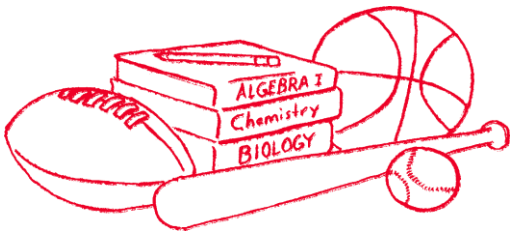
BENTON ACADEMY

2026-2027
Elementary-Secondary Handbook

"Making the Potential Become a Reality"

Philippians 1:6



MISSION STATEMENT

Benton Academy dedicates itself through its curricula, community service, and athletics, to instilling our students with academic excellence and a Christian worldview.

VISION STATEMENT

Making the Potential Become a Reality
Philippians 1:6

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Benton Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, and the handicapped to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, or the handicapped in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND EMPLOYEES

BENTON ACADEMY HAS BEEN INSPECTED AND WAS FOUND TO HAVE ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIAL IN THE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING ONLY. THIS IN NO WAY IS A HAZARD TO STUDENTS OR STAFF. ALL BUILDINGS WILL BE INSPECTED PERIODICALLY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF AT THE SCHOOL.THE SCHOOL'S MANAGEMENT PLAN IS ON FILE IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND ALSO IN THE OFFICE OF THIS SCHOOL. THE PLAN IS AVAILABLE WITHOUT COST OR RESTRICTION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EPA AND THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND OTHER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

PHILOSOPHY OF BENTON ACADEMY

Benton helps students acquire knowledge and understanding of the past and present story of mankind and to furnish direction for the future.

Encourages a willingness to place the common good above personal gain or desires.

Necessary for a productive life such as honesty, trustworthiness, and tolerance.

To help each student understand that he/she has some contributions to make to society through proper social adjustments, respect for authority, and love and respect for God, school, and national heritage.

Offers opportunities for students to participate in activities that contribute to the building of character.

No student will leave here without being prepared for further education.

CORE VALUES

Core Value Number One: Academic Achievement

Core Value Number Two: Community Awareness

Core Value Number Three: Athletic Accomplishment

Core Value Number Four: Christian Attitude-Action

RAIDER MANNERS

The 6 most important words: I admit I made a mistake.

The 5 most important words: You did a good job.

The 4 most important words: What is your opinion?

The 3 most important words: If you please.

The 2 most important words: Thank you.

The 1 most important words: We

The least important word: I

BENTON ACADEMY HISTORY

Benton Academy was founded to afford the citizens of the Benton area an opportunity to enroll their children in a private school offering a superior learning environment. The Academy was founded in December of 1969.

Families enrolled approximately 460 students in the Academy elementary and high school in 1970, with the classes being held in local churches. The first board President was DeWitt Dixon who served in this capacity until 1987.

The existing campus of 20 acres was obtained from Mr. James Dixon and the high school was completed in 1970. In 1971, the existing elementary school building was added. Within the next five years, the gymnasium, cafeteria, and eating areas were added.

BENTON ACADEMY PHILOSOPHY

We believe the school exists primarily for the students and that learning is an individual and continuing process. We believe that the aim of private education is to provide for each child, regardless of ability or environment, the opportunity to develop to his/her maximum potential in mental maturity, moral values, physical fitness, emotional stability, social development, civic responsibility, and spiritual awareness. This educational process enhanced by the wholesome relationship which exists between faculty and students, not only enables the students to be efficient members of the democratic society of today but also prepares them to adapt to the changing world of tomorrow.

To help students become productive citizens of this democratic society, the school places emphasis on the value of accepting responsibility and on the development of self-discipline, self-confidence, a high degree of initiative, and the ability to think critically. Methods of instruction are adapted to the individual as well as to the group. All instruction strives for definite goals within the realm of the student's understanding, gives opportunities for practical applications, arouses intellectual curiosity, and stimulates further study.

We endeavor to meet the aim of private education by offering a flexible curriculum that provides a basic foundation to meet the needs of each student. In essence, this curriculum is designed to instill attitudes essential for happy and useful living, and provide activities which inspire respect for one's fellow man, one's national heritage, and one's Creator. Proper balance is sought between curricular and extra-curricular activities that emphasis on the academic program.

The educational process at Benton Academy seeks harmony among the administration, the faculty, the students, and the community. Through this unique spirit of cooperative endeavors, it is hoped that each student will gain the knowledge and wisdom needed as a foundation for future preparation in his/her chosen profession and, at the same time, develop a keen respect for the process of education.

BENTON ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2026-2027

David Edge, President
Jason Patterson, Vice President/Treasurer
Jana Vandevere, Secretary

Ray Foster	Bill Harris	Josh Kraft
Hays Odum	Nikki Powell	Wayne Saxton

BENTON ACADEMY FACULTY 2026-2027

Head of School....Bryan Dendy
Guidance Counselor .... Macie Daniels
Bookkeeper ....Stacey Alexander
Student Services.... Brittany Echols & Pamela Shanks
Elementary Principal/2K Director .... Erin Williams
Elementary Secretary....Christy Harreld

KINDERGARTEN

2K ..... Lauren Odum & Whitney Roberts
3K ....Ana Posey Rogers, Stephanie Willingham-Assistant
4K .... Kelly Middleton, Frances Pettigrew-Assistant
5K ..... ….Amy Kates, Dottie Whitworth-Assistant

ELEMENTARY

1st Grade ..... Lisa Ables, Marie Jackson-Assistant
2nd Grade ....Barbara Holland
3rd Grade .... Misty Beith
4th Grade ..... Cynthia Ledbetter
5th/6th Grade ....Jessica Hasty & Avery Prescott
Elementary Art ....Jo Ann Campbell
Elementary Computer .... Carla White
Elementary Library ....Katie Murphy-AR Reading Program
Elementary Music ....Lily Kate Wallace
Elementary P.E ....Toby Melton-Elementary PE Chair, Jeremy Kent
Resource ..... Melissa Moore

SECONDARY

Bible and School Chaplin.....John Bley
Computer & Website..... Carla White
Dual Enrollment .....Macie Daniels
English.....Pam May & Justin Porter
Government/Economics.....David Dew
History.....John Bley, Jo Ann Campbell, David Dew
Library ..... Katie Murphy
Mathematics..... Victoria Deere, Laura King, Rosie Zeigler
Music Appreciation/Chorus/Show Choir .....Lily Kate Wallace
Secondary Art.....Jo Ann Campbell
Science .....Victoria Deere, Ginny Jones
Spanish..... Pam May
Maintenance .....Male Coaches

SPORTS

Athletic Director, Softball ..... Emily Poe
Football..... Bryan Dendy, Toby Melton, David Dew, John Bley
Basketball..... Emily Poe, David Dew, Jeremy Kent
Baseball.....
Track & Cross Country .....Chastity Magyar, Jeremy Kent
Golf .....Joe Boggan
Varsity Cheer..... Etta Saxton, Austin McCausley,
Junior Varsity Cheer ..... Erin Williams
Pee Wee Football .....Hays Odum, Blake Coleman, Ray Foster
Pee Wee Basketball..... Jamie Pigg, Mallory Clark, Coy Bishop
Mini Raiderettes.....Michelle Coleman, Christy Harreld
Peewee Cheer .....Jessica Peterson, Lauren Odum

SUPPORT STAFF

Cafeteria .....Donna Becker, Holly Purvis, Lynn Thrasher
After-School Care/Summer Care .....Erin Williams, Donna Becker
Cleaning Services.....LaShone Robins
Event Coordinator .....Paris Purvis

CLUB SPONSORS

FCA..... Tad Duggan
Honor Society.....Macie Daniels
Student Council..... Victoria Deere, Paris Purvis
Math Club ..... Laura King
Science Club .....Ginny Jones
Yearbook..... Carla White, Paris Purvis
Prom..... Jo Ann Campbell, Victoria Deere

School Calendar 2026-2027

July 16th..... Senior Banners
July 25th..... Patrons Work Day 8:00AM
August 1st ..... Patrons Work Day 8:00AM
August 6th..... Teacher In-Service 9:00AM
August 7th..... Teacher Work Day 9:00AM
August 10th..... First day of school ½ Day (secondary)
Meet the Teacher 2k-6th (8:00AM-Noon)
Patrons Meeting 5:30PM (Catfish Supper)
Meet the Raiders 6:30PM

