



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 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.



Spring Sports Season

Spring sports season is right around the corner, and our student-athletes are preparing for another exciting season of competition and growth. We are looking forward to seeing our teams back in action and representing our school with pride this spring. Practices and activities will begin on the following dates:

- March 9 – Baseball
- March 9 – Boys/Girls Track & Field
- March 9 – Softball
- March 16 – Boys/Girls Golf
- March 23 – Boys Tennis

Families should make sure student-athletes are registered and have all required paperwork completed before the first day of practice. Additional information regarding schedules and updates will be shared as the seasons approach.

We wish all of our athletes and coaches a successful and enjoyable spring season!



Upcoming Dates to Remember

3/5 - 6-12 Conferences
3:30-7:30pm

3/10 - School Board Meeting
Benson High School
Wi-Fi Cafe - 5:30pm

3/13 - Career Day

3/13 - Early Out

3/16 - No School

3/24 - ACT Testing

Benson School Board Selects New Superintendent

The Benson School Board has unanimously selected Dr. Julie Beddow-Schubert as the next superintendent of Benson Public Schools following a special meeting on February 17, 2026.

Dr. Beddow-Schubert is currently residing in Mission Viejo and was raised in Sauk Centre. She has spent most of her life in Minnesota and brings a wealth of experience in education. Her academic background includes degrees and certifications from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Cloud State University, Winona State University, and Hamline University. Her professional experience includes work in several Minnesota school districts and communities.

"I look forward to returning to Central Minnesota to serve the students, families, and community members of Benson. It feels like coming home," said Dr. Beddow-Schubert.

School Board Chair Brian Samuelson shared his enthusiasm about the selection, noting that Dr. Beddow-Schubert brings a strong commitment to student success and a positive vision for the future of the district. The School Board will begin contract negotiations with Dr. Beddow-Schubert, with formal approval expected at an upcoming board meeting. Her anticipated start date is July 1, 2026.

Benson Public Schools looks forward to welcoming Dr. Beddow-Schubert and working together to continue supporting students, staff, and the community.





Celebrating Academic Growth

Benson High School is proud to celebrate meaningful academic gains during the 2025–2026 school year. When comparing student performance to the previous year, the data reflects strong progress and continued commitment to academic excellence.

From the end of Quarter 1 of the 2024–2025 school year to the end of Quarter 1 of the 2025–2026 school year, the school-wide GPA increased from 3.04 to 3.17. Additionally, from the end of Quarter 2 of the 2024–2025 school year to the end of Quarter 2 of the 2025–2026 school year, the school-wide GPA rose from 2.889 to 3.065. These gains demonstrate consistent growth across grade levels and subject areas.

Academic improvement is also reflected in honor roll achievement. Using Benson High School's honor roll system, there was a 16.84% increase in the total number of students earning A/B Honor Roll from the 2024–2025 school year to the 2025–2026 school year. Notably, during Quarters 1 and 2 of this school year, two out of every three students earned a spot on the A/B Honor Roll. These accomplishments are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our students, along with the incredible support provided by our staff. We extend a sincere thank you to our teachers and support staff for the time, effort, and care they invest in helping students succeed.

Congratulations to our students on a strong start to the school year. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to see academic success grow at Benson High School.



Benson Athletes Represent at State

While not all of our winter sports seasons have concluded yet, Benson student-athletes have already made their mark by qualifying for state-level competition in both gymnastics and wrestling. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence have earned them the opportunity to compete among the best in Minnesota.

Benson-KMS Area Gymnastics

Earlier this month, the Benson-KMS Area gymnastics team earned Section 6A Runner-Up honors, with three individual gymnasts qualifying for state competition, which took place on February 21, 2026.

Individual state qualifiers included:

- Addison Kasella (8th grade)– Floor
- Jada O'Leary (Junior) – Vault
- Carly Tolifson (Junior) – Vault & Bars

Benson Wrestling

Benson also had four wrestlers who qualified for the state individual tournament. Their perseverance and determination throughout the season earned them spots at the highest level of competition. These athletes competed at the MSHSL Individual State Wrestling Tournament, held at Grand Casino Arena in St. Paul.

State qualifiers included:

- Gavin Olson (Senior) – 127 pounds
- Max Nygaard (Senior) – 139 pounds
- Darin Hippe (Junior) – 172 pounds
- Adrian Young (Sophomore) – 189 pounds

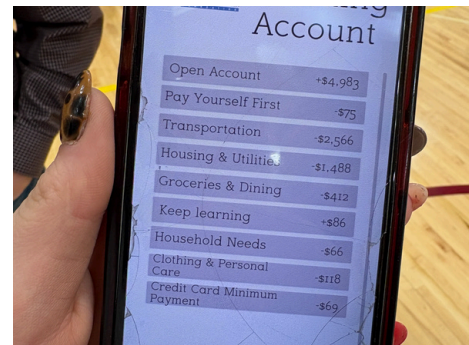
We are incredibly proud of all of our state participants for representing Benson Public Schools with dedication, pride, and sportsmanship. Congratulations to these student-athletes on outstanding seasons, and thank you for being excellent representatives of our school and community.



