



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

We're pleased to bring you another monthly update from Northside Elementary. 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.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

3/6 - Grades 1-3
Spring Concert - 1:30pm
Performing Arts Center

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

3/13 - Early Out

3/16 - No School

3/24 - Kindergarten
Registration Night
5:00-6:00pm

Family Resource: Free Color-Correcting Glasses

The Southwest Initiative Foundation, in partnership with the Jones family of Cottonwood, MN, and EnChroma, is offering free color-correcting glasses to students in southwest Minnesota who are colorblind.

Families can take a free online color blindness test at:
<https://enchroma.com/pages/color-blind-test>

If a need is identified, more information and the application can be found at:
<https://swifoundation.org/free-corrective-glasses-for-color-blind-students/>

Outreach is currently underway in Lyon County, with additional counties to follow. Families in the region may apply and select "Other southwest Minnesota school not listed" to join the waitlist if their district is not yet included.

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.





Kindergarten Registration Information

Kindergarten Registration for the 2026–2027 school year will take place on Tuesday, March 24th at Northside Elementary. Families with incoming kindergarten students are encouraged to attend this special event as their child prepares to begin their school journey.

Registration will be organized by last name in 20-minute intervals:

- **A-I: 5:00–5:20 p.m.**
- **J-R: 5:20–5:40 p.m.**
- **S-Z: 5:40–6:00 p.m.**

During the event, students will have the opportunity to “sign” their commitment letter to officially join the Class of 2039 and receive a commemorative Class of 2039 t-shirt. This event is a fun and meaningful way to celebrate an exciting milestone for both students and families.

Informational packets will be mailed to families in early March.

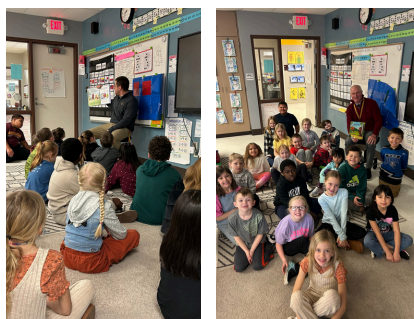
I Love to Read Month

February was I Love to Read Month, and students at Northside Elementary enjoyed a variety of activities to celebrate reading and the joy that books can bring.

Throughout the month, classrooms took part in special reading opportunities designed to encourage a lifelong love of books.

One highlight of the celebration was visits from school leaders. Principal Kent and Superintendent Laumeyer spent time reading to several classes, giving students a chance to hear stories from some familiar faces in a new way.

Events like these help make reading exciting and meaningful for students. Northside staff and students had a wonderful time celebrating I Love to Read Month and the many adventures that can be found in a good book.



Northside Students Hit the Ice + Slopes



Students at Northside Elementary enjoyed exciting winter field trips this month, staying active while trying new activities and building memories with classmates.

Third-grade students spent a day at the ice rink, where everyone—from first-time skaters to confident cruisers—had fun on the ice and gained new skills.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students traveled to Andes Tower Hills for a day of skiing. For many students, it was their first time on the slopes, and they enjoyed learning new skills and experiencing the excitement of skiing.

These trips gave students great opportunities to stay active and learn outside the classroom. Thank you to the staff and chaperones who helped make these experiences possible.

Northside Elementary Participates in Kids Heart Challenge

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Northside Elementary recently kicked off its participation in the Kids Heart Challenge, sponsored by the American Heart Association. Students gathered for a special assembly led by Angelique Goulet, who introduced the program and shared the importance of developing healthy habits such as staying active and eating nutritious foods.

Over the next two weeks, Northside students will take part in activities focused on heart health and helping others. One of the major goals for this year’s event is for every family to learn the lifesaving skill of Hands-Only CPR, a simple technique that can make a difference in an emergency.

Students and families are encouraged to participate by signing up through the Kids Heart Challenge website or the AHA Schools app. By registering and raising funds, participants will help support heart health education while earning resources that promote physical activity and wellness at Northside Elementary.

Through the Kids Heart Challenge, Northside Elementary hopes to build a strong community of lifesavers while encouraging students to develop healthy habits that will last a lifetime.