August 11th..... First Full day of school

September 7th ..... Labor Day – No School or Daycare
September 15th..... Fall Worship Service
September 16th ..... School Picture Day 8:00AM
October 9th..... Homecoming ½ Day –No Daycare
Parade 1:00pm
October 9th..... End of the 1st Nine Weeks
October 12th-13th ..... Fall Break –No School or Daycare
October 15th ..... Picture Re-takes & Senior Drapes 8:00AM
October 16th ..... Honor Roll Program 8:30AM
October 27th ..... In-House ACT
October 30th ..... Trunk or Treat 2k-6th Grade
November 3rd ..... Spiritual Emphasis 8:00AM-12:00PM
November 11th ..... Veterans Day Program 9:00AM
November 17th ..... Thanksgiving Program 9:00AM
November 19th ..... Harvest Carnival – ½ Day of School
November 20th -27th ..... Thanksgiving Holidays
November 30th ..... Classes Resume
December 4th ..... Teachers Meeting- ½ Day No Student or Daycare
December 14th ..... Dead Day (1/2 day, 11:30 dismissal)
December 15th -17th ..... Semester Exams (1/2 day, 11:30 dismissal)
December 17th ..... Christmas Program 9:00AM
December 18th ..... Make-up Exams
December 21st .....End of 2nd Nine Weeks/End of 1st Semester
December 22nd - January 3rd ..... Christmas Holidays – No School
January 4th ..... Classes Resume
January 18th ..... MLK Day- No School or Daycare
February 15th ..... Presidents Day – No School or Daycare
February 16th ..... Spring Worship Service 6:00PM
February 19th ..... Grandparents Day Program 9:00AM
February 25th ..... Little Miss BA 6:00pm
February 27th ..... Beauty Review & Who's Who
March 4th ..... Cheer Try-outs ½ Day of School
March 5th..... End of 3rd Nine Weeks – No School or Daycare
March 8th - 12th ..... Spring Break – No School or Daycare

March 15th ..... Classes Resume
March 23rd ..... In-House ACT
March 25th ..... Spring Portraits for Elementary
March 26th ..... Good Friday- No School or Daycare
March 29th..... Easter Monday- No School or Daycare
April 2nd ..... Jr. /Sr. Prom
April 16th ..... Show Choir Spring Program 7:00PM
April 19th ..... Senior Chapel Practice
April 20th ..... Senior Chapel/Senior Luncheon
April 21-23 ..... Senior Exams
April 23..... Elementary Field Day (½ day for elementary) 8:00AM
April 26th ..... Athletic Banquet 6:00PM
April 29th ..... Secondary Awards Day 8:30AM (½ day for elementary)
April 29th ..... Graduation Practice immediately after Awards Day Program
May 3rd ..... Class of 2027 Graduation 7:00PM
May 10th ..... Elementary Awards Day 8:30AM
6th Grade Graduation (to follow 15 mins after awards day)
May 10th ..... Dead Day (1/2 day, 11:30 dismissal)
May 11th ..... 5K Graduation 8:30AM
May 11th -13th ..... Final Exams (1/2 days for elementary, 11:30 dismissal)
May 14th & 17th ..... Make-up Exams
May 17th..... End of 4th Nine Weeks/End of 2nd Semester

Nine Week Calendar

August 10th-October 9th ..... End of 1st Nine Weeks
October 12th-December 18th..... End of 2nd Nine Weeks
January 4th-March 5th ..... End of 3rd Nine Weeks
March 15th-May 17th..... End of 4th Nine Weeks

Fall Exam Schedule

December 14th ..... Dead Day
December 15th-17th ..... Secondary Exams (1/2 days)
December 18th ..... Make-up Exams

Spring Exam Schedule

May 10th ..... Dead Day
May 11th-13th..... Secondary Exams (1/2 days)
May 14th-17th..... Make-up Exams
May 17th ..... Last Day of School

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GENERAL INFORMATION

BUSINESS OFFICE

Main Office	Elementary Office
7:30 AM-3:30 PM	8:00 AM-3:00 PM
Phone: 662.673.9722	**Phone**: 662.673.3541

Much of the work carried out in the office is confidential and involves important information about each individual in school. For this reason, certain basic rules of conduct are necessary.

1. Go to the office only when called or for necessary business which cannot be handled elsewhere.
2. The office telephone is a business telephone and should only be used in emergencies.
3. Do not in any way violate the privacy of the office records.
4. Students are to stay in front of the counter to conduct their business while in the office.
5. NO medications will be given to students without a doctor's excuse.

TEXT ALERT INSTRUCTIONS

Opt-In Instructions

To "opt in" to the Benton Academy Text Message Alert System, complete the following instructions on your cell phone:

1. Text to the number 866-960-3535.
2. In the text message box, type BARAIDERS and press your send button.
3. A minute or so later you will receive a confirmation message. Do not respond to the message.

This is a very convenient service in which patrons can enroll to keep up with schedule changes, etc.

Opt-Out Instructions

To "opt out" of the Benton Academy Text Message Alert System, complete the following instructions on your cell phone:

1. Text to the number 866-960-3535.
2. In the text message box, type "STOP" and press your send button.
3. A minute or so later you will receive a confirmation message. Do not respond to the message.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- Daycare will be open after school each day from 3:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.
  - On all half days of school from 11:15 until 5:30 p.m.

After School Care Rates

- Half-Day Dismissal: $20.00/student
- Regular School Day (3:00-5:30PM): $10.00/student
  - $5.00 for every minute after 5:30.

THE LIBRARY

The school library provides students with a place to study undisturbed. We also have available a trained librarian who can give you help and suggestions that will make your school work more effective. In return for this, you are expected to: **OBSERVE ALL LIBRARY RULES AND REGULATIONS, ALWAYS RETURN BOOKS AND MAGAZINES TO THEIR PROPER PLACE, MAINTAIN A QUIET ATMOSPHERE AT ALL TIMES, AND USE THE LIBRARY AS A PLACE TO STUDY, NOT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.**

SCHOOL PROPERTY

The school property belongs to you as a member of Benton Academy. You should protect this property and help make the school an attractive place in which to attend.

1. Help keep school premises free from trash.
2. Discourage the defacing of all property.
3. Encourage proper care of grass, flowers, and shrubs.

Many hours of hard work and thousands of dollars have been invested in the buildings and equipment at Benton Academy. Each student is expected to do his/her part in taking care of the school. Any damage to the buildings, grounds, materials, or furnishings must be repaired and/or replaced at a necessary expense. Students will be subject to disciplinary action if they willfully or negligently bring harm to school property.

SCHOOL CLOSURE NOTIFICATION POLICY

In the event that Benton Academy must close due to inclement weather, power outages, or other unforeseen circumstances, the Head of School will make the final decision regarding school closure or schedule changes.

Once the decision has been made, parents and students will be notified through the following channels:

- Text Message through our BARAIDERS Text Alert System
- E-mail Alerts sent to the contact information on file
- Social Media (official Benton Academy Facebook page)
- Yazoo County Emergency Management

Every effort will be made to communicate closures or delays as early as possible. Parents are encouraged to ensure their contact information is up to date in the school's system to receive timely notifications. The decision of whether or not to call off school will be made by the Head of School no later than 7:00 a.m. if at all possible.

TEACHER-PARENT CONFERENCES

If there are academic issues with a specific class or teacher, there first must be direct communication between the parent and the teacher. If this does not resolve the issue, then a parent/teacher conference can be scheduled with the parent, teacher, and counselor (if necessary) by appointment only during school hours (7:45 am-3:15 pm). **For issues regarding secondary students**, please contact the school counselor during school hours for appointments. **For issues regarding elementary students**, please contact the elementary principal. **Please do not call a teacher at home for a conference as they do not have records at home.**

CELL PHONES IN THE BUILDING DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Cell phones, iPods, gaming devices, smart watches or any other devices are not permitted during school hours (7:55 am-3:05 pm). A phone will be provided for the students in the office to be used in the case of emergencies. Students will not be allowed to use this phone without permission from the office. All devices will be turned-in to the students' first period teacher. They will be placed in a pouch with their specified name or number and will remain in the pouch until the end of the school day. If a student is caught with any of the devices listed above they will be disciplined as follows: 1st offense: warning, 2nd offense: suspension and 1 point taken off of average. This will reset every 9 weeks. In the event that a student checks out, they may get their device(s) upon departure from the school, but when they check back in they must put all devices back in the designated pouch. All pouches will be placed in a designated room until the end of the day.

