

BINSON

PUBLIC SCI-IOOLS

Benson Community Education and District Newsletter
Spring 2023 Volume 30 Issue 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| Phone Alert, Subs Needed & Bell Schedules page 2 Board Members & District Staff page 2 Mr. Laumeyer & School Board Recognition page 3 ACT Prep Class & Game Club page 4 Gingerbread Houses & Coasters for Sale page 4 8th Grade Science, Senior Pictures & Yearbooks .page 5 Mr. Kent, Bingo for Books, Girls Strength page 6 Northside Enrichment & Winter Softball page 7 Mr. Pagel, 4th Grade Ski Trip & The Braves Way. page 8 Snow Week & GSA page 9 | The Great Kindness Challenge |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| | |
| Braves Got Talent & Grub Club page 10 | Elementary Spring Gymnastics page 20 |
| Music Page & PAC Performances page 11 | ECFE & Preschool page 21 |
| Activities & Athletics, Coaches, Umpire Clinic page 12 | Discovery Kids page 22 |
| | School Calendar page 23 |

High School

1400 Montana Avenue Benson, MN 56215 320-843-2710 (ph) 320-843-2262 (f)



Northside Elementary

1800 W Nevada Ave Benson, MN 56215 320-842-2717 (ph) 320-843-5300 (f) Benson Community Education

Schools and Communities
LEARNING TOGETHER

Community Education

1400 Montana Ave Benson, MN 56215 320-843-4545 (ph) 320-843-2262 (f)

School Phone Alert System

Benson Schools phone alert system is used for weather related and special informational announcements from the school district.

It is *important* that you keep the school office informed of any changes or additions to contact phone numbers to help keep your family informed.

This can be done by calling 843-2710 or on the JMC Online Parent Portal located on the school's website:

www.benson.k12.mn.us

"Parent Portal"

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED!

Applicants who have a bachelor's degree, but not in education, can apply for a Two-Year Short Call Sub License. Training will be provided.



SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS NEEDED!

Training will be provided.

Call 320-843-2710

Accepting Open Enrollment Students!

Benson Public Schools is taking open enrollment applications for the 2022-2023 school year.

4 Star Rated Preschool

A morning 3 year old class Full day 4 year old classes are FREE!

On-Site Child Care

6 weeks through 6th grade

Grades K-5 classes average below 20 students!

College & Elective Classes

55 college credits offered Save over \$30,000 in college tuition

Career & Technical Education

Build a house, fishouse and other steel products CNC, CAD and 3D printing projects

"Exceptional Opportunities for Every Student's Success"

Northside Elementary (Gr. K-5)

1st Bell: 8:05 a.m. 2nd Bell: 8:10 a.m. Ending Bell: 2:55 p.m.

BELL SCHEDULES

Benson High School (Gr. 6-12)

1st Bell: 7:57 a.m.

1st Period: 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. 2nd Period: 8:48 - 9:33 a.m.

Connect/2nd Chance: 9:33 - 9:45 a.m.

3rd Period: 9:48 - 10:33 a.m. 4th Period: 10:36 - 11:21 a.m. Lunch (6-12): 11:21 - 11:49 a.m. 5th Period: 11:52 - 12:37 p.m. 6th Period: 12:40 - 1:25 p.m. 7th Period: 1:28 - 2:13 p.m. 8th Period: 2:16 - 3:01 p.m.



District #777 Board Of Education

Brian Samuelson, Chair Gary Williams, Vice-Chair Bill McGeary, Treasurer Mary KW Langan, Clerk Jim Berens, Director Paul Carruth, Director Eric Peterson, Director



District Staff

Dennis Laumeyer, Superintendent Mike Knutson, 6-12 Principal Brennan Kent, PreK-5 Principal Matthew Ebnet, Activities Director Connie Evenson, Food Service Director Al Pagel, Transportation Supervisor

Community Education Advisory Council

Matthew Anderson Erin Honebrink
Sarah Jaeger Laurie O'Leary
Lucas Olson Laura Ostlie
Sonja Schwiderski Kerry Wilcox

Joy Zehringer

Paul Carruth, School Board

Leah Olson, youth rep Lily Ostlie, youth rep

Community Education Staff

Shelly Vergin, Community Education Director Aryn Lindahl, Secretary

Chrysees Forbord, Early Childhood Coordinator Carissa McDonald, Discovery Kids Director

Recognition for Benson School Board Members

By Dennis Laumeyer, Superintendent

The Benson Public Schools joins school districts throughout the state to salute our local education leaders during Minnesota's annual School Board Recognition.

Benson School Board members are chosen by their communities through election to help direct budgets for our school. They oversee a multimillion-dollar budget which fund education programs for over 800 students from PK-12th grade.

Our volunteer leaders also are responsible for formulating school district policy, maintaining school facilities, while adhering to state and federal education law. Legal concerns and the complexities of school finance, including budgeting and taxation, require Benson School Board members to spend time in board training programs, conferences, and personal study to enhance their understanding of these issues.

In addition to monthly meetings, board members spend considerable time at committee meetings and preparing for monthly board meetings. Service on the board requires members to sacrifice time from family and work.

The commemorative week is designed to recognize the contributions made by our caring and dedicated school board members. The members serving our district are: Jim Berens, Paul Carruth, Mary KW Langan, Bill McGeary, Eric Peterson, Brian Samuelson, and Gary Williams.

