



# BHS Centennial of Education

## 2026 Scholarship Application Packet

All BHS Seniors who are planning to attend post-secondary education (full-time – Fall 2026) are encouraged to complete the scholarship application packet. Approximately 60 scholarships with a total value of more than \$50,000 are available (in varying amounts) and will be awarded to eligible applicants who have completed the application process.

All applications are to be COMPLETED & SUBMITTED to the counselor's office by the

**APPLICATION DEADLINE - TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 BY 3:30 PM**

In the event that the deadline date is a snow day, the deadline will be extended to the next day school is in session.

**ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS:** Please review the criteria for each scholarship listed in this packet. The **2025-2026 BHS Centennial of Education Scholarship Application Form** may be found on the District website at [www.benson.k12.mn.us](http://www.benson.k12.mn.us) under Schools, Benson High School, Counselor's Corner. Download and save the BHS Scholarship Application to your own directory before beginning.

You may apply for as many of the scholarships as you qualify for, but remember that a **separate application form** and **letter of application is needed for each one**. In your letter, include the reasons you believe you are a good candidate to be awarded the scholarship, and how you meet the scholarship guidelines.

**On the application form, please check the box in front of the name of the scholarship for which you are applying, and staple this form to the front of the corresponding application. The correct GPA to be recorded on your application form is the 9-12 "Cumulative GPA" found on your transcript. (Do not use "year GPA" or "term GPA". Incorrect GPA's are crossed out on your application and corrected.)** If you have questions about GPA, please talk to Jason Strand.

**You must get any information needed from the counselor's office prior to the March 17 deadline.**

**USE OF REFERENCES:** Applications ask for names of references. Reference letters are not required for the BHS scholarships, but these people may be contacted in the selection process. Please procure permission before listing anyone as a reference. If letters of recommendation are required with any of your applications, common courtesy would be to assure ample time for those from whom you have requested these letters.

**PAYMENT:** Unless otherwise stated, payment will be made to the student next winter, after verification of completion of the first term of the student's postsecondary freshman year is received. Watch for this Verification Voucher to come to your parents' address mid-November. Full time enrollment is required.

**\*\*All Scholarships will be awarded at a Scholarship Ceremony on Monday May 11, 2026.\*\***

All seniors and their parents should plan to attend. Good luck during this scholarship process!

It is the policy of District #777 to comply with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination to the end that no person protected by such laws shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any education program.

# **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION AND CRITERIA**

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## **Agnes Dorothy Vogel (Olson) and Esther Alvina Horsted (Olson) Scholarships – Two Scholarships - \$1000 each**

CRITERIA: Awarded to two graduating BHS girls pursuing educational degrees. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining your interest in an educational degree (i.e. teaching).

## **Al and Mary Ann Grage NDSCS Scholarship - \$500**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior accepted to attend NDSCS. Priority given to those with financial need. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter of application to the Scholarship Committee.

## **Albert Lokken Music Honors Scholarship - \$400**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior active in the BHS with a lifelong love of music. Accepted to a college, university, or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter explaining your interest/involvement in the Music program at BHS.

## **Alyssa Pollock Memorial Scholarship - \$100**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior, accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee. This scholarship is meant to stand as a lasting memorial to Alyssa

## **Arthur, Pearl, Arlen, & Wayne Larson Family Memorial Scholarships – Five \$4,000 Scholarships (\$1,000 a year/payable over four years for those who maintain a 3.0 college GPA and full-time enrollment status).**

CRITERIA: Awarded to five graduating seniors who have demonstrated excellence in academics, extra-curricular and community activities - who plan to attend a two or four-year college or university. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining your goals, aspiration, and need. These scholarships will be renewed annually upon receipt of GPA verification, enrollment status, and receipt of funds from the Larson Family. These scholarships are awarded by the children of Arthur and Pearl Larson (Jennings-Class of '65 and Phyllis Larson-Lindsey-Class of '60) as a lasting memorial to their parents and brothers Wayne (Class of 1955) and Arlen (Class of 1954).

## **Benson Education Association Scholarship - \$500**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior planning a career in Education. Accepted to a college or university REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter explaining your interest in a teaching career.

## **Benson Jaycees Scholarship - \$100**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior active in school and community activities. Accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter of application to the Scholarship Committee.