BENTON ACADEMY TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The safety of all students at Benton Academy is of paramount concern as we implement new technologies. Therefore, every student, and parent, or guardian should carefully study this Acceptable Use Policy, which establishes the guidelines for the use of technology at Benton Academy.

Computers and personal laptops at Benton Academy may be used for **academic** purposes only. In general, students will not be allowed to:

- Access personal e-mail accounts, any social media platforms, Pinterest, chat rooms, message boards, etc.
- Download any programs or music including any "Messenger" programs, etc.(strictly prohibited)
- Change the configuration or settings on any computer
- Use of music CDs or video games for pleasure

1. As part of the enrollment process each student of Benton Academy, along with a parent/guardian, will sign the *Benton Academy Technology Acceptable Use Policy* before they will be allowed access to computer technology.
2. All rules and policies in the Benton Academy student handbook regarding honesty, courtesy, and respect for school property will apply equally to the use of technology, computers, and the internet. Cheating (including plagiarism) via technology will require the same consequences as outlined in the student handbook for that offense.
3. Students are allowed access to school computers in the lab only.
4. For technology to be made available to students as a learning tool, they must observe these rules of safety and conduct:
   - No student should give his or any other student's address, phone number, social security number, or other personal information to any person by computer communications.
   - Students will not use school equipment to illegally copy any software. Software on Benton Academy's network is copyrighted and licensed to Benton Academy.
   - Installing any software onto school computers or the network by students is strictly prohibited.
   - Students will not attempt to change, alter, modify, or adjust in any way the software configuration of the network or any individual computer or to alter, remove, or damage any part of any computer. This includes changing screensavers, backgrounds, settings, etc., and connecting or disconnecting hardware.
   - Drinks or food of any kind may not be brought to any area where computers are located.
   - Students should save their work to their assigned student account only.
   - No student should share his/her password, try to find out another student's password, attempt to use another student's account, access another student's files, or make any changes to another student's work on the school computers. This would be a violation of Benton Academy's cheating policy.
   - Students are strictly prohibited from accessing anything other than academic software programs and specifically permitted, monitored internet access.
   - Students are not allowed to use Benton Academy's computers, network, or internet to do any of the following:
     - Engage in any online chatting or messaging, or correspondence via e-mail.
     - Write or publish harmful or inappropriate material
     - Upload or create a computer virus

- Send chain letters or conduct any type of harassment
- Plagiarize material or misrepresent another's work
- Conduct business or advertise a product
- Attempt maliciously to harm the data of another person
- Pursue inappropriate material (i.e. pornography, sexism, racism, etc.)
- Encourage or support prohibited activities by other students

5. Vandalism of technology will result in a severe response (discipline) by the administration. Vandalism includes malicious attempts to destroy programs or information, as well as physical abuse of the equipment.

6. Students should expect **no** privacy in the contents of files on the school network. System administrators may view student files and internet usage at any time.

7. Users shall not engage in any activity via technology that is viewed by the staff, faculty, or administration as harmful to, or reflect negatively on Benton Academy.

8. Access to technology is a privilege, not a right. Each student is accountable for his or her actions. Each student is expected to stay current on changes, corrections, and addendums to this policy, which will be posted prominently in the computer lab. It is the responsibility of the student to seek advice from faculty with any question concerning the appropriate use of school equipment.

9. Students who are found to be in violation of the current Benton Academy Acceptable Use Policy may lose computer privileges for a length of time to be determined by administration and faculty. At the very least, this could disrupt their academic standing in-class assignments (i.e. grades). Extreme misconduct could result in suspension or expulsion from school.

10. Benton Academy will not be held liable for:

    - Any damage suffered by users due to failure of equipment or interruption of service
    - The accuracy or truth of material obtained through the Internet
    - Damages to any person resulting from unauthorized or inappropriate use of technology
    - Malfunctions of the technology provided by the school.

11. The use of laptops will only be permitted during instructional time and under the supervision of a teacher (including study hall and lunch study).

12. All students in grades 7-12 must have a laptop or tablet available each day of school.

13. Cell phones will no longer be allowed for classwork (with the exception of dual enrollment).

CAFETERIA

Snack and lunch is served in the cafeteria each day. A weekly menu is provided to both staff and students via school website and teacher boxes. Additional foods such as chips, pop tarts, muffins, and granola bars are available. 2k students will be provided a specific and age-appropriate menu each week.

EATING LUNCH

No student will be allowed to leave school to eat lunch and return. All students will be expected to eat lunch in the cafeteria, regardless of whether you buy lunch in the cafeteria or bring your own. Students are to remain in the cafeteria until the bell rings unless they have permission to leave from the teacher on duty. **Students are not allowed to remove food or drink from the cafeteria. Students are not to bring food or drink into any classroom at any time. Teachers are not to allow students to be in their classrooms during lunch or break.**

Students will not be allowed to check out for lunch away from school and return to class.

SENIOR LUNCH PRIVILEGES

Senior lunch privileges will begin after the Labor Day Holiday. This will be one day a week on Tuesdays for lunch and lunch study. After the Christmas Holidays, seniors will be allowed 2 senior lunch days a week. These will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Seniors are required to communicate with both the Senior Sponsor and the Head of School for approval on where they will be going to eat lunch. All seniors are required to sign out at the front office when they leave for senior lunch and sign-in when they return from senior lunch. If they leave and do not sign-out, they will not be allowed to attend the next senior lunch day.

VISITORS

Anyone having business with teachers or students must check in with the Elementary or Secondary Office upon arrival and obtain a visitor's pass. This policy applies to recent Alumni visitors returning to campus for any reason.

MEDICAL

Parents or guardians are required to report to the school any medical condition that will assist in the student's safety and well-being. This would include allergies, ADD, ADHD, Dyslexia, etc.

Medication/Injury Policy

- Medications
  - Students needing occasional medications for colds, sore throats, and earaches are to take those medicines at home if possible. Medication that is prescribed three times a day can be given before the student comes to school, after school, and again at bedtime. All medication, prescription and non-prescription, will be kept in the elementary/secondary office. An "**Authorization to Administer Medication Form**" must be completed by the parents/guardians of elementary students for each prescription or non-prescription medication before it can be given.
- Injuries
  - Students sustaining an injury during Benton Academy hours or in after-school care will receive first-aid treatment. Parents/guardians will be notified immediately of the injury and of any need for further medical attention. If parents/guardians cannot be reached and immediate medical attention is necessary, school personnel will notify the physician listed on the student's emergency form and make proper arrangements for immediate attention.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

GRADING

A teacher is expected to give two grades per week in every subject. This will ensure a minimum of 18 grades per nine weeks. All grades will be entered in GradeLink. Tests are given at regular intervals to measure student achievement. All students are graded on the following scale:

90-100 …… Excellent .....A
80-89 …….. Good .....B
70-79 …….. Average.....C
Below 70 …… Failing..... F
Conduct Grades .....E, S, NI, U

ELEMENTARY

- All chapter or unit tests will be counted twice. For 4th, 5th, and 6th grades, each nine-week period will end with a chapter or unit test in each subject. There will be no comprehensive nine weeks test.
- All other grades will be counted once.
- The nine-week average will come from these grades.
- A semester average will be determined from the nine-week averages: 1st semester (1st & 2nd Nine-week average); 2nd semester (3rd & 4th Nine-week average).
- The yearly average will be the average of 1st and 2nd semesters.

