



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

MARCH 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.



A Message from Mrs. Kent

At BHS, our goal is simple: we want students here, learning and connected each day. Regular attendance plays a major role in student success, not just academically, but also socially and emotionally. When students miss school, even for good reasons, it can be difficult to fully catch up on discussions, activities, and connections that happen in class.

Families can support strong attendance by establishing routines, encouraging students to get a good night's sleep, scheduling appointments outside of school hours when possible, and communicating with the school if challenges arise. We appreciate your partnership in helping make attendance a priority for every student, every day!



Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 4/2, 4/3, 4/6 - No School
- 4/13 - MCA Reading Week
- 4/13 - School Board Meeting
Benson High School
Wi-Fi Cafe - 5:30pm
- 4/20 - MCA Math Week
- 4/27 - MCA Science Week
- 4/29 - NDSCS College Visit
- 4/29 - MRVED unstoppABLE Games
- 5/1 - Lake Area Tech. College Visit
- 5/13 - Seniors Last Day of School!
- 5/13 - 6th Grade Orientation for 2026-
2027 6th graders
Performing Arts Center - 6:00pm

Benson Public Schools Budget Survey Update

Earlier this year, Benson Public Schools invited families, staff, and community members to participate in a budget survey following the failed referendum to help guide decision-making as the district navigates financial challenges.

A total of 241 community members participated, providing both quantitative responses and thoughtful written feedback. This survey helped the district better understand community priorities, values, and expectations moving forward.

While difficult decisions still lie ahead, this input provides important clarity about what matters most to our community.

The district will use this feedback to guide upcoming budget discussions and decisions. In the coming months, Benson Public Schools will share additional information about the district's financial situation, communicate potential options and trade-offs, and provide opportunities for continued community engagement. We are committed to a transparent and thoughtful process centered on what is best for students.

To view the full survey results, visit:
<https://www.benson.k12.mn.us/budgetsurvey>



<https://www.benson.k12.mn.us>



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Speech Success!

Benson's speech teams have been busy competing this season, with both junior high and varsity students earning strong results at recent meets.

The Junior High Speech team delivered an impressive performance at a recent meet in Willmar. Three students earned top placements: Ingrid Hafvenstein took 2nd place in Original Oratory, John Hafvenstein placed 3rd in Informative Speaking, and Matthew Darnell finished 6th in Discussion. Their success reflects the hard work and preparation they have put in throughout the season.

At the varsity level, Benson competed at a meet in Pipestone, where the team placed 3rd overall in the small teams division out of sixteen teams, earning a team trophy. Four of the six competitors advanced to finals, highlighting a strong overall showing. Alexandra Darnell earned 3rd place in Poetry, Anya Ollendick placed 5th in Great Speeches, John Hafvenstein took 3rd in Informative Speaking, and Ingrid Hafvenstein finished 6th in Original Oratory.

A special thank you to speech advisor Lauren Ehner for her leadership, guidance, and support of these students throughout the season.

Congratulations to all of our speech team members on their continued success and for representing Benson with pride.



Benson BPA Students Excel at State Leadership Conference

Benson High School students recently represented Benson Schools at the State Business Professionals of America (BPA) Leadership Conference, earning impressive results and demonstrating their hard work and dedication. Several students achieved top finishes and have qualified to compete at the National BPA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee this May.

Leading the way were three first-place finishes: Keala Carroll and Alice Kaiser in the Computer Animation Team event, Helstrom Sanchez in SQL Database, and Harold Habben in Advanced Office Systems and Procedures. Sanchez also earned a third-place finish in Database Applications.

Additional strong performances included a fourth-place finish for Paige Moe, Madisyn Razink, Tara Beyer, and Eli Jones in Administrative Support Team, and a fifth-place finish for Denai McFadden in Advanced Interview Skills. Other top ten finishers were Keala Carroll (7th, Advanced Spreadsheet Applications), Madisyn Razink (8th, Advanced Desktop Publishing), Dallas Carey (9th, Prepared Speech), Elizabeth Jopp (9th, Database Applications), and Bree Ollendick (9th, Health Research Presentation).

The success of Benson's BPA students reflects both their commitment and the support they receive from their advisor, Kendra Razink, whose leadership and dedication continue to make a positive impact on the program.

Congratulations to all of the BPA participants on an outstanding showing at the state level. Best of luck to the national qualifiers as they prepare to represent Benson on the national stage in Nashville this spring.



Braves Esports Team Wins State Championship

Congratulations to Team Ascheberg, made up of Cole Oehlberg and Tristian Ascherman, on capturing the State Esports Championship in Fortnite at the Minnesota Varsity League Winter State Finals, held March 13-14 at St. Cloud State University.

The duo secured the title in dramatic fashion, mounting an impressive comeback in the final moments of competition to earn the championship win. Their performance showcased not only their skill and teamwork, but also their determination under pressure.

We are incredibly proud of Cole and Tristian, along with their advisor, Barb Schwarz, for representing our school so well and bringing home a state title. Congratulations to our champions on an outstanding achievement!





Students Take the Wheel with CDL Simulator

Earlier this month, students had an exciting opportunity to experience what it's like to get behind the wheel—virtually! Thanks to Tony Nelson from Ridgewater College, students enrolled in the CDL course, along with participants in our Agriculture and CTE programs, had the chance to use a CDL driving simulator.

The simulator allowed students to navigate a variety of weather conditions, road scenarios, and routes, while also exploring driving challenges such as impairments and difficult situations. Students practiced both manual and automatic driving, making for a truly hands-on and engaging learning experience. It was a fun and educational way to start the day, giving students a safe environment to develop skills and confidence for real-world driving.



Employment Opportunities

Benson Public Schools has several positions open for the 2026-2027 school year! We'd love for you to be part of our school community.



Career Day Connects BHS Students with Future Opportunities

Earlier this month, students in grades 6-12 at Benson High School took part in Career Day, an engaging event designed to introduce them to a wide range of career paths. Local professionals and organizations visited throughout the day, offering valuable insight into their fields, answering student questions, and sharing advice about future opportunities.

Presentations covered a broad spectrum of careers, including healthcare, law enforcement, skilled trades, military service, business, and more. Students had the opportunity to learn about fields such as radiology, nursing, welding, law, veterinary technology, HVAC, social work, and engineering, along with practical topics like interview skills, résumé building, and preparing for college.

The event also featured several Benson alumni who returned to share their experiences and career journeys, providing students with relatable perspectives and inspiration for their own futures.

Career Day was made possible through the efforts of staff organizers Mr. Strand and Mrs. Kent, along with the many presenters who generously gave their time to support Benson students.

Opportunities like Career Day play an important role in helping students explore their interests, gain real-world insight, and begin thinking about the many paths available to them after high school.



Staff vs. Seniors Basketball Game Brings Fun and School Spirit

Benson High School hosted its annual Staff vs. Seniors Basketball Game on Monday, March 30th, and what a night it was! The gym was buzzing with energy as students, staff, and community members came together to enjoy a night full of friendly competition, laughter, and school spirit.

The event featured plenty of exciting moments on the court, as well as fun activities off the court. In a hilarious twist, instead of just one staff member getting pied, all four took a pie to the face - they were great sports!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who attended, participated, and helped make the evening such a success. The camaraderie, school spirit, and shared laughter made it a night to remember. And yes, the staff are still undefeated — the streak lives on!