Please join me in saying "thank you" to our committed school board members for their many contributions to Benson Public Schools. Benson School students benefit every day from the vision of our school board members.





ACT PREP CLASS FOR JUNIORS

BHS is committed to helping all students feel prepared to take the test and will offer ACT prep instruction for each of the 4 content areas.

Monday, February 27th – Math with Mr. Grussing from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1st - Reading with Mrs. Goossen during 4th and 5th period

Thursday, March 2nd – English with Mrs. Goossen from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Monday, March 6th - Science with Mrs. Floura from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The cost is \$55 for all review sessions. More information and a form is available in Mr. Strand's office. You can register online or in the Community Ed office.



Gingerbread Houses

Mrs. Ose's
2nd grade
class and Miss
Hulterstrum's
4th grade
class worked
together to build
gingerbread
houses in
December



COAS<mark>TERS FOR</mark> SALE MADE BY THE INK SPOT

SET OF 4 WOO<mark>D BURNED COASTERS C</mark>USTOM MADE AT TIME OF ORDER. CUSTOMIZATION IS AN OPTION ONLY ON THE CLASS YEAR OR LAST NAME DESIGN

\$15+ TAX

AVAILABLE TWO WEEKS AFTER PURCHASE!

TO ORDER GO TO H<mark>TTPS://BENSON.REVT</mark>RAK.NET/RW-INK-SPOT/











Hands on Science

8th grade students in Lorie Floura's Earth Science class are studying weather and climate changes.

The unit began with exploring the characteristics of air through a series of demonstrations.

In this experiment they are testing to see if air can exert enough pressure on the paper to hold the shim down to allow a student to break the ruler in half and not have the shim fly across the room.

NO: Smoking Smokeless Tobacco E-Cigarettes

on school property or in any school buildings.

Benson Public Schools is also Latex-Free. Latex balloons are prohibited in our schools!

Benson Public Schools does not carry secondary insurance for its students or athletes.

If you have any questions, please contact Benson Public Schools at 320-843-2710.

JUNIOR PARENTS . . . As you start planning Senior Pix

- 1. JPEG (.jpg) digital image format is required. 300 DPI or higher for actual size of photo. (high resolution image files are better for printing purposes)
- 2. All pictures must be submitted in full color (no sepia or black-and-white)
- 3. Pictures need to be vertical and head and shoulder only format. Please no full body or partial body poses
- 4. Have your photographer leave enough space around your face to allow for the yearbook staff to feature you at your best within the design.
- 5. Note: pictures with "soft focus" appear blurred upon reproduction.
- 6. Appropriate attire only will be accepted (School dress code and policies apply)...no hats, pets, or other accessories/props.
- 7. The yearbook staff has the right to request a different photograph if the above guidelines are not met.
- 8. Photographs should be emailed by December 1 to: yearbook@benson.k12.mn.us



It's not too late to order your 6th-12th Grade Yearbook!



2 easy ways to order...



online at jostensyearbooks.com



pick up an order form from Mr. Strand and return with a check

Ink Cartridge Recycling

The Benson BPA chapter will NOT be accepting used ink cartridges until further notice.





Spring Northside Update

By Brennan Kent, Northside Elementary Principal

The Northside staff and I hope that everyone is having a great 22-23 school year. Students at Northside have earned four school-wide

rewards through our PBIS program, as they continue to demonstrate The Braves Way by being kind, safe, and responsible. Throughout the Spring we will continue to focus on educating the entire child, providing a safe environment for students to grow intellectually and socially. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or simply would like to visit, please stop in, email me at bkent@benson.k12.mn.us, or call the Northside Office at 320-842-2717.





Sponsored by Northside Title 1

Tuesday, March 14th 5:30-7:00 In the Northside Gym

Play BINGO and win books for your prize! Kids of all ages and their families are invited to this fun, FREE, event!

Pizza and drinks available for purchase Doors will open at 5:00 p.m.



Mackenzie Dokkebakken offered a new class this winter - 6th Grade Girls Strength program. Girls learned a variety of new lifts and techniques. They made great gains and had a lot of fun in the process!



Northside After School Enrichment

Northside Elementary is excited to offer the students of Northside Elementary School an *After School Enrichment Program* on Thursdays & Fridays. Different grades will be invited to participate in the program throughout the year. Listed below is a schedule:

Oct., Nov., Dec. – Grades 4 & 5 (complete)
Jan., Feb., March – Grades 2 & 3 (currently running)
April & May – Grades K & 1

There will be no make-up days. The program will run from 2:55-3:55 p.m. each Thursday and Friday. Letters will be sent to families prior to their session, so they can register. A small snack will be provided to students.

Transportation will not be provided for this program, it will be your responsibility to pick up your child by 4:00 p.m. All students will be dismissed out the west end doors of Northside Elementary. There is no cost for this program. Some areas covered include exploring flight, making ice cream, making slime, 3D printing, and others. Class sizes and days will be adjusted depending on enrollment.

If you have questions about this program, please call the Northside Elementary office at 320-842-2717.

Winter Softball Clinics







Coach Mackenzie Dokkebakken held 3 softball clinics this winter.

The girls worked on improving the fundamental skills and knowledge of the game.