Report Card Schedule For Elementary

October 14th - 1st Nine Weeks
January 6th - 2nd Nine Weeks
March 17th - 3rd Nine Weeks
May 19th - 4th Nine Weeks

SECONDARY

Secondary grades are weighted as follows: **Tests 50%, Daily 40%, Homework 10%. Students must have at least three (3) test grades and ten (10) daily grades each nine weeks. (Daily grades may include quizzes, classwork, labs, etc.)**

Semester and yearly averages are calculated as follows:

- Nine-week averages: average all grades taken during the nine weeks.
- 1st Semester Average: [(1st NW Avg+2nd NW Avg)/2 x 3 + SemEx]/4
- 2nd Semester Average: [(3rd NW Avg+4th NW Avg)/2 x 3 + SemEx]/4
- Final Average: (1st Sem Avg + 2 Sem Avg)/2

Grades indicate student achievement or progress and are used to determine membership in academic and honor organizations and for promotion and graduation. Academic grades are considered for membership or participation in some organizations, activities, and sports. **NOTICE: All students in grades 7-12 must have a laptop or tablet available each day of school. Cell phones will no longer be allowed for classwork. If a student has been suspended, one point will be deducted from the nine weeks' average in each class.**

PROMOTION, RETENTION, OR FAILURES

Elementary

- Students are required to make 70 or above for the year's average in each subject.
- Students who make below 70 in one major or in two minor subjects will have to repeat the grade.
- Major subjects: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading
- Minor subjects: Health, Phonics, Spelling, Writing

Secondary

- Students are required to make 70 or above for the year's average.
- Students in grades 7 and 8 who make below a 70 in any of the core subjects will have to repeat the grade or attend summer school in that subject.
- Students in grades 7 and 8 who fail one major subject and 2 minor subjects must repeat the grade.
- If a 9th-12th grade student fails a credit class in one of the major subjects, the student should go to summer school to make it up. Benton Academy cannot guarantee the student's class schedule will work the following year to retake the course.

Major subjects: English, Math, Science, Social Studies

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES & SUMMER SCHOOL

The taking of correspondence courses is strongly discouraged by the administration of Benton Academy. It is the preference of Benton Academy that students attend summer school to receive credit for any failed courses required for graduation. Credit for correspondence courses will be allowed only for credit absolutely needed for graduation from Benton Academy. Only 2 correspondence course may be taken by a student during his/her time at Benton Academy. **Any such courses must be approved by the Administration and the high school counselor**. **Any course taken in summer school due to failure will only count for graduation credit and will not be included in the student's grade point average. (It is the student's/parent's responsibility to have grades sent to Benton Academy upon completion of any courses taken). Students taking online courses may only take 2 class online for a credit. The one online class is allowed. All other courses must be taken in person at the Education Center School located in Jackson. This is only in-person school for summer credit/ correspondence classes.**

Extended Summer Session

Students earning a final average of 65-69 may qualify for an extended summer school session. The session will be conducted at Benton Academy for a two-week period. Successful completion of the two-week period will allow students to earn course credit. **Teacher compensation will be paid directly to the teacher on the first day of the session in the amount of $500.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Twenty-Two (22) units will be required for graduation. At least sixteen (16) units must be academic as listed in the approved academic courses:

IHL Graduation Requirements

English	4 units
Mathematics	4 units*
Science	4 units**
Social Studies	4 units***
Electives	6 units****

*one of which must be Algebra I, with the recommendation that two of the three be Algebra I or higher
**one of which must be a laboratory-based biological science
***to include American History and American Government/Economics
**** to include Foreign Language, Computer and Fine Arts credit

½ credit will be awarded for those who complete the course requirements in Chorus, PE (Sports).

Graduation Honors

There are three honor designations for honor graduates.

- Honor Society Graduate—Member of Benton Academy Honor Society with an overall academic average of 90 with no C's
- Special Honor Graduate—4-year average of 93-100
- Honor Graduate—4-year average of 90-92

Valedictorian & Salutatorian

The graduating senior class will have a valedictorian and a salutatorian. To receive either award, a student must have attended Benton Academy for at least two years (9-12) and must have the highest grade point averages (in academic subjects) of the senior class. The student with the highest average is valedictorian. The student with the second highest average is the salutatorian.

STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS

Student transcripts for colleges will be mailed upon request. After the second transcript, the cost will be $3.00 per transcript sent or given by the office. Anyone needing a transcript sent during the school year should give at least a 48-hour notice. During the summer months, a 1-month notice is required.

SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY

Students may add or drop a course within the first 3 days of school with approval from the counselor and principal. **Any change in a student's schedule is subject to space availability.**

STUDENT TEST POLICY

Students will not be required to take more than two (2) major tests a day. Major subjects include English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Daily grades, pop tests, etc., are not included in this policy. **Students are urged to communicate with their teachers so that faculty will be aware of test schedule conflicts.**

TESTING CODE NUMBER (GRADES 7-12)

BENTON ACADEMY CODE NUMBER FOR ACT & SAT - 250-208

NINE WEEK PERIODS

1st Nine Weeks:	August 10, 20256-October 9, 2026
2nd Nine Weeks:	October 12, 2026−December 18, 2026
3rd Nine Weeks:	January 4, 2027−March 5, 2027
4th Nine Weeks:	March 15, 2027−May 17, 2027

***There will be no exams for the 1st and 3rd Nine Weeks.**

2025-2026 EXAM SCHEDULE

Fall Exam Schedule

Semester exams (Test should cover 1st and 2nd nine weeks)

Tuesday	December 15	8:00-9:44 9:44-10:00 (Break) 10:00-12:00
Wednesday	December 16	8:00-9:44 9:44-10:00 (Break) 10:00-12:00
Thursday	December 17	8:00-9:44 9:44-10:00 (Break) 10:00-12:00
Friday	December 18	Makeup

Spring Exam Schedule

Final exams (Test should cover 3rd and 4th nine weeks)

Tuesday	May 11	8:00-9:44 9:44-10:00 (Break) 10:00-12:00
Wednesday	May 12	8:00-9:44 9:44-10:00 (Break) 10:00-12:00
Thursday	May 13	8:00-9:44 9:44-10:10 (Break) 10:15-12:00
Friday	May 14	Exam Make-Up Day
Monday	May 17	Exam Make-Up Day

EXAM EXEMPTIONS

- All students are required to take 1st-semester exams. An exception would be seniors with a 90 overall average in that semester's class. All other students will be eligible 2nd semester, with a 93 overall yearly average in each class.
- Students who are exempted in all classes will be excused from the last day of review provided all fees are paid, all books & athletic uniforms are turned in & lockers are cleaned out.
- Any student who has been suspended from school will not be allowed to be exempt.
- Any student who has 15 or more absences will not be able to be exempt.

EXAM RULES

- All teachers and staff are required to stay until 1:00 p.m.
- We will have daycare on exam days.
- Teachers will not allow students to leave class early after taking exams.
- Exams will be given on a designated day and at a designated time. Any changes to this schedule must be approved by the administration**.**
- All bills must be current or your student will not be allowed to take exams.

MARRIAGE AND PREGNANCY (GRADES 7-12)

Students who are or have been married will not be accepted for enrollment. If this marriage occurred before or during the school term, students will be dismissed by the administration upon knowledge of such marriage. Also, prospective students of a child/children will not be permitted to enroll. A girl who becomes pregnant, and/or a male student responsible for a pregnancy, will no longer be permitted to attend classes or participate in extracurricular activities at Benton Academy.

HOME SCHOOL

In order to be accepted for enrollment, Elementary and Jr. High students must be tested with Stanford Achievement Tests scoring within 6 (six) months of grade level. The first test will be offered at no charge. A fee will be charged if a second test is needed.

High School students must be enrolled in an accredited high school program or present an official transcript from a recognized home school network in order to receive credit.

No home school student will be allowed to receive credits in order to be eligible for sports.

Home school students are only allowed to enroll at the start of the school year.The administration has the right to overturn this rule at his or her discretion.