## **Benson Kiwanis Scholarships – Two Scholarships - \$200 each**

CRITERIA: Awarded to two graduating seniors active in school and community activities. Accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Kiwanis Scholarship Committee.

## **Benson Lions Club Scholarships – Two Scholarships - \$300 each**

CRITERIA: Benson Lions Club, with a motto of "We Serve", is looking for graduating seniors who are active in school and community activities and are accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter of application to the Scholarship Committee. Applicant's financial need will also be considered in this award. Check will be issued by the Benson Lions Club.

## **Benson Sidekicks Tae Kwon Do Scholarship - \$100**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior who is a past/present student of the Benson Sidekicks Tae Kwon Do organization. Accepted to a 4-year college or technical college. Also accepted will be those who have been sworn in to the United States Military, will be leaving for or has attended basic training. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the scholarship selection committee explaining how your participation in Tae Kwon Do has helped you become who you are today. Include a letter of recommendation from an adult (other than your parent). Minimum accepted is yellow belt certification. For US Military, your recruiter's signature on application form stating applicant has cleared all requirements and is going to or has completed basic.

## **BHS Alumni Scholarships – Three Scholarships - \$500 each**

CRITERIA: The students receiving these scholarships will have demonstrated excellence in academics, extra-curricular and community activities. Awarded to graduating seniors accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and letter to the Scholarship Committee.

**BHS Centennial of Education Individual Class & General Fund Scholarships**

**Class of 1954 - \$400    Class of 1955 - \$200    Class of 1962 - \$100    Class of 1963 - \$100    Class of 1964 - \$100**  
**Class of 1974 - \$100    Class of 1983 - \$100    General Fund Scholarships - Multiple awarded/amounts may vary**

CRITERIA: Awarded to graduating seniors accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and letter of application to the Centennial of Education Scholarship Committee.

**Brian Flanders (BHS Class of 1991) Memorial Award – Laptop Computer**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior in good academic standing with preference given to a senior planning to pursue a career in a Computer Science/Technology field. Accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee stating education and career goals. Applicant's financial need will also be considered in this award.

**CentraCare Benson RN-LPN Professional Union-Local #2053 Scholarship – \$500**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior who is planning to pursue a career in the healthcare field and has maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining the following questions: 1) What field you chose and why; 2) Goals and aspirations pertaining to the chosen career path; 3) What qualities you have that will make you successful in pursuing your goals.

**Cory L. Braaten Memorial Scholarships sponsored by Benson Women of Today – Three Scholarships - \$500 each**

CRITERIA: Awarded to three graduating seniors accepted to a college or technical college, who have demonstrated leadership qualities in school and in the community. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application required and a letter to the Scholarship Committee. Check will be issued by Benson Women of Today.

**DECA-Business Scholarships - Two Scholarships - \$250 each**

CRITERIA: Awarded to graduating seniors with at least a 3.0 GPA and planning a career in Business. Accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BPA member; BHS Application, resume, and a letter of application to the Scholarship Committee.

**Dody Fuchs-Abbott Memorial Scholarship - \$500**

This scholarship is in memory of Dody Fuchs-Abbott, a Benson graduate of the class of 1955. CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior who has been accepted to an accredited 4-year college or university. Applicants must have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA. The students must have demonstrated excellence in extra-curricular and community activities and demonstrate financial need. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter addressing your aspirations and how living in Benson has helped position you to move forward to fulfill your dreams.

**Dr. Richard & Anita Horecka Scholarship – \$500**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior planning to pursue a career in the field of health/medicine. Accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining your interest in the health field. This scholarship is awarded by Dr. Richard & Anita Horecka.

**Dr. Richard Huston Endowment Scholarship – \$1000**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior who will study some area of agriculture or medicine at a technical, community or 4 year university. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee stating what field they intend to study and also send via USPS a thank you setting out what you intend to study. This scholarship is given in memory Dr. Houston's parents Minnie and Willard Huston, and wife Nancie Huston.

**Dubbels Business Scholarship - \$250**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a senior planning to pursue a post-secondary career in a business-related field who is active in extracurricular activities. Preference given to BPA members. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee. Must have at least a 3.0 GPA or be in the top % of the class.