They practiced fielding, hitting and learned some sliding and base-running techniques.

Winter Reminders By Al Pagel, Transportation Supervisor

Thanks to all of our drivers and families for working with us the last few weeks with the winter weather we are having. I would like to remind everyone of a few important things:

- 1. Please have your child dress for the weather conditions.
- 2. With winter roads, please be ready 5 minutes before your scheduled pick up time. If you are not sure what time that is, please call the garage at 320-842-8035.
- 3. There are times we will have to make the call for buses on plowed roads only. That means the bus will only travel on plowed roads.
- 4. Reminder that any student who is having another student (s) ride a bus route (such as a birthday party or sleepover) need to have prior approval. You may call or email for approval. We are working hard to ensure that we have an accurate rider list for every route, every activity, every day.

You can call the garage at 320-842-8035, or email apagel@benson.k12.mn.us with any changes for riding (for example, not riding in the morning), additional kids, or if you have any questions or concerns. I check the answering machine throughout the day, so please leave a message if I do not answer and I will return your message as soon as I am back to the garage.

Are you looking to make extra income? I'm looking for additional drivers to join our team. I'm looking for both bus drivers, and van drivers. The school will pay for all trainings and other requirements. There can be flexibility in driving schedules and you get to work with a fun team.



Through the PBIS program, students at Northside can earn golden tickets by demonstrating the Braves Way. This includes being kind, safe, and responsible. Each Wednesday, all students that received a golden ticket are entered into a drawing for an opportunity to choose a prize.







Snow Week

12th Grade Court

Natalie Collins, Brittany Flower, Katelyn Kobbermann, Ella Ridler (Queen)and Hannah Rosen

Juan Espinoza, Connor Goff, Tyler Hanson (King), Teegan Hogrefe and Hunter LeClair.

11th Grade Representatives:

Kaylin Grube, Presley Nygaard, Charlie Goff and Jack Langan

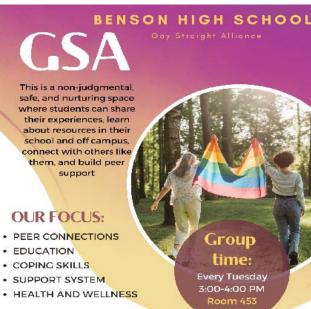
10th Grade Representatives:

Sophie Hilleren, Mya McGeary, Alex Claussen and Jack Storlien

Emcees:

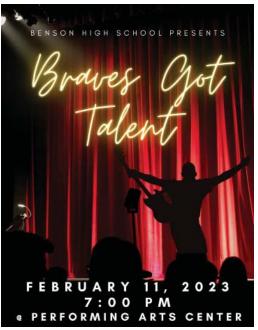
Shukri Mahomed and Jonathan Ilstrup





Led by Mallory Fell, MSW, LICSW, High School Social Worker

Open to Students grades 7-12



"Our Braves Got Talent event was such a success. We are so proud of all of the students that participated and grew in their confidence through this event. We ended up having 15 different student acts that gave us incredible performances. We listened to beautiful music, laughed at some comedy, were impressed by some athletics and dances, and took in some art.

Congratulations to Caleb Pharr (1st), Angelina Escobedo (2nd), Jeannecia Nero (3rd), and Ler Hla & Vika Orsten (Honorable Mention).

Jasmine and Mallory are planning to host this great event again next year so start planning your audition!"









Get Connected with Benson Public Schools!

- Monthly article in Monitor-News
- KSCR Radio (fm 93.5)
- District Newsletter

Website

www.benson.k12.mn.us https://www.vancoevents.com/us/ eventlist/bensonpublicschools



Facebook Pages

Find us, Like us at facebook.com/
BensonPublicSchools777
BensonCommunityEducation
BensonChoir
Discovery-Kids
bensonschoolreadiness
Benson-Baseball-Association
Benson-Braves-Wrestling
Benson-KMS-Area-Gymnastics
bensonsoftball
Benson-Braves-Volleyball
Benson Braves Golf

Twitter Pages

Follow Us at
(district) @BensonBraves777
(activities) @BensonBraves
(BPA) @BensonMN_BPA
(FFA) @Benson_FFA
(football) @BensonFootball
(tennis) @BKMS_tennis
(volleyball) @BravesVball
(superintendent) @Dlau5

UP nold

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH First, Second, Third Grade Friday, March 10, 2023 * 1:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center Director - Shelly Mikkelson

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

2022-2023 Music Department Calendar

| 9-12 Grade Band Concert March 7 * 7:30 p.m. |
|---|
| 1-3 Grade Concert March 10 * 1:30 p.m. |
| Large Group Contest (in KMS) March 13 * 3:00 p.m. |
| 9-12 Grade Choir Concert March 20 * 7:30 p.m. |
| Solo & Ensemble ContestApril 1 * All Day |
| Jazz n' Stuff Concert April 1 * 7:00 p.m. |
| 4-5 Grade Concert |
| 6 Grade Music & Band Concert May 5 * 1:30 p.m. |
| 7-8 Grade Choir & Band ConcertMay 8 * 5:00 p.m. |
| 9-12 Grade Choir & Band Concert May 9* 7:00 p.m. |

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

An annual celebration during March which engages music educators, students and communities from around the country in promoting the benefits of high quality music education programs in schools. Help Benson celebrate MIOSM and attend one of our many concerts and programs throughout the month of March!

