



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 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

- 4/2, 4/3, 4/6 - No School
- 4/13 - School Board Meeting
Benson High School
Wi-Fi Cafe - 5:30pm
- 4/15 - 1st and 2nd Grade field trip to
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse
- 4/27 - 4th Grade field trip to
Prairie Woods Environmental
Learning Center
- 4/30 - 3rd Grade Recorder Program
Northside Elementary - 10:30am
- 5/1 - 4th and 5th Grade Program
Performing Arts Center - 1:30pm
- 5/13 - 6th Grade Orientation for
2026-2027 6th graders
Performing Arts Center - 6:00pm

Message from Mr. Kent

As we move into the spring season, it's exciting to see the growth happening both inside and outside of Northside. Our students continue to work hard, show kindness, and take pride in their learning each day. Spring is always a busy time filled with activities, events, and opportunities for students to shine. We look forward to sharing many of those moments with you over the final months of the school year.

Our staff at Northside would like to thank you for your continued support, communication, and partnership. It truly makes a difference in creating a positive and successful school experience for our students. As the weather warms up, please continue to send students prepared for outdoor recess and changing conditions. We appreciate all that you do and hope your family enjoys the energy and renewal that spring brings!

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>





2026 Northside Elementary Field Day

Excitement is building as Northside Elementary prepares for one of the most anticipated events of the year—Field Day! Students look forward to this fun-filled tradition each spring, and it's sure to be another great couple of days packed with energy, teamwork, and friendly competition.

Field Day will take place on Thursday, May 14th and Friday, May 15th, with activities scheduled by grade level. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of outdoor games and challenges, featuring both individual and class competitions. It's always a highlight of the school year and a great way for students to celebrate the end of the school year together.

Families are invited to attend and cheer on their students as they participate in the festivities. As always, please keep in mind that weather may impact the schedule, and any changes will be communicated closer to the event dates if necessary. We hope to see you there!

Thursday, May 14th

9:00 - 10:00am - 1st Grade

1:00 - 2:00pm - 2nd Grade

Friday, May 15th

8:30 - 9:30am - 3rd Grade

9:45 - 10:45am - 4th Grade

1:00 - 2:00pm - 5th Grade

Celebrating Our March Braves Way Drawing Winners

Each week at Northside Elementary, we take time to celebrate students who go above and beyond in modeling what it means to follow the Braves Way. Through our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, students are recognized for showing kindness, practicing safety, and taking responsibility throughout their school day.

When students demonstrate these positive behaviors, they earn "golden tickets." Every Wednesday, those tickets are entered into our weekly Braves Way drawing, where students have the chance to win fun prizes. These drawings have quickly become a highlight of the week, building excitement while reinforcing the importance of making good choices.

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to our local businesses and families who generously donate prizes. Your support helps make these celebrations meaningful and motivating for our students each week. If you are interested in contributing a prize to our Braves Way drawings, we would love to partner with you!

Keep up the great work, Braves—we are so proud of you!



5th Grade D.A.R.E. Graduation

Northside Elementary 5th graders recently celebrated their D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) graduation, marking an important milestone in learning to make safe and responsible choices.

Congratulations to essay winners Bryce Skarsten, Amelia Kowal, Maci Schafer, and Mia Berghorst, who were recognized for their outstanding work and had the opportunity to read their essays aloud.

All students received certificates and prize packages, and the celebration included hands-on demonstrations and a tour of the West Central SWAT armored vehicle.

Thank you to D.A.R.E. Officer and School Resource Officer Paula Wilson, along with local law enforcement, for helping make the event a memorable experience for students.



Kindergarten Registration Welcomes the Class of 2039

Northside Elementary recently welcomed incoming kindergarten students and their families for 2026–2027 Kindergarten Registration. The event brought excitement and smiles as future Braves took an important first step in their educational journey.

Held at Northside Elementary, the evening provided families with the opportunity to connect with the school and learn more about what to expect in the year ahead. Students proudly join "signed" their commitment letters to officially join the Class of 2039 and received commemorative Class of 2039 t-shirts to mark the occasion.

The event was a meaningful and memorable experience for both students and families, celebrating the beginning of their time at Northside Elementary. Staff enjoyed meeting the newest members of the school community and look forward to welcoming them back in the fall.

We are excited to have such a wonderful group of students joining us and can't wait to see the Class of 2039 grow and thrive in the years ahead!