ELEMENTARY BELL SCHEDULE

7:55	First Bell	
8:00	Tardy Bell	
9:00	1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades	Break begins
9:15	1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades	Break ends
9:15	4th, 5th, 6th Grades	Break begins
9:30	4th, 5th, 6th Grades	Break ends
10:50	1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades	Bell to get ready for lunch
10:55	1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades	Begin going to lunch (stagger)
	(1st, 2nd, 3rd grades will eat lunch and be back in their rooms by 11:20 to go outside for recess)	
11:15	4th, 5th, 6th Grades	Bell to get ready for lunch
11:30	4th, 5th, 6th Grades	Begin going to lunch (stagger)
	(4th, 5th, and 6th Grades will eat lunch and be back in their rooms by 11:55 to go outside for recess)	
11:55	1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades	End of Recess Bell
12:25	4th, 5th, 6th Grades	End of Recess Bell
2:50	Get ready to go home bell	
3:00	Go home bell	

- Teachers who have afternoon duty should be at the door of the elementary building by 2:55 to escort children to cars.
- The elementary school will be opened at 7:15 a.m.
- Do not drop your child off before 7:15 a.m. There will be no one to supervise them!!
- School will be dismissed on Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

½ Day Bell Schedule

1st Period .....7:55 - 8:25
2nd Period .....8:28 - 8:58
3rd Period .....9:01 - 9:31
Break .....9:31 - 9:46
4th Period .....9:50 - 10:20
5th Period .....10:23 - 10:53
6th Period .....10:55 - 11:15

Elementary dismissal at 11:15

SECONDARY BELL SCHEDULE

1st Period.....7:55-8:50
2nd Period.....8:53-9:43
Break (7th-12th) 9:43-10:05
3rd Period 10:10-11:00
4th Period 11:03-11:53
1st Lunch (7th, 8th, 9th) 11:56-12:21
Lunch Study/HS Choir (10th, 11th, 12th) 11:56-12:21
2nd Lunch (10th, 11th, 12th)..... 12:25-12:48
Lunch Study/Choir (7th, 8th, 9th)..... 12:25-12:48
5th Period 12:50-1:40
6th Period 1:43-2:33
7th Period 2:36-3:05

School will be dismissed on Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

½ Day Bell Schedule

1st Period .....7:55 - 8:25
2nd Period .....8:28 - 8:58
3rd Period.....9:01 - 9:31
Break .....9:31 - 9:46
4th Period.....9:50 - 10:20
5th Period..... 10:23 – 10:53
6th Period.....10:55 - 11:15

7th–12th Grades dismissal at 11:15

ABSENCES

- If your child is going to be absent from school, you must notify the Elementary/High School Office. No handwritten excuses will be accepted.
- Absences from school are classified as excused or unexcused.
- Students are allowed (20) total absences per year. **This is normally broken down to 10 each semester.** No absences over twenty (20) will be allowed (whether doctor, dental, or other) **unless there are extenuating circumstances that must be approved by the Board. Any child that has over twenty (20) absences not approved by the board will automatically fail the grade.** Please provide the Elementary/High School Office with an authorized doctor's, dentist, or hospital excuse when they return to school, the day after the absence. A medical professional note must be given to the office for absences.
- Medical excuses are only good for one absence.
- Absences are counted each period. Any classes with over twenty absences can result in automatic failure in that class.
- Absences due to personal illness, serious illness, or death in the family, or absences with special permission of the Administration (obtained in advance) will be excused.
- Seniors will be allowed two (2) excused absences to visit colleges of their choice. Juniors will be allowed one (1) excused absence for a college visit These days will not be included in the (20) allowed absences.
- Make-up work should be picked up from the Elementary/High School Office. Secondary students are responsible for checking Canvas to see what they missed and what assignments are due. This will help them from getting behind.
- When the student returns to school he/she will have the same number of days they missed to make up work (e.g. If your child misses one day, he/she will have one day to make up work. If your child misses four days, he/she will have four days to make up work.) After this allotted time, the student will either have a grade reduction or 0's for work based on the teacher's discretion.
- It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide the excuses to the appropriate office, not the responsibility of the school**.**

TARDINESS

- Promptness to school is very important. Students are to be in their seats and ready to work when the second bell rings. Students will be counted as tardy if they are not at school at 7:55 a.m.
- Tardies will be kept for each 9 weeks **(not per semester).** Every **3 tardies** will result in an absence.
- Students who are tardy are missing work in their classrooms. Teachers will not be responsible for beginning a lesson again. Teachers will not be responsible for making up work that tardy students miss. Your child's grades may suffer due to excessive and unexcused tardies.
- Students who are tardy are also not included in the morning lunch count. Tardy students cause a delay in calculating a lunch count.
- **Parents of students with 6 tardies in a 9 week period will be contacted for a conference concerning their child's tardiness. Being at school on time is of the utmost importance!**

Habitual tardiness will not be tolerated with or without an excuse.

- No more than three (3) unexcused/excused tardies per nine weeks. Violation will result in discipline by the Administration.
- Four (4) tardies – warning
- Five (5) tardies – 1 demerit
- Six (6) tardies – 1 demerit
- Seven (7) tardies – 1 demerit/suspension (**3 Demerits** = **Automatic Out-of-School Suspension**)
- Any out-of-school suspension automatically results in a one-point deduction from the student's nine weeks average in each course.
- More than 7 tardies – May result in additional disciplinary action at the discretion of administration.
- All tardies will reset every nine weeks.
- The administration may adjust penalties for tardiness if he sees the need for a different punishment.

POLICY FOR LEAVING SCHOOL

Students are not allowed to leave campus during school hours without permission from their parents. The student should be picked up by their parents. If someone other than the parents is picking up the child, the elementary must be notified or the child will not be allowed to leave. **Also, students must be signed out in the office by the adult picking them up**.

- Students are not to leave campus during school hours without permission from the office. Parents are reminded it is their right to dismiss their child; however, the school reserves the right to determine if the absence is excused or unexcused. Parents will be notified if a student leaves school without permission.
- Students needing to leave school during the day must turn in a note to the office by 8:00 a.m. Notes turned in after 8:00 a.m. may not be recognized. Notes from parents for a student to check out must state the date, and the reason for leaving, and be signed by the parents. Parents must write the entire note. Do not let students write the notes. Parents may be called to verify notes.
- If the student wants to be dismissed after 8:00 a.m. and does not have a note from their parent, the parent will have to be personally contacted by the school administration or office personnel before the student is dismissed.
- Students will not be allowed to check out to run errands.
- Students are not allowed to leave campus during a class period.
- Elementary students must be signed out in the office by the adult picking them up.
- When a student, grades 7th-12th checks out/in, he/she must sign in/out at the office themselves. One student will not be allowed to sign for another student.
- Any student in who checks out to go home, to an athletic event, doctor, dentist, etc. must get the next day's class assignments from the teachers of the classes missed.
- Benton Academy strongly recommends that students not be taken out of school for vacation. Please strive to schedule vacations during the summer months or holidays.
- If a student should become ill and need to leave school during the day, he/she must be excused through the elementary principal or head of school and a parent(s) must be called.
- Students participating in extra-curricular activities must attend all regular scheduled classes that day in order to participate. *Exceptions include doctor or dental appointments, family emergencies, or any other special circumstance approved by the Administration.
- Students must attend any school meetings and activities the administration deems necessary (examples: meetings with college representatives, senior trips to colleges, Awards Day, Senior Day Out, etc.).
- Student must conduct himself/herself properly at school and at all school functions. Students must sign out in the office prior to departure.
- The administration must approve early dismissal. Parents must sign a liability release form.
- If the student has permission to ride with another student to and from a school function, or not ride a team bus, the student must have this signed to ride with another parent.
- Any student who leaves school without signing out will be suspended.

RESTRICTION OF CHILD PICK-UP

- If parents are divorced or separated and one parent is not allowed to see or pick up the child, we must have on file in the office a certified copy of the court order of final judgment.
- If a student is being picked up by someone other than a parent/guardian, we must have documentation.

SICK CHILDREN

Children should be free of fever for 24 hours before they return to school. A fever means the presence of an infection, and a child should not be around others unless they have been free of fever for 24 hours. Even if you take your child to the doctor and obtain a doctor's excuse, we ask that you DO NOT send your child back to school until they have been free of fever for 24 hours. You will be contacted to pick up your child if you send them back to school too early.

If a child is sent home for vomiting, upset stomach, etc.., they will be allowed to return to school the next day IF they have been to see a doctor and have a DOCTOR'S EXCUSE stating that they are NOT contagious. If you choose NOT to take your child to the doctor, then they are NOT allowed to return to school until they have been free of the vomiting, upset stomach, etc.., for 24 hours. If your child returns to school the next day without a doctor's excuse, you will be contacted to pick them up.

Head Lice Policy

To maintain a healthy school environment, Benton Academy has established the following policy regarding head lice. While head lice are not a health hazard and do not spread disease, they can be disruptive and require timely attention.

Routine screenings

Periodic head checks may be conducted by trained staff, particularly if a case has been reported. Parents are encouraged to check their child's hair regularly, especially after playdates, sleepovers, or camps

Detection and Notification

If a student is found to have live lice or an active infestation, parents/ guardians will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up the student. A general notice may be sent to families in the affected classroom, maintaining strict confidentiality of the student(s) involved.

Return to School

No-Nit Policy: A student may return to school only after all lice and nits have been removed and clearance has been given. Parents may be asked to provide evidence of treatment (treatment receipt or used product packaging)

Preventative Measures

Students are discouraged from sharing personal items such as hats, hair accessories, combs, or headphones. Educational materials on lice prevention and treatment will be made available to families as needed.

