



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

We're pleased to bring you another monthly update from Benson High School. This newsletter highlights the ongoing efforts and achievements of our students and staff, helping keep our school community connected. Although there is always more happening than space allows, we're excited to feature some of the key moments from the past month.



Snow Week 2026

Benson High School will celebrate Snow Week 2026 from February 2–February 6, bringing a week of school spirit, activities, and fun for students and staff.

The week will kick off with Snow Week Coronation on Sunday, February 1st at 6:00pm in the Performing Arts Center. This year's theme, Winter Olympics, will set the stage for a spirited celebration.

Get ready to cheer on our students and enjoy a week full of Snow Week excitement!

Congratulations to our 2026 Snow Week Royalty!
King Candidates: Tayte Antolick, Zachary Sather, John McGee, Dylan Sanders, and Cooper Koenig
Queen Candidates: Keala Carroll, Anabelle DeToy, Sophia Krusemark, Ava Williams, and Brooke Hoberg
Junior Representatives: Addison Schauer, Carly Klimek, Haden Thole, Mario Alvarez Cruz
Sophomore Representatives: Tara Beyer, Madisyn Razink, Reece Lundebrek, Noah Nichols



Upcoming Dates to Remember

2/1 - Snow Week Coronation
6:00pm - PAC

2/5 - Special Board Meeting
5:00pm - WiFi Cafe

2/11 + 2/12 - Special Board Meeting - Supt. Interviews
4:00pm - WiFi Cafe

2/13 - Scheduled Early Release for Students

2/16 - No School

2/17 - Special Board Meeting
Second Supt. Interviews
4:00pm - WiFi Cafe

Superintendent Search Update

Benson Public Schools continues to move forward with the superintendent search process throughout the month of February. The School Board will hold several special meetings to identify and interview candidates as part of this important process. All February meetings will be held at Benson High School in the Wi-Fi Café.

On Thursday, February 5, 2026, the School Board will meet to review applicants and determine the finalist(s) who will advance in the search. This special meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m.

The first round of interviews will take place during a Special School Board Meeting on February 11 and 12, 2026, beginning at 4:00 p.m. each day.

The School Board will then conduct a second round of interviews during a Special School Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Community members are encouraged to stay informed as the district works toward selecting its next superintendent. Additional updates will be shared as the process continues.

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



Building Bridges in STEM

Seventh-grade students in Mr. Kletscher's S.T.E.M. class recently experienced engineering in action during a hands-on "Bridge in a Bag" activity led by guests from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). The activity gave students a real-world look at bridge design, construction, and problem-solving.

The visit was especially meaningful as two Benson High School graduates—Chad Schwarz (BHS Class of 2014), now a Project Supervisor, and Matthew Tolifson (BHS Class of 2020), a Trainee Graduate Engineer—returned to share their knowledge of civil engineering and what their careers look like today. They were joined by Jenai Seley from the MnDOT Detroit Lakes Office. Thank you to MnDOT for providing this engaging learning opportunity and inspiring our students. It was exciting to welcome BHS graduates back into the building and highlight how classroom learning connects to future careers.



Fish & Wildlife Activity

Students in Mr. Manzke's Fish and Wildlife class participated in an engaging, hands-on lab involving the dissection of black crappies. The fish were generously donated by the Fisheries Office in Glenwood, Minnesota, making this real-world learning experience possible.

During the lab, students identified external and internal fish structures and explored key anatomical systems. Each student removed otoliths, commonly known as "ear bones," which are used by biologists to determine a fish's age. Students also examined muscle tissue, reproductive organs, and digestive structures, deepening their understanding of fish anatomy and biology.

This memorable lab kept students engaged from start to finish and provided valuable insight into careers and skills connected to fish and wildlife sciences.

Celebrating Our CNA Students

We are proud to recognize our CNA students from first semester and the continued growth of the BHS Medical Careers Program. Thanks to support from the LYFT grant, Benson Schools is able to offer valuable opportunities through the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course and the Intro to Health Careers class.

The CNA course, taught by Amanda Carruth during first semester, provided students with the opportunity to earn their Certified Nursing Assistant certification by the end of the course. Beginning second semester, students can continue their learning in the Intro to Health Careers class, also taught by Amanda, where they build foundational knowledge and explore a variety of healthcare career pathways.

We are excited to see our students developing essential skills and discovering future career opportunities in the healthcare field.



School Nurse Updates + Reminders

Give Kids a Smile

FREE Dental Care for Kids in Need



WHEN TO STAY HOME

FEVER

Temperature of 100 degrees or higher. The child should not return to school until fever free without use of fever-reducing medication (Tylenol or Ibuprofen) for 24 hours.



VOMITING AND DIARRHEA

Vomiting and Diarrhea: The child should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.



INFLUENZA, COVID, OR ANY RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Stay at home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications (Tylenol or Ibuprofen) and child is well enough to participate in normal activities.



STREP THROAT

The child may return to school 12 hours after starting medication and 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medications (Tylenol or Ibuprofen).