MUSIC BOOSTERS ... GET INVOLVED!

This group helps support our school musicians. Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. in the BHS Band Room.



ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

PARENTS, STUDENTS REMINDED OF DISTRICT POLICIES AT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

District #777 would like to remind parents and students of the policies which govern all athletic events hosted by District #777. In an effort to better control the structure of events the following policies will apply to all events for the sports seasons this year.

- Any students leaving the building during an event will have to pay regular admission prices to return. Athletic passes will not be accepted for the second entry into an event on any given night.
- All school grounds/facilities in use by the district are tobacco free
- ALL Elementary students in attendance at events need to be under the DIRECT SUPERVISION of their parent/guardian at all times.
- Athletic Passes must be in possession to be honored.
- To reduce the risk of injury it is requested that everyone takes responsibility for placing your trash in the receptacles provided in an effort to keep our bleachers as clean and safe as possible. Please take a minute at the completion of each event and set a good example...please clean up the trash around your area of the bleachers.

We appreciate the Good Sportsmanship our fans have displayed in the past and we know that you will continue this high level of respect for officials, coaches, athletes and fans. Again, thank you for your strong support of the activities programs at Benson High School, we look forward to seeing you at this year's events.

Libby McGeary and Ryan Tolifson selected to represent BHS for the Triple "A" Award.

Benson seniors Libby McGeary and Ryan Tolifson were recently selected by Benson Public Schools to represent BHS in the Triple



"A" Award program. Libby is the daughter of Dan and Caryn McGeary. Ryan is the son of Dave and Janel Tolifson.

The Triple "A" Award honors high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, participate in a League-sponsored athletic program

and a fine arts activity at some time during their high school career. Each school

can nominate one senior girl and one senior boy for the award.

Two award finishers from each region (one boy and one girl) will be invited to a recognition banquet in March and League officials will announce the four statewide Triple 'A' Award winners at that time. All 32 finalists will



participate in an on-court ceremony during the Class AA championship game of the Boys Basketball State Tournament. The statewide award winners—a girl and a boy from Class A and Class AA schools—will also receive a four-year \$1,000 scholarship.

Benson Braves Head Coaches Spring Sports

Boys Baseball - Tom Foley
Girls Softball - Mackenzie Dokkabakken
Boys Tennis - Coleton Anderson
Girls Track and Field - Samantha VanHeuveln
Boys Track and Field - Chad Carroll
Trap Shooting - Andy Abner
Boys Golf - Adam Jensen
Girls Golf - Mike Felt

Umpire Clinic

Lakeview Community Education is offering an Umpire Clinic for anyone interested in learning more about umping. Basic principles and fundamentals will be the focus as they help you learn more, get started or get better at umping.

Attending this clinic will assist you in scheduling games at the level you want to ump including information on getting certified by the MSHSL. Instruction will cover game management, positioning and getting the call right.

For more information or to register, email communityeducation@lakeview2167.com.

Saturday, March 25th / 2:30 p.m. / Lakeview Elem. Instructor: Grant Will Southern Prairie Umpires Assocation

Logan Schauer selected for the ExCEL Award

Congratulations to Logan Schauer for being selected to represent Benson Public Schools for the ExCEL Award. Logan is the son of Jeremy and Jessica Schauer.



ExCEL – Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership – is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school juniors who are active in school activities, who show leadership qualities, and who volunteer in their

communities.

An independent panel of judges from schools throughout Minnesota select ExCEL Award recipients. Each recipient will be recognized on 45TV during the broadcast of the 2023 winter tournaments. They also will participate in an on-court award ceremony during the Class AA championship game of the Girls Basketball State Tournament in March.



The Great Kindness Challenge - Grow Kindness

January 23-27, 2023 was The Great Kindness Challenge. This year's theme was Grow Kindness. Grades Pre-k-5 were busy growing kindness by extending smiles, gratitude and thoughtful acts of kindness and compassion.

Each classroom received a plant on Monday to remind them to "grow kindness" in their acts. Students and staff participated in daily activities which included introducing the Challenge with classrooms viewing a video and talking about what kindness is and how we can spread kindness.

Tuesday, students participated in writing a note of kindness/appreciation to another student, the students then delivered these notes to those students. Wednesday, each class was assigned to a specific group of staff to show a random act of kindness. Thursday, students and staff had their picture taken in the gym with a sing-a-long. Thanks to Mrs. Mikkelson for all her work in this. Friday, each class was paired with another class to participate in an activity of their choice.

Students worked together, and became acquainted with other classrooms. Northside Elementary looks forward to continuing to Growing Kindness!





School **Board** member Mary Langan helped a class of second graders make and deliver Hot Tea or Hot Chocolate. Friday, February 17 was Random Act of Kindness the second Day, graders demonstrated kindness taking orders from the staff Northside Elementary, completing the order and delivering the beverage. Smiles and Gratitude!





BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA (BPA)

The Benson BPA Chapter had excellent results at the Region 7 Conference held January 20, 2023 at Alexandria Technical College. There were 11 area schools and 284 students competing. Thirty students from Benson competed at the conference and 27 advanced to state. Below are the results. Students may compete in three events at the regional level and two at the state level. The bolded names for each event are the students competing in the State BPA Conference, which will also be held March 9-11, 2023 in Minneapolis.