Confidentiality

All cased of head lice are handled with discretion and confidentiality. No child will be singled out, and names will not be disclosed in any communications

Parental Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the parent/ guardian to regularly check their child for head lice and to notify the school if lice are detected at home. Parents are expected to treat infestations promptly and thoroughly to prevent reinfestation and disruption.

POLICY FOR ENROLLING 2K AND 3K STUDENTS

- All Students entering the 2K program at Benton Academy must be 2 years of age before enrolling.
- All students entering the 3K program at Benton Academy must be 3 years of age by September 1st of that year.

PRESCHOOL DRESS CODE

- Shirts should cover the stomach and shoulders
- Skirts and dress should be a modest length with bloomers worn underneath
- Clothing should be easy for children to manage independently

Benton Academy Student Uniform & Dress Code Policy
2026-2027

K5–12th Grade

Beginning with the upcoming school year, Benton Academy will implement a school uniform policy for all students in grades K5–12th. The purpose of this policy is to promote unity, reduce distractions, encourage school pride, and maintain a neat, respectful appearance among students. **Uniform tops, dresses, and outerwear must be purchased at Land's End School Uniforms.** *Note: Khaki shorts, pants, and skorts may be purchased at an approved retailer.*

General Guidelines

- All uniforms must be clean, properly fitted, and in good condition.
- Clothing must be free of tears, holes, fraying, or excessive wear.
- Students are expected to present themselves in a neat and modest manner at all times.
- Hats may not be worn indoors.
- Hoods may not be worn on the head inside the building.
- Only approved Benton Academy logo outerwear may be worn inside the school building.
- Non-Benton Academy coats and jackets may be worn outdoors only and must be removed upon entering the building.

General Appearance Guidelines

BOYS:

- Hair should be neat, clean, well-groomed, and no longer than the collar of a dress shirt. It should be cut above the ears and out of the eyes.
- No earrings will be allowed.
- No hats may be worn during school hours.
- No body piercings.
- Beards and mustaches are not permitted.
- Hair color and style must be of natural color which projects a professional image and does not draw unwanted attention.

GIRLS:

- Earrings will be allowed in earlobes only. No other body piercings will be allowed.
- No hats may be worn.
- Hair color and style must be of natural color which projects a professional image and does not draw unwanted attention.

K5–3rd Grade Uniform Requirements

Boys

Daily Uniform Options

- Polo shirt in red, white, black, or gray
- Khaki pants or khaki shorts
- Shorts must be appropriate in length
- Elastic waistbands are permitted for K5–3rd grade boys

Shoes & Socks

- Shoes must be primarily neutral in color: black, brown, navy, gray, or white. Shoes with accent colors are permitted
- Tennis shoes may be worn everyday
- Shoes that are predominantly bright, neon or highly distracting are not permitted
- Socks must be solid black, white, or gray
- Tennis shoes may be worn every day
- Boots with pants only

Outerwear

- Only Benton Academy approved logo outerwear purchased through Lands' End or fan gear store may be worn inside the building.

Girls

Daily Uniform Options

- Ponte pleat jumper in khaki (must be worn with white Peter Pan monogrammed shirt)
- Short sleeve polo dress in red or gray
- Polo shirt (Peter Pan or regular collar) in red, white, black or gray
- Khaki skorts
- Skort length must be no shorter than four (4) inches above the crease behind the knee
- Bloomers or modesty shorts must be worn under all dresses and skirts
- Leggings or tights may be worn in white, black, or gray
- Skorts may not be rolled

Shoes & Socks

- Shoes must be primarily neutral in color: black, brown, navy, gray, or white. Shoes with accent colors are permitted
- Tennis shoes may be worn everyday
- Shoes that are predominantly bright, neon or highly distracting are not permitted
- House shoes and Crocs are not permitted
- Socks must be solid black, white, or gray

Outerwear

- Only Benton Academy approved logo outerwear purchased through Lands' End or fan gear store may be worn inside the building.

4th–6th Grade Uniform Requirements

Boys

Daily Uniform Options

- Polo shirt in black, red, white, or gray
- Khaki pants or khaki shorts
- Pants and shorts must feature:
    - Traditional button and zipper closure
    - Belt loops
    - Belt worn at all times
- Shorts must be modest and appropriate in length

Additional Requirements

- Shirts must remain tucked in at all times

Shoes & Socks

- Shoes must be primarily neutral in color: black, brown, navy, gray, or white. Shoes with accent colors are permitted
- Tennis shoes may be worn everyday
- Shoes that are predominantly bright, neon or highly distracting are not permitted
- Socks must be solid black, white, or gray
- House shoes and Crocs are not permitted
- Boots with pants only

Outerwear

- Only Benton Academy approved logo outerwear purchased through Lands' End or fan gear store may be worn inside the building.

Girls

Daily Uniform Options

- Ponte pleat short sleeve dress in red
- Polo shirt (Peter Pan or regular collar) in white, black, red, or gray
- Khaki skorts
- Skort length must be no shorter than four (4) inches above the crease behind the knee
- Bloomers or modesty shorts must be worn under all dresses and skirts
- Leggings or tights may be worn in white, black, or gray
- Skorts may not be rolled

Shoes & Socks

- Shoes must be primarily neutral in color: black, brown, navy, gray, or white. Shoes with accent colors are permitted
- Tennis shoes may be worn everyday
- Shoes that are predominantly bright, neon or highly distracting are not permitted
- Socks must be solid black, white, or gray
- House shoes and Crocs are not permitted

Outerwear

- Only Benton Academy approved logo outerwear purchased through Lands' End or fan gear store may be worn inside the building.

7th–12th Grade Uniform Requirements

Boys

Daily Uniform Options

- Polo shirt in red, white, black or gray
- Khaki pants or khaki shorts
- Pants and shorts must feature:
    - Traditional button and zipper closure
    - Belt loops
    - Belt worn at all times
- Shorts must have a minimum 6-inch inseam

Additional Requirements

- Shirts must remain tucked in at all times

Shoes & Socks

- Shoes must be primarily neutral in color: black, brown, navy, gray, or white. Shoes with accent colors are permitted
- Tennis shoes may be worn everyday
- Shoes that are predominantly bright, neon or highly distracting are not permitted
- Socks must be solid black, white, or gray
- Boots with pants only
- House shoes and Crocs are not permitted

Outerwear

- Only Benton Academy approved logo outerwear purchased through Lands' End or fan gear store may be worn inside the building.

Girls

Daily Uniform Options

- Polo shirt in black, red, white or gray
- Khaki skorts or khaki pants
- Skort length must be no shorter than four (4) inches above the crease behind the knee
- Leggings may be worn in white, black, or gray
- Leggings must be a solid neutral color
- Skorts may not be rolled

Shoes & Socks

- Shoes must be primarily neutral in color: black, brown, navy, gray, or white. Shoes with accent colors are permitted
- Tennis shoes may be worn everyday
- Shoes that are predominantly bright, neon or highly distracting are not permitted
- Socks must be solid black, white, or gray
- House shoes and Crocs are not permitted

Outerwear

- Only Benton Academy approved logo outerwear purchased through Lands' End or fan gear store may be worn inside the building.

Casual Friday Dress

On Fridays, students may dress out of uniform under the following guidelines:

- Students may wear jeans free of holes, rips, fraying, or excessive distressing
- Students must wear a Benton Academy t-shirt
- Jeans must be worn appropriately at the waist
- All clothing must remain modest and school appropriate

Compliance & Dress Code Violations

Students are expected to adhere to the uniform policy daily.

Students arriving at school out of uniform may result in parents being contacted and required to bring compliant clothing to school immediately.

Failure to comply with the uniform policy may result in the following disciplinary actions:

- First Offense: Warning
- Second Offense: Work Detail
- Third Offense: Suspension, as determined by the Head of School

The administration reserves the right to determine whether attire is appropriate and in compliance with school policy

BENTON ACADEMY SOCIAL MEDIA USE POLICY

Staff:

- Should use caution when corresponding with parents via social media. Correspondence should intend to answer questions and provide information regarding school activities as an extension of normal school communications. Any inquiries or conversations that become inappropriate or derogatory should be moved to a private conversation and referred to the administration as appropriate.
- Should not discuss issues concerning the school, administration, other students, staff members, or others affiliated with the school.
- Should only post things that they would be happy to be attributed to them as a teaching or coaching professional or that serve as information to the school community.
- Should not identify themselves as representing the school and/or the school's position on any subject.