**Duaine Flanders Memorial Award – \$1000**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior, accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee.

**E.W. "Bill" Orr Biology Scholarship - \$500**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior planning to pursue a career in a biology related field, (medicine, wildlife management, forestry management, teaching of biological sciences, etc.). Student must have maintained at least a B average and be accepted to a college or technical college in pursuit of a biology related degree. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining your interest in a career in the field of biology.

### **Harvey Hoffman Memorial Nursing Scholarship - \$100**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior planning to pursue a career in nursing. Accepted to a college or technical college nursing program. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining your interest in the nursing field.

### **Johnson Fertilizer Memorial Scholarship - \$500**

CRITERIA: To honor Dave & Deann Johnson's commitment to the ag industry, we are offering a \$500 scholarship to a student pursuing a career in agriculture. REQUIREMENTS: BHS application and a letter describing your future plans in the ag industry.

### **Lake Central Bank Scholarships – Two Scholarships - \$1,000 Each**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior who has been accepted into a college or technical college. Preference given to a senior planning to pursue a post-secondary career in a business-related field REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee.

### **Larson Vocational Scholarship – Varying Amounts**

CRITERIA: Awarded to graduating seniors pursuing a vocational degree/certificate. Preference given to students who have been active in the BHS vocational classes. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining your goals, aspiration, and need. These scholarships are awarded by the children of Arthur and Pearl Larson (Jennings-Class of '65 and Phyllis Larson-Lindsey Class of '60) as a lasting memorial to their parents and brothers Wayne (Class of 1955) and Arlen (Class of 1954).

### **Leon Brockmeyer Memorial Scholarship – \$200**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior with at least a 2.0 GPA and active in school and community. Accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee.

### **Marion Morlock-Payne Scholarship - \$400**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior active in school and community activities. Accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee stating education and career goals. Applicant's financial need will also be considered for this scholarship.

### **Masons Swift Lodge #129 Scholarships - Two Scholarships - \$500 each**

CRITERIA: Awarded to graduating seniors with a high degree of self-initiative, leadership, work attitude, loyalty, citizenship and service to human kind. Must rank in the upper 1/3 of the class and be accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee addressing criteria.

### **Mick Quinn State Farm Scholarship - \$250**

State Farm, being the "Good Neighbor" company, is looking for people to be good neighbors. In 300 words or less, explain what Good Neighbor services you have done for your community. Thank you for taking the time to apply for this scholarship.

### **Miles Staton Athletic Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000**

CRITERIA: Awarded to one graduating BHS student athlete who demonstrates exceptional leadership skills, and a dedication to excellence - both in the classroom and on the field of athletic competition. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining your leadership qualities, and BHS activities involvement and how that has helped to better prepare you for the future. Preference given to three sport athletes with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher.

### **Music Boosters Scholarship - \$400**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior active in the BHS music program. Accepted to a college or technical college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter explaining your interest/involvement in the arts. Check will be issued by the Music Boosters.

### **Paul Kittelson Memorial Scholarship - \$500**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior active in BHS declam, plays, debate, Voice of Democracy and/or out for track and is active in community activities who has been accepted to a university, college or a technical college.

REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter of application to the Scholarship Committee.

Paul was a beloved BHS teacher for 30 years who directed plays, musicals, debates, declams, helped students prepare for the Voice of Democracy and was a track coach. He was active in the BEA as their president and negotiator. After his teaching career he was Benson's Mayor for 20 years.

### **Rose Skarsten Memorial Scholarship - \$100**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior attending the University of Minnesota (Morris, Twin Cities, Duluth, Crookston, or Rochester) with a family background in agriculture. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and letter to the Scholarship Committee.

### **Susan Anfinson Memorial Scholarship - \$750**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior in good academic standing who has been accepted to a liberal arts college. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter explaining your interest in liberal arts study. Check will be issued by the Anfinson family.

### **William J "Bill" Collins Memorial Scholarship - \$100**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a deserving senior. Preference given to students pursuing degrees in Law or Business Administration. REQUIREMENTS: BHS Application and a letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining your interest in a career in Law or Business. This scholarship is meant to stand as a lasting memorial to Bill.