Juniors & Seniors Get a “Bite of Reality”

Benson High School juniors and seniors recently participated in Bite of Reality, an interactive financial literacy simulation that gave students a realistic look at adult life and money management. Through this app-based experience, students were assigned fictional careers, salaries, credit scores, families, and monthly expenses. As they rotated through stations to budget for housing, transportation, food, clothing, insurance, and other necessities, many quickly discovered that their budgets did not go as far as they had hoped. Bold car-buying decisions, commission-based salespeople, and surprise expenses from the Fickle Finger of Fate added to the realism—and the learning.

While there was plenty of laughter, the lessons were meaningful, helping students understand the importance of balancing wants versus needs and planning for unexpected costs. A big thank you to Co-op Credit Union for hosting this engaging event and providing our students with a valuable, real-world lesson in financial responsibility.



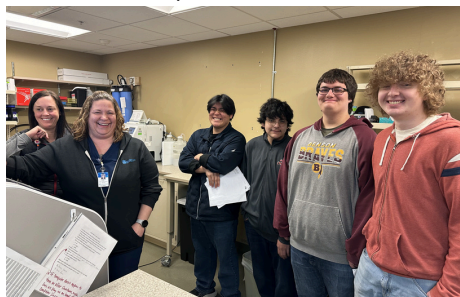


All-State Choir Honors

Seniors, Harold Habben and Madison Osterbauer proudly represented Benson Schools at the All-State Choir concert held on Saturday at St. Michael-Albertville High School. Selected through a competitive audition process, Harold and Madison joined more than 200 talented singers from across Minnesota. Participants spent a week last August at Concordia College Moorhead learning and preparing the music before coming together for the final performance. Special recognition goes to Andrew Naseth for his dedication in helping these students prepare for their auditions and for supporting them throughout the experience. Participation in the All-State Choir is a significant accomplishment, and we are proud of Harold and Madison for representing our school so well.

Anatomy & Physiology Visits Centra Care-Benson

A group of Dr. Southern's Anatomy & Physiology students recently had the opportunity to visit the laboratory at CentraCare Benson for a behind-the-scenes look at healthcare in action. During the visit, students toured the lab and learned how medical testing plays an important role in diagnosing and treating patients. The experience gave students a valuable real-world connection to the concepts they are studying in class and provided insight into careers in the medical field. Special thanks to Dr. Rebeka Srbu, Sarah Young (Clinic Manager), lab staff members Heather Fahje, Leann Simonson, and Katie Ellingson, and Kelly Carlson (Lab Manager) for sharing their time and expertise with our students.



BHS Students Try Curling

Mrs. Schmidt's elective health classes — Personal Fitness and Senior High Physical Education — recently enjoyed a unique field trip experience with a visit to the Glacial Ridge Curling Club in Willmar, where students had the opportunity to learn the sport of curling. During the visit, students were introduced to the fundamentals of curling, including proper technique, strategy, and teamwork. While many students arrived excited to try something new, they quickly discovered that curling requires more skill and precision than it may first appear. The hands-on experience provided a valuable opportunity for students to explore a lifetime recreational activity and experience a sport that is not commonly available in school settings. Experiences like this help broaden students' understanding of physical fitness while encouraging them to stay active in new and engaging ways. Benson Public Schools extends a sincere thank you to Glacial Ridge Curling Club for welcoming our students and providing instruction. Special appreciation also goes to Shannon Schmidt for organizing this memorable learning experience. This field trip was a great opportunity for students to try something new and create lasting memories outside the classroom.



Team "Ascheberg" Heads to State for E-Sports

Congratulations to Benson's "Team Ascheberg," Tristian Ascherman and Cole Oehlberg, on qualifying for the state esports competition this season. Competing in the Fortnite Division, Cole and Tristian put together an outstanding performance, finishing the regular season with a 7-1 record. Their strong play earned them an impressive 2nd-place finish out of 103 teams, securing their spot at the state tournament. The state esports competition will take place March 13-15 at St. Cloud State University. Qualifying for state is a tremendous accomplishment, and the Benson community is proud of the dedication and teamwork Tristian and Cole have shown throughout the season. We wish them the very best as they represent Benson at the state level.



Record-Breaking Night for Kaida

Junior Kaida Helgeset had a historic night during the girls basketball team's home win over YME on February 17th, breaking two school records in front of a hometown crowd. Kaida surpassed the previous career scoring record of 1,589 points, set by Emma Peterson (Class of 2013), and also broke the career three-point record of 200, previously held by Kaitlyn Berreau (Class of 2020). These milestones reflect Kaida's hard work and dedication, and we congratulate her on an outstanding achievement!