Patrons:

- Should not post photos, videos, or comments on social media − whether on their own pages, in closed groups (e.g., groups set up for school parents to communicate with each other, etc.), or on the school's pages, that negatively portray students, the school, administration, faculty, staff, or others affiliated with the school.
- Should address concerns and complaints directly with the school/administration rather than posting them on social media − whether on their own pages, in closed groups (e.g., groups set up for school parents to communicate with each other, etc.), or on the school's pages.
- Should not post anything malicious about the school or any member of the school community.

Students:

- Should not join any social networking sites if they are below the permitted age.
- Should tell their parents if they are using any social networking sites.
- Should be aware of how to report abuse and inappropriate content (to parents, teachers, coaches, sponsors, administration, etc.).
- Should not make inappropriate or derogatory comments on social media (including in private messages) about other students, the school, administration, faculty, staff, or others affiliated with the school.

STUDENT DRIVER POLICY

- All students driving on campus must have a valid driver's license and all vehicles driven on campus must be street-approved vehicles.
- No student is to be in the parking lot after arriving on campus.
- Students bringing a vehicle to school are expected to observe safe driving practices and park in the designated parking area.
- The cars are to remain parked until you are ready to leave campus for the day.
- Cars are not to be moved from one parking lot to another during school hours. Athletes may only move their vehicles with permission given by the administration and the coaching staff.
- **BENTON ACADEMY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR VEHICLE OR ITS CONTENTS WHILE PARKED ON THE SCHOOL CAMPUS AT ANY TIME.**

LOCKERS

- Students are assigned lockers which are the property of the school.
- Students are to keep lockers neat and all books and materials in their lockers.
- A student's locker is not to be tampered with by any other student.
- The administration has the authority to inspect lockers at all times.
  Any books or personal items left on the tops of lockers will be removed at the end of the day. Students will be required to pay a fine before their books or personal items will be returned.

SENIOR TRIPS

BENTON ACADEMY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SENIOR TRIPS.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips must be for educational purposes only. These trips must be approved by the Administration. Field trips are not allowed after the Easter Holiday

SPECIAL BENTON ACADEMY AWARDS

A student must have attended Benton Academy for *two* years prior to being elected to the following:

Mr. or Miss Benton Academy

Mr. or Miss Junior High Benton Academy

Hall of Fame Selection Process:

- Four seniors will be selected annually
- Selection will be made by the Benton Academy faculty based on the four pillars of National Honor Society: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character
- In the event of a tie vote, additional students may be selected only if a *true* tie exists.

HONOR SOCIETY

A student may be inducted into the Honor Society in his/her 10th-grade year.

To be a member of the Honor Society

- Total scholastic average for the sixteen core academic high school credits(including credit received in the eighth grade) shall be no lower than 90 at the time of induction.
- The student must be in compliance with the school attendance policy at the time of induction.
- Community Service Hours must be current at the time of induction.
- Additionally, the student should not have any school suspensions or other significant disciplinary incidents.

GENERAL CONDUCT RULES

BE ON TIME ~ BE PREPARED
BE RESPECTFUL

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The purpose of Benton Academy is to give students a chance to grow and later become a valuable member of society. This growth includes learning new skills, learning new factual information, and learning how to co-exist and obey rules in our present society.

At Benton Academy, we believe discipline is essential for maintaining a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment. Our goal is to help students develop self-control, responsibility, and good citizenship through consistent expectations and fair consequences.

Students are expected to:

- Show respect for faculty, staff, classmates, and school property
- Follow all classroom and school rules
- Be honest, courteous, and cooperative
- Attend classes prepared and on time
- Refrain from disruptive, dangerous, or disrespectful behavior

Each teacher has his/her own set of classroom rules. When a student requires disciplinary action, the teacher applies the rules of her classroom unless she feels that the infraction is too severe. At that time, the student

will be sent to the Elementary Principal or Head of School office, where they will discipline the student accordingly, and contact parents if need be.

Offenses that will result in immediate corporal punishment or suspension are **cheating, fighting, vandalism, stealing, disrespectfulness to adults, or continuous misbehavior in the classroom.**

A student may be expelled for the remainder of the year upon recommendation by the Administrator to the Board of Directors. A student and parent may have the opportunity to appeal before the Membership Committee which consists of board members and school personnel.

The following offenses may be subject to immediate expulsion:

- Possession, use, or sale of illegal drugs or narcotics.
- Possession or use of alcohol during school or at school events.
- Any other offense ruled upon by the Board of Directors of Benton Academy.

Drug searches will be held at Benton Academy at different, unannounced times during the school year. This search will include the campus, cars, and lockers.

The following offenses may result in suspension. The length of suspension will be left to the discretion of the administration. Any out-of-school suspension automatically results in a one-point deduction from the student's nine weeks average in each course. Out-of-school suspension will prohibit students from practicing, participating or attending any school activities for that day.

1. Firearms or knives are not allowed on campus
2. Cheating, such as using unauthorized notes, stealing tests, plagiarism, etc. will result in a zero in said work, automatic in-school suspension, and requiring teachers or the administration to inform parents of the penalty
3. Stealing
4. Vandalism (Students must pay for replacement and repairs)
5. Gambling
6. Possession and/or use of tobacco or vaping devices
7. Skipping will result in out-of-school suspension
8. Fighting
9. Profanity (whether written, spoken, mouthed, or signed)
10. Hazing
11. Sexual misconduct by students through words, gestures, or social media
12. Any other offenses warranting suspension at the discretion of the Administration

Harassment/Bullying Policy

Benton Academy is committed to ensuring that students have a school free from harassment of any kind that is so severe and ongoing that it impacts a student's ability to succeed. For purposes of this handbook, Harassment is defined as ongoing verbal and/or physical attacks against a person including severe and ongoing intimidation in all forms. It is done with intent to disrupt physically and/or emotionally. This can be done by an individual or by a group gathered to harass someone. Harassment can take place through text messages, face-to-face contact and/or social media.

Physical Harassment includes:

- Hitting, punching, jostling, pushing, spitting, or sexual abuse
- Frightening actions by threatening these actions against them
- Hiding, damaging, or destroying the property of others

Non-physical Harassment includes:

- Name-calling or putting others down
- Using offensive names, making suggestive comments or other forms of harassment
- Using abusive language to others
- Making degrading comments about another's race, culture, gender, religious or social background
- Ridiculing a person or making derogatory comments about his or her body, face, or clothing
- Writing derogatory graffiti about others
- Writing crude notes or crude drawings about others
- Spreading rumors about students or their families
- Belittling another student's abilities and achievements

Any student who engages in any harassing behaviors toward another student will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion. In addition, any student who retaliates against another student and/or employee for reporting allegations of harassment will be subject to disciplinary action.

TYPES OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION USED BY ADMINISTRATION

1. Corporal punishment
2. Demerit System
3. Out-of-school suspension with zeroes in all classes for that day and not be allowed to: make up tests that were missed or attend/participate in any school function or activity while serving out-of-school suspension.
4. Expulsion - a student may be expelled for the remainder of the year upon recommendation by the Administration to the Board of Directors. A student and parent may have the opportunity to appeal before the Membership Committee which consists of board members and school personnel.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment may be administered in accordance with school policy and with prior parental consent. A signed Corporal Punishment Consent Form must be on file for each student.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

Benton Academy uses a demerit system to monitor student behavior and promote accountability. Demerits may be issued by teachers or administration for infractions of school rules. Demerits are tracked on a nine-week basis.

Consequences Based on Demerit Accumulation (Per 9 Weeks):

- 3 Demerits – Automatic Out-of-School Suspension
- More than 3 Demerits – May result in additional disciplinary action at the discretion of administration
- Important: Any out-of-school suspension automatically results in a one-point deduction from the student's nine weeks average in each course.

- Demerits reset at the beginning of each nine-week grading period, but repeated offenses across periods may lead to further review or disciplinary action.

Note: Benton Academy reserves the right to adjust disciplinary actions based on the severity and frequency of student behavior.