## **ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***Requiring Special Applications (posted on BHS website)***

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### **Benson VFW Post #1403 Scholarships – Two Scholarships - \$500 each**

CRITERIA: Awarded to two graduating seniors accepted to a college or technical college, with a family relationship to a military veteran (parent or grandparent). REQUIREMENTS: *Special Application required and a letter of application to the Scholarship Committee. Essay also required.* Check will be issued by the Benson VFW Post #1403.

### **Carl Hoffman (BHS Class of 2012) Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000**

CRITERIA: The scholarship will be awarded to one graduating senior planning to enroll in a community technical college or 4-year university. Sports played a vital role in Carl's life, leading to lifelong friends and showing passion in everything he did. The applicant must be involved in at least one sport and give everything he/she has on and off the field. Carl was proud to be a graduate of Benson High School and showed his pride of the maroon and gold throughout his high school years. The applicant does not need to be the best student or the best athlete, but should be positive, play to have fun, be inclusive, and exude school spirit. REQUIREMENTS: *The applicant must complete the Special Application for the Carl Hoffman (BHS Class of 2012) Memorial Scholarship and attach a letter to the Hoffman Family explaining why he/she should receive this scholarship.* A check will be issued by the Hoffman Family.

### **Co-op Credit Union Scholarships – Two Scholarships - \$500 each**

CRITERIA: Awarded to graduating seniors accepted to a college or technical college, with a banking relationship with Co-op Credit Union. REQUIREMENTS: *Special Application required and a letter of application to the Scholarship Committee.* Checks will be issued by the Co-op Credit Union.

### **Daniel Hughes Memorial Scholarship Application - \$1,000**

CRITERIA: Awarded to one graduating senior planning to enroll in a community technical college or 4-year university. Additional consideration will be given to the applicant who is going into any agricultural field of study and has been in wrestling. REQUIREMENTS: *Special Application required and a letter of application to the Scholarship Committee.*

### **Dr. Joel W. Hoium Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior at BHS who has maintained a B average (3.0 & above), who is interested in pursuing a career in science or medicine. REQUIREMENTS: *Special Application required and one letter of recommendation to the Scholarship Committee.*

### **Jerry Wersinger Memorial Scholarship - \$1000**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating Benson High School Senior advancing their career in the area of Agriculture, Farming, or Agri-Business with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Candidates are encouraged, but not required to continue with post-secondary education as long as he or she is actively engaged in their own or family farm. Candidates must have lived or worked on their family farm for a minimum of 5 years. Preference may be given to students who have been involved in the BHS Wrestling program and who can articulate the connection between family values and their dedication to agriculture. Use of Scholarship Proceeds (Desired, but not required): College tuition, agricultural investments, or retirement of agriculture-related debt. REQUIREMENTS: *Special Application required.*

### **Jim Mills Memorial Scholarship - \$1000**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating BHS student/athlete who demonstrates exceptional leadership in the classroom and on the field of athletic competition. REQUIREMENTS: *Special Application required and letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining involvement in athletics at BHS and how that involvement has helped to better prepare you for the future.* Checks will be issued by the Mills Memorial Scholarship Fund.

### **L.A. Amundson Scholarships – Various Amounts**

First Security Bank is the proud sponsor of the L.A. Amundson Scholarship. In order to be eligible for the L.A. Amundson Scholarship you, or your parents need to have a primary account with First Security Bank. We mail out our scholarship information around Thanksgiving time. If you did not receive the information and you feel you should have, please stop in and visit with us or contact First Security Bank at 320-843-4411.

### **Mary Lou Abner Terwilliger Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating BHS girl who will be attending a college, university or technical college and has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and a caring attitude to their fellow students and citizens of the Benson Community. REQUIREMENT: *Complete Special Online Application*. This scholarship is meant to stand as a lasting memorial to Mary Lou of the Class of '57".