Administrative Support Team: <u>1st-</u>Ellie Krusemark, Emma Krusemark, Sophia Krusemark and Madison Osterbauer; 2nd-Harold Habben and Isaac Carlson

Advanced Accounting: 1st-Jonathan Ilstrupt

Advanced Desktop Publishing: 2nd-Kaitlyn Sondag,

3rd-Jonathan Ilstrup

Advanced Interview Skills: 2nd-Ellie Krusemark,

3rd-Hannah Rosen

Advanced Office Systems & Procedures: <u>1st-</u>Elise Duncan, 2nd-Jordan Schmidt

Advanced Spreadsheet Applications: 2nd-Jonathan Ilstrup, 4th-Emma Krusemark, 5th-Kaylin Grube, 6th-Jack Langan

Advanced Word Processing: <u>1st-Elise Duncan</u>, <u>2nd-Emma Krusemark</u>, <u>3rd-Charity Rudnick</u>, <u>4th-Adeline DeToy</u>

Basic Office Systems & Procedures: 2nd-Harold Habben **Broadcast News Team**: 2nd-Keala Carroll, Anabelle DeToy, Taylor Helmberger

Business Law and Ethics: 6th-Ryan Dale

Database Applications: <u>1st-</u>Adeline DeToy, <u>3rd-</u>Charity Rudnick, <u>4th-</u>Jordan Schmidt, <u>7th-</u>Lauren Schmidt

Device Configuration and Troubleshooting: 2nd-Helstrom

Sanchez, <u>4th-</u>Harold Habben

Digital Marketing Concepts: 6th-Harold Habben

Economic Research Team: 1st-Kaylin Grube, Jordan Schmidt, Shukri Mohamed, Lauren Schmidt

Fundamental Accounting:
7th-Kaylin Grube, Honorable
Mention: Jack Langan, Elise
Duncan, Faith Klucas

Fundamental Desktop Publishing: 2nd-Charity
Rudnick, 3rd-Hannah Rosen,
Honorable Mention: Ryan Dale

Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications: 1st-Madison
Osterbauer, 4th-Sophia
Krusemkark, 5th-Keala Carroll,
6th-Isaac Carlson, Honorable
Mention: Dallas Carey

Fundamental Word Processing: 6th-Dallas Carey, Honorable Mention: Helstrom Sanchez Taylor Helmberger Graphic Design Promotion: 2nd-Molly Jones, Honorable Mention: Kaitlyn Sondag

Health Administration Procedures: 4th-Azura Goodall, 6th-Taylor Helmberger

Health Insurance and Medical Billing: 1st-Azura Goodall ICD-10-CM Medical Diagnostic Coding: 1st-Azura Goodall

Integrated Office Applications: <u>1st-Ellie Krusemark,</u> <u>2nd-</u>Hannah Rosen, <u>6th-</u>Jack Langan, <u>7th-</u>Lauren Schmidt Intermediate Word Processing: <u>2nd-</u>Kaitlyn Sondag,

Intermediate Word Processing: 2nd-Kaitlyn Sondag, 3rd-Molly Jones, 4th-Marissa Marotzke, 5th-Isaac Carlson Legal Office Procedures: 3rd-Madison Osterbauer

Medical Terminology Concepts: 7th-Jonathan Ilstrup
Meeting & Event Planning Concepts: 7th-Lauren Schmidt

Parliamentary Procedures Concepts: <u>5th-</u>Ryan Dale **Personal Financial Management:** <u>2nd-</u>Ryan Dale

Podcast News Team: <u>Honorable Mention-</u>Faith Klucas, Andrea Mejia

Presentation Management Individual: <u>3rd-</u>Anabelle DeToy, <u>4th-Shukri Mohamed</u>

Python Programming: 1st-Helstrom Sanchez



Food Service Reminders By Connie Evenson, Food Service Director

Procedures for Over Due Accounts Policy

Parents receive statements one of two ways:

- Via Email. If there is an email set up with the lunch account, low balance notices will be sent weekly to the email linked to the lunch account.
- Via Mail. If there is no email set up with the lunch account, physical low balance notices will be sent weekly.

Process for low balance notices:

- 1. Emails or physical notices will be sent on all accounts that are expected to go negative within 8 days.
- 2. When accounts reach a zero balance, parents will be notified via phone call that their students can no longer charge ala carte to their accounts until their account has a positive balance and payment on the account needs to be made within two weeks.
- 3. If no response or payment is made, a final notice will be mailed to the parents with the effective date of three school days to bring their account to a positive balance.
- 4. If payment is still not received, they will be turned over to collections.

Lunch Information

To find out more information, go to: www.benson.k12.mn.us "Lunch Menus" in gray bar at bottom of home screen

There you will find links to:

- Menus
- Free/Reduced Applications
- Elementary Birthday Treats
- more!

If sending payment to school for your child's lunch account, please make checks payable to: Benson Public Schools.

Please add a note if child's last name is different than the last name on the check.

Lunch payments can also be made online with a credit/debit card through the parent portal.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Help Keep Benson Moving Forward

The Benson Baseball Association is accepting donations to help fund a new concession stand with a handicap accessible bathroom by Chief's Field. The old concession stand never had running water.