A student will not be sent home from school due to out-of-school suspension until a parent/guardian is notified. Therefore, out-of-school suspension may begin the following day.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

As a Christian school, our students are to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner whether at school or at a school function. The public display of your actions is detrimental to your witness and the standards of this school. **Public displays of affection will not be allowed.**

Disciplinary Action

- 1st Offense: 1 demerit
- 2nd Offense: Suspension

DRUG/ALCOHOL PREVENTION POLICY

1. A consent form must be signed by a parent/guardian of the student to be enrolled in Benton Academy (Grades 7-12).
2. If a student refuses to take a Drug/Alcohol test, the student must be withdrawn from Benton Academy.
3. All students will sign a form, give their social security number, and give a list of medications during testing.
4. Students will be subject to random testing.
5. The method of testing is a form of urinalysis, hair, or any other means of testing. Any positive drug result will be confirmed by an additional test at a laboratory selected by Benton Academy
6. Drug screening results will be reported only to a designated administrator.
7. Positive test results - student and parents will be advised - student will then be required to attend a drug counseling program and be tested, at the expense of the parents.
8. After a first positive test, the student is subject to take every random drug test during the year.
9. If a parent refuses to complete a counseling program for his/her child, the student will be dismissed from school.
10. The second incident of a positive result--permanent dismissal.

STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

POLICY STATEMENT

Benton Academy believes that a student outreach program is a vital aspect in the educating of the "total" individual. As our school strives to move students to a college level and beyond through academics, athletics, and Christian skills, we believe there is a very strong need for social development. This really translates into meeting the needs of others through social responsibility in our community and throughout the world. The Student Outreach Program presents a method to move students into needy situations through contacts with various agencies in the **Yazoo County and Central MS area near Benton Academy.** This reflects that our program is not bound just to Yazoo County or Benton itself. We go to Jackson, Clinton, etc. As students participate in these services, they will come to better understand the Christian example of service as demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

Students in grades nine through twelve will be required to do a minimum of ten (10) hours of community service **per academic year** (for a total of forty hours by the end of a four-year curriculum beginning in the 9th grade and ending in the 12th grade). Special consideration will be given to students transferring from other schools, etc. The students will be divided into outreach teams as determined by the Outreach Director. We may have eight teams or we may have fewer depending on the size of each class. The community will not only benefit, but it will provide opportunities for scholarships for our college-bound students.

The students of Benton Academy will leave with tremendous heartfelt memories about their different areas of service during their high school years. These experiences may propel them into adult life with a new understanding of God's creations and the seriousness of human needs.

Students who obtain 100 hours or more of community service will receive a community service cord for graduation.

BENTON ACADEMY STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM APPLICATION OF ACQUIRED SERVICE HOURS

1. One (1) service hour will be credited to each student in any of our partner agencies. Partial hours served will be credited as a full hour.
2. One (1) hour will be credited to each student who serves one hour in an approved on-campus service. This may be done in a concession stand, ticket-taking, special service for a teacher, elementary daycare, tutoring, etc. These hours should only represent 20% of the total hours needed for each year or eight (8) hours total for the required forty (40) hours.
3. Any daylong activities associated with the student's church will be credited two (2) hours for that day. This may relate to a workday for church members' homes, childcare, other outreach opportunities, etc.
4. Short-term mission trips (1-2 weeks) with the student's church will also be acceptable. The students will be credited with two (2) hours for each day of that particular mission trip. This is done so that the student's entire hour requirements for the year might be diversified through other services during the year.
5. A required six (6) hour work day will be planned by Benton Academy to help meet the ten

   (10) Hours requirement for each year. The Outreach Director will be responsible for the selection of the partnered agency and the work to be done.
6. All service hours will be approved, authenticated, and documented. With this being done, not only the hours but also the agencies served and the type of work done will be recorded and may be added to the student's transcript.
7. All students are required to pick up and fill out community service hour verification forms for all projects performed, either in the community or for the school. The forms must be signed by the person who is supervising the student, and the student will return the forms to the Benton Academy Business Office. Forms are on file and available in the Business Office. Failure to return forms to the office means that the service will not be recorded by the Outreach Director, and the student also risks a workday detention. This must be done each week or as soon as the service is completed by the student.
8. All students are required to complete hours and return all verification forms by the final deadline indicated in the student handbook: NO EXCEPTIONS unless approved by the Administration.
   a. Seniors service hours deadline is **March 1st**, or the following Monday if the first falls on a weekend.
   b. Underclassmen service hours deadline is **April 1st**, or the following Monday if the first falls on a weekend.
   c. Failure to hand in service hours by the deadline indicated will result in the student being assigned an ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION WORKDAY to make up deficient hours, on a date to be determined by the Administration.
9. Students are not allowed to roll over deficient hour requirements to the next academic year without prior approval from the Administration. Failure to complete the ten (10) required hours for the school year will result in an ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION WORKDAY.
10. All service hours are acceptable for that academic year. Each new academic year possesses a separate ten (10) hour requirement. Exceptions to this rule would include mission trips and Summer Vacation Bible School in the summer prior to the start of the new academic year in August.
11. No service hours will be credited to a student for performing work that is required as part of an academic class or family activity.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR
PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Every student is encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities. One desiring to participate in extra-curricular activities MUST HAVE PASSED FOUR ACADEMIC SUBJECTS THE PREVIOUS YEAR and be registered for the year they seek participation.

An overall average of (75) in academic subjects is required for participation in all extra-curricular activities. A student who has not maintained this average at progress report time (4 ½ weeks) will be placed on probation. Failure to obtain a 75 average in the next 4 ½ weeks will result in the student being ineligible for any extra-curricular activities.

Extra-curricular activities include sports, cheerleading, and dance.

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

The student will continue to be ineligible for 3-week intervals until the student passes with an overall 75 average in academic subjects.

ATHLETICS POLICY

1. A student must present a physician's certificate stating that he/she is physically fit to participate in a competitive sport.
2. Transportation will be provided for most athletic contests. Each coach has the right to make their travel rules. Under no circumstances will an athlete ride back with anyone without parental permission.
3. Athletes will always practice good sportsmanship.
4. Athletes cannot miss practice unless sick and must also call the coach.
    a. Also, athletes are not allowed to practice on days they do not attend school.
    b. Exceptions: doctor's or dental appointments, family emergencies, or any other circumstance excused by the administration and coaching staff.
5. Athletes must attend all classes during the school day in order to be eligible to participate in the game. (EXCEPTION - doctor or dental appointments or family emergency and the coach and administration must be contacted.
6. Benton Academy will follow all rules set forth by the MAIS.
7. Any student who is ejected from a school-sponsored sport will pay a fine to Benton Academy of $250 before he/she plays another game. Any parent who is ejected from an athletic event will be fined $500 and cannot attend another game until paid.
8. Due to safety concerns, no pets will be allowed at sports events.
9. Students who are not enrolled at Benton Academy will NOT be allowed to participate in athletics (includes pee wee sports).

Any action reflecting negatively toward Benton Academy at any athletic function will result in parents and students being brought before the Administration and/or membership committee of the Board of Directors.

ELEMENTARY ATHLETES

Rules for elementary athletes are exactly the same as the rules for junior high and high school athletes which are listed on page 31 of this handbook. This includes Pee Wee football players, Pee Wee cheerleaders, Mini Raiderettes, and Pee Wee basketball players. **(This does not include rule # 2 in the Athletics Policy).**

MISCONDUCT POLICY FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

This policy includes fans, parents and any other persons that show misconduct towards coaches, officials or any other persons at an Athletic Event.

Fans, parents and any other persons should conduct themselves in a manner in which the school, the athletes and the integrity of the game is upheld at all times.

Fans, Parents, and other persons should at no time:

- Approach a coach/assistant coach or any other personnel involved with the team during or after the game
- Approach an official during or after the game
- Use profanity during the event
- Act in a way that negatively reflects on the school

In the event that such actions happen there will be the following consequences:

- 1st Offense – Fan, parent or other persons will be suspended for the next 2 games
- 2nd Offense – Fan, parent or other persons will be suspended for the remainder of that sports season.
- 3rd Offense – Fan, parent or other person will be suspended from all athletic events for 1 year.

SPORTSMANSHIP RULES - MAIS

"The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity." - MAIS

Student/Parent Handbook Signature Page

I certify that I have read the Benton Academy handbook and that I understand the policies, rules, and regulations stated within this handbook.

Please sign and date this page and return it to the homeroom teacher within five (5) days of receipt.

_____ _____/____/_____

Student Signature Date

_____ _____/____/_____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date