benson High School)

1/9 - End of Semester
Early Release for Students

1/19 - No School

## A NOTE FROM ASHLEY KENT

December always brings a shift in pace. The days get shorter, routines change, and before long we're heading into a break from our regular school schedule. While this season is often tied to holidays, we also know it can look very different from one student to the next.

At the high school, we value the structure of our school days. There's something important about students showing up, learning together, asking questions, and settling into routines. At the same time, breaks matter too. They give everyone a chance to slow down, catch their breath, and reset before coming back.
I tend to think of the school year as having natural stopping points. Winter break is one of them. It's a chance to pause, reflect a bit on what's been learned so far, and get ready for what comes next. That reset might mean extra sleep, time with others, working on a hobby, or simply enjoying a change in routine.

If there's one small thing I'd encourage students to do over break, it's to read something by choice. It doesn't have to be a huge novel or anything academic. A comic, a sports article, a how-to guide, or even an audiobook or podcast all count.

As we head into break, I want students and families to know how much we enjoy having students here each day. We hope the time away allows everyone to reset in the way they need, and we look forward to welcoming students back soon!

## Vaping & Nicotine Awareness

Earlier this month, Benson's 7th grade students participated in an important educational presentation focused on the dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping. Nicole Erickson, Primary Prevention Nurse with Countryside Public Health, shared age-appropriate information about nicotine, how it affects developing brains, and why avoiding vaping is critical to long-term health.

The presentation encouraged students to make informed, healthy choices and provided them with knowledge to better understand the risks associated with nicotine use. We appreciate Nicole Erickson and Countryside Public Health for partnering with our school to support student wellness and prevention education.

## Impact Teen Drivers Event

Our 10th grade students recently participated in a safe-driving presentation from Impact Teen Drivers. The session was led by Sarah DeHaan, Southwest Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Regional Coordinator, and Minnesota State Trooper Josh Monson, who spoke with students about responsible driving and the dangers of high-risk behaviors such as distracted driving. Impact Teen Drivers works across Minnesota to reduce preventable crashes, and students benefited from hearing real-world examples and safety-focused guidance. We thank Impact Teen Drivers, Sarah DeHaan, and Trooper Monson for sharing this important message.

## BHS Athletic Milestones!

This past month marked several big achievements for Benson Braves student-athletes. Senior Harold Habben reached 1,000 career points in his high school basketball career, a major milestone for the Braves basketball program.
On the wrestling mat, senior Max Nygaard earned his 150th career win, while sophomore Adrian Young reached his 60th career win. The Benson wrestling team is also currently undefeated this season!
Congratulations to Harold, Max, and Adrian on their accomplishments. We wish the rest of our winter athletic teams the best of luck as they continue their seasons.

## Superintendent Search

The School Board of Benson Public Schools has begun the search for the district's next superintendent and is working with the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) to support the effort. Community input is an important part of selecting the next leader for Benson Public Schools.

**Superintendent Search Survey**
An anonymous public survey is open to all community members until January 5, 2026. Use the QR below to complete the survey. Paper copies of the survey are also available in the High School and Elementary School main offices. All paper surveys should be returned by January 5th. After the survey closes, MSBA will compile and present a summary of the results to the School Board.

**Virtual Q&A Session with MSBA**
A virtual Q&A session was held on December 17th to provide information about the superintendent search. A recording of the session is available on the district website for those who would like to view it.

The School Board encourages community members to complete the survey and stay engaged as Benson Public Schools moves forward in the superintendent search.

Stay up to date on the superintendent search by visiting: https://www.benson.k12.mn.us/superintendent-search