The area around the grandstand will also be updated with cement to give it a fresh new look.

Checks can be made payable to "Benson" Baseball Association" and mailed to:

Benson Baseball 1400 Montana Ave Benson, MN 56215



2nd Slide by 2025 Campaign Kick-off

The 2nd Slide by 2025 Committee is kicking off its campaign to update the Benson Family Aguatic Center by adding a second flume slide. In 2004

when the pool was built, the equipment for two flume slides was installed, but only one slide

Benson Family Aquatic Center 2nd Slide

was completed. After eighteen years, our goal is to raise funds to complete the installation of the 2nd slide. The cost for the second slide is approximately \$150,000 and our time-line is as follows:

- 1. Raise half the funds (\$75,000) by the summer of 2023.
- 2. Raise the remaining balance by the summer of 2024.
- 3. Install the second slide in the fall of 2024.
- 4. Enjoy the second slide on opening day 2025!

Our swimming pool is a huge asset that brings in hundreds of families to the area and will continue to serve our community for generations to come. Swimming promotes family time, exercise, mastering life-saving and lifelong skills, and recreational fun.

Donations can be payable to the City of Benson, and mailed to: City of Benson 1410 Kansas Avenue

Benson, MN 56215

THANK YOU for your support! Please reach out to a committee member with any questions. Members include: Amanda Carruth, Emily Foslien, Elizabeth Koehl, Julie Loen, and Shelly Mikkelson.

Pre-registration is required for all classes. Participants must be registered and fees paid prior to the first class or activity.

4 Easy Ways To Register

- Secured Online Site: Register online at: https://benson.revtrak.net/
- 2. Mail: Send registration and payment to:

 Benson Community Education
 1400 Montana Avenue
 Benson, MN 56215
- **3. Phone**: Call 843-4545 to register using a credit card. No phone registrations will be complete until payment is received.
- **4. In Person:** Bring payment to the Benson Community Education office located in the Benson High School.

Register early. Many classes depend on minimum enrollment. Classes may be canceled if a minimum enrollment is not met.

Confirmation email will be sent if you have an email address in your profile. No class reminders are mailed out. Once registered, simply show up for the class and enjoy.

Inclement Weather and School Closings may affect your class. If Benson Public Schools classes and activities are canceled, Community Education classes and activities may be canceled as well. Tune in to KSCR 93.5 for notifications or cancellations. You may also call the office at 843-4545 for updated information.

Complete Refunds will be given if the activity is canceled due to insufficient enrollment. Refunds will be issued at Community Education's discretion for cancellations made less than a week before start date, due to special circumstances.

Scholarships may be available for certain classes. Certain "Camps" and Driver's Education are not eligible for scholarships.

Benson Community Education Office
Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

HELP WANTED SUMMER REC & AQUATICS JOBS

Benson Community Ed is now accepting applications for a variety of summer positions.

Applicants should be highly motivated and interested in working with youth and adults. Applications are available online or in the Community Ed Office.

- baseball/softball coaches
- baseball/softball umps
- field maintenance
- · crossing guard
- pool lifeguards
- swim lesson instructors



Application deadline: Friday, April 7

Community Education Weather Policy

- Late Start: Community Education classes on as planned.
- **No School:** ALL Community Education classes/ events are canceled.
- **Early Dismissal:** ALL Community Education classes/events are canceled.

Please pick your child up ON TIME from all activities!

Our supervisors, instructors and volunteers time is important and they can't leave until all kids have been picked up. Tardiness may result in a discontinuation of your child's ability to participate in activities.

TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

If you choose to take part in any program or activity sponsored solely or jointly by Community Education, you do so at your own risk. Benson Area Community Education or School District #777 is not responsible for providing health or hospital insurance.

PRE-REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is necessary for many of our activities and classes at least 3 days prior to the start of the class or activity. Registration is complete only after the fee has been received in the Community Education office.

REFUNDS

A full refund will be made if you contact the Community Education Office prior to the registration deadline or first day of class. Fees are not refundable any time after.



Join the Pickleball craze and come play on Wednesday nights at Benson High School. Dec. 7th - March 29th.

Come as a single or with a partner! Play starts at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights in the East Gym. It's a non-competitive and fun way to get your exercise in!

Paddles and ball will be provided, or you can bring your own. Haven't played before? No problem! We will teach you!

Cost: \$2 per time, buy a punch ticket for \$10 or get a season pass for \$20.00. **Call Community Ed at 843-4545 for more info.**

Learning is "FUN"

Nancy Dokken is back with her Learning is "FUN" series of classes! Registration is open for all class and can be found under "Adult/Senior" in our registration program.

All classes will be from 6:30-8:30 and will take place in the library at Benson High School.

Eating For Your Blood Type: Learning what foods you should eat for a healthier you.

Thursday, March 2nd * 6:30-8:30 p.m. * \$10.00

Having Fun with the Pendulum: Learning the impact the pendulum has with your welleing. Pendulum included with your registration.

Monday, March 13th * 6:30-8:30 p.m. * \$15.00

Biorhythm: Learn why some days you are more tired, feel like your brain is not working and your emotions are off the wall. <u>Class limit of 15.</u>

Thursday, March 23rd * 6:30-8:30 p.m. * \$10.00

Tapping: Learn a new approach to help the body overcome pain, emotional issues, phobias and more

Monday, April 3rd * 6:30-8:30 p.m. * \$10.00

Foot and Hand Reflexology: Hands and feet play an important part in our well being. They are always there ready to assist in your health.