### **Megan Pothen Graham Memorial Scholarship - \$500**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior attending any higher educational public institution. It is preferred that the student has a high school work history, is from a single-parent household, and is pursuing a Registered Nursing Degree. REQUIREMENTS: *Complete Megan Pothen Graham Memorial Scholarship Application. Applicant's financial need will also be considered for this scholarship.*

### **Swift County Corn & Soybean Growers Association – Two Scholarships - \$1,000 each**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior pursuing a future in agriculture or a related field and is planning to enroll in two, three, or four-year post-secondary education. Applicants must be a resident of Swift County and their parents must be members of the MN Corn Growers or MN Soybean Growers Association. REQUIREMENTS: *Special Application required.*

### **Tom Petersen Memorial Scholarship - \$500**

CRITERIA: Awarded to a graduating senior accepted to any public college or technical college. Based upon economic need and work history (preference given to single-parent households). REQUIREMENTS: *Special Application required and letter to the Scholarship Committee explaining need and work history.*

### **Edgar Coryell, Clara Coryell, Grace Walls & Richard Walls Memorial Scholarships (Two \$3000 Scholarships to be awarded; one boy/one girl.) <[www.communitygiving.org](http://www.communitygiving.org)>**

CRITERIA: Awarded to one senior boy and one senior girl, who are accepted to an accredited college, university or technical college. Applicants must have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale). Eligible applicants are high school seniors attending BHS and must live within a ten-mile radius of the city limits of Benson, and should be permanent residents of the State of Minnesota. Applicants must demonstrate financial need, and through involvement in extra-curricular school activities and participation, show a recognizable contribution to Benson High School, as well as to community values and service. The likelihood of succeeding in college or trade school will also be a determining factor. Scholarships are not renewable. REQUIREMENTS: *Special Application required, two letters of recommendation, and letter to the Scholarship Committee addressing criteria.*

Edgar & Clara Coryell spent the majority of their married life in Benson. Clara was a teacher and the couple instilled the value of education in their three daughters, Grace Coryell-Walls, Edith Coryell-Erdman, and Alice Coryell Lee Nelson. All three graduated from Benson High School and went on to become teachers. Grace Coryell-Walls and her husband Richard Walls were generous in the disposition of their estates, establishing endowed scholarships in both of their hometowns named for their respective parents and themselves, perhaps as a legacy for the children that they never had. The Edgar Coryell, Clara Coryell, Grace Walls and Richard Walls Scholarship Fund annually awards two \$3000 Scholarships, to one boy and one girl who is a member of that year's graduating class.

### **Edgar Coryell, Clara Coryell, Grace Walls & Richard Walls Memorial Scholarships**

**Application and Selection Procedures:** Completed Application Forms will be reviewed and evaluated by the Benson High School Scholarship Advisory Committee who will recommend scholarship applicants to the Community Foundation's Board of Directors. The Board will then approve or disapprove the Committee's recommendations.

**Coryell-Walls Applicant Responsibilities:** Applicants are responsible for completing the application form, writing and submitting the essay/statement, and submitting a copy of their most recent high school transcript. If the applicant has transferred high schools, those transcripts should also be submitted. If the student has selected a college or institution to attend, the college or technical financial aid officer is responsible, at the student's request, to fill out the appropriate sections. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. A complete scholarship application contains the following:

1. A scholarship application form filled out completely by the student, and signed by the financial aid officer of the college/ university/vocational/trade school which the student has selected to attend.
2. A personal statement answering the seven questions on the attached sheet, describing the student's career and educational goals. This statement should not exceed two typewritten, double-spaced pages. The statement is very important in the selection process.

3. Two reference letters commenting on the applicant's strengths and weaknesses, student's motivation to achieve, and leadership experience.
4. Current transcript from Benson High School showing a "B" average or better.
5. **The completed scholarship application must be returned to the Benson High School Counseling Office by March, 16, 2026. Notice that the Financial Aid Office of the College you have selected to attend must sign off with your financial needs analysis, based on your FAFSA/EFC and their cost estimates. Do not wait until the last week to secure this information as this process may take a little time. Make sure your FAFSA is completed ASAP.**

Check the Counselor's Corner on the BHS website periodically for new scholarship postings which are not part of the Centennial of Education Scholarship program. Churches, insurance companies, banks, credit unions, civic organizations, parent work places and the colleges to which you have applied may have additional scholarship opportunities you may be eligible for.

### ***Good luck during this scholarship process!***

#### **Mark your calendar for Monday, May 11, 2026 for the Annual Scholarship & Awards Ceremony**

All seniors and their parents should plan to attend. *If you have been awarded a scholarship not listed in this packet and you would like to have it announced at the Scholarship Ceremony, please submit that information to Mr. Strand in the high school office.*