Tuesday, April 11th * 6:30-8:30 p.m. * \$10.00

Make Flowers Out of Wire Ribbon: So creative, beautiful and easy! All supplies provided. <u>Class Imit of 15.</u>

Tuesday, April 25th * 6:30-8:30 p.m. * \$15.00

Old Fashion Gingham Cross Stitch: Cross stitch, chicken scratch, so fun and pretty! All supplies provided. <u>Class Imit of 15.</u>

Thursday, May 4th * 6:30-8:30 p.m. * \$15.00

Huck Towel Embroidery: Bring back the beauty of hand towels with embroidery, the huck way. All supplies provided. <u>Class Imit of 15.</u>

Tuesday, May 16th * 6:30-8:30 p.m. * \$15.00

SUNDAY OPEN GYM

runs through March 26th 1:00-3:00 p.m. Benson High School Gyms



Come check us out and challenge your friends to a little one-on-one or two-on-two game of basketball!

Please **carry in** your basketball/tennis shoes.

THANK YOU!

A special thank you goes out to the individuals, businesses and organizations that sponsored Open Gym this year!

American Family Insurance (Angela Nissen)
Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company (CVEC)
Jed-Aire Aviation (Jason & Jill Doscher)
Kelly Michaelson Family
Brandon & Quinn Nygaard Family
Al & Janet Pagel Family
Payne / Olson Families
Mark & Michele Plumhoff, Bentley & Chance
Bryant & Ashley Skarsten Family
Luke & Megan Staton Family
Teri Staton & Lynn Geyer Daycares
Swift County Benson Hospital Fun Committee
Track Bar & Grill
The Whistle Stop

First Aid & CPR & AED



We have partnered with the Swift County Benson Hospital for Heartsaver CPR/AED/First Aid. This is a classroom, video-based, instructor led course.

Upon successful completion students will receive an **American Heart Association** course completion card, valid for 2 years.

DRIVING

Classes are scheduled as the need arises. If you need training, please call us at 843-4545.

Defensive Driving

MN Safety Council: Defensive driving classes are offered to people 55 years of age and over to review and discuss courteous driving and the rules of the road. You receive 10% off your auto insurance for

three years.

Check with your insurance company to see if you need the 8 hour class or can jump right into this 4 hour refresher course.

The next class will be Tuesday, March 31st. Please call us at 843-4545 if you are in need of this course.

Cost is \$25.00



Hunter Education / Firearms Safety

A DNR Safety Certificate is required of anyone who wishes to purchase a hunting license in Minnesota. We are offering this class for students ages 11 years +. Student must be 11 at the start of the class: the certificate becomes valid when the student turns 12.

This year, due to covid, students 14 years of age and older may complete the online training and a virtual field day instead of the traditional in-person class and field day. You can find this information here: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ firearms/index.html. Parents who need the certification (born after 1979) can also take the course online at this link.

The Field Day is tentatively set for April 23rd. You must take the in-person class to participate in the Field Day. Those that take the course online are unable to attend the field day and must find an alternative location.

Mondays

February 29th-April 18th 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Benson High School \$7.50

ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR WANTED

The Benson Adult Education Program is looking for an energetic and flexible individual to fill the part-time position of the Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor.

The instructor will work with a wide range of individuals including students studying to earn a GED, who are second language learners, who want to improve their computer skills, and other employable/basic literacy skills.

A Minnesota teaching license is required.

Please send resume and cover letter with references to:

> Deanna Johnson SW ABE - MRVED Region PO Box 487

Montevideo, MN 56265

For more information, please call 320-269-9297, ext. 116

An Equal Opportunity Employer

celebrate your birthday with a mnastics

with BKMS coaching staff in the gymnastics gym

Parties Include:

- 60 minutes of gymnastics, foam pit, Tumble Trak & an obstacle course. All led by one of our gymnastics instructors
- 30 minutes of a party area to use for cake, dinner, gift opening, etc.
- No set up or clean up on your part

Enjoy a fun-filled 1 1/2 hour birthday party with the entire gym all to yourself! Kids will enjoy every second of it! The BKMS staff will do all the work and clean up. Contact Kathy Ahrndt for more information and to set up a date/time to celebrate.

kahrndtøbenson k12 mn us

Swift County 4-H presents 4-H Connections

Swift County 4-H is partnering with Benson Community Education to host enrichment opportunities for youth to learn about a new topic, build connections with others, and experience 4-H! Register with Benson Community Education (under Youth Enrichment). Scholarships available upon request.

Sew Much Fun

Experience sewing and leave with your own sewn item.

Tuesday, March 7th

Grades K-8 older youth and teens are invited to be helpers! 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Benson High School Library \$10



Plant Perfect

Let's get a jump start on the planing season and get some plants and flowers growing!



Tuesday, April 11th Grades K-8 older youth and teens are invited to be helpers! 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Benson High School Library \$10



LIFEGUARDS NEEDED

AT THE BENSON POOL!

Lifeguard training classes will be offered in Dawson and Willmar this spring. Must be 15 years old.



We are also looking for Swim Instructors. A class will be held in Willmar this spring. Must be 16 years old.

The City of Benson will reimburse half the cost of classes for those who work at the Benson Pool!

Benson Community Education 320-843-4545 svergin@benson.k12.mn.us



Cost:

Schools at time of booking

Gymnastics Association

\$20 deposit paid to Benson Public

\$8 per guest paid to Benson Area

Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People

In just a few hours, you can learn enough secrets of the trade to give you years of musical enjoyment. Learn to play piano the way professionals do-using chords.

Since this class is being held online with ZOOM you will be able to sit at your piano or keyboard at home and take this course with no pressure at all.

And since this course includes an online book and online follow up video lessons, you will be able to continue your practice and study on your own. An optional periodic online question and answer session is also included. A recording of the class is included as well.

The course is partly lecture/demonstration and partly hands on instruction.

Topics include: * How chords work in a song *How to get more out of sheet music by reading less of it * How to form the three main types of chords *How to handle different keys and time signatures * How to avoid "counting" *How to simplify over 12,000 complex chords

Open to adults and students ages 13 and older.

Tuesday, June 6th 6:30-9:00 p.m. Cost: \$59 Instructor: Craig Coffman chordsarekey.com Register with Benson Community Education

Driver's Education

This class fulfills the mandatory 30 hours of classroom instruction. Classroom work can be done prior to being 15 years of age, but students must be 15 years of age to take the permit test.

After passing the permit, arrangements for Behind the Wheel (requirement is six hours) will be made. Students must have their permit for a full 6 months before taking their license test according to **Driver Training** state law.



The next class will be held in June of 2023. Call Community Education for more information at 320-843-4545.

Instructors: Roger Lindahl and Mark Grussing \$310 full class \$110 deposit needed at class time with remaining \$200 due at time of Blue Card receipt

Instant Guitar for Hopelessly Busy People

Have you ever wanted to learn the guitar but simply find it difficult to find the time?

In just a few hours you can learn enough about playing the guitar to give you years of musical enjoyment, and you won't have to take private lessons to do it.

This crash course will teach you some basic chords and get you playing along with your favorite songs right away. Since this class is being held online with ZOOM, you will be able to sit at home with your guitar and take this class without any pressure at all.

And since the class includes an online book and online followup video lessons, you will be able to continue your practice and study on your own.

An optional periodic online question and answer session is also included. A recording of the class is included as well.

Topics include:

* How chords work in a song *How to form the three main types of chords

> * How to tune your guitar *Basic strumming patterns

* How to buy a good guitar (things to avoid) *How to play along with simple tumes

Open to adults and students ages 13 and older.

Wednesday, June 7th 6:30-9:00 p.m. Cost: \$59 Instructor: Craig Coffman chordsarekey.com Register with Benson Community Education

Tae Kwon Do

The feature of Tae Kwon Do is its distinctive and intense kicking, combined with quick hand movements and fluid body motions. With regular practice, it enhances physical fitness, flexibility, and cardiovascular-respiratory endurance.

The martial art aims to strengthen both the physical and mental well-being. With its balance of hard work and discipline, along with the rewards of personal achievement, it develops confident, well-balanced individuals.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Through May 25th 5:30-6:30 p.m. OR 6:30-7:30 p.m. Northside Elementary Class max: 12 students \$35 a month

Instructor: Master Marc Nokleby

Gymnastics

Preschool: Beginner Coed; ages 4 & 5

MUST BE 4 TO REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS.

This class is a fun exploratory opportunity for preschoolers to feel their bodies move forward, backward, and upside down. Various stations will be set up each week to help build balance, strength and coordination.

Thursdays: March 16, 23, 30 (3 sessions) 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. OR 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. \$20.00 Class limit of 8

Somersaults: Beginner Coed; Gr. K

Participants will work on introductory gymnastics skills. Increasing strength, balance, flexibility, and coordination will also be emphasized.

Mondays: March 6, 13. 20, 27, April 3 (5 sessions) 5:30 - 6:15 9.m. \$55.00 Class limit of 15

Tiny Tumblers: Beginner Coed; Gr. 1 and 2

Participants will work on introductory skills on the bars, beam, floor, and vault. Increasing strength, balance, flexibility, and coordination will also be emphasized.

Mondays: March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 (5 sessions) 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

OR

Wednesdays: March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 (5 sessions)

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. \$60.00 Class limit of 15

Twisters: Beginner Coed; Gr. 3-6

Emphasis will be placed on learning front and back walkovers. In addition, participants will work on introductory gymnastics skills on the bars, beam, vault and floor. Increasing strength, flexibility, and coordination will also be emphasized.

Tuesdays: March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 (5 sessions) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. \$60.00

Class limit of 18

Spots are limited!

Registration BEGINS at 5:00 p.m. on

Thursday, February 23rd

It is beneficial for all participants if gymnasts are placed in classes that fit their ability. If you are unsure of what class would be most appropriate for your child, please contact Kathy Ahrndt at kahrndt@benson.k12.mn.us

Flippers: Intermediate Coed; Gr. 1-6

This class is designed for the gymnast who can do back walkovers or kick over from bridge position with NO assistance. The class will emphasize learning back handsprings with proper body shape along with skills on the bars, beam, and vault. Increasing strength, balance, flexibility and conditioning will also be emphasized.

Tuesdays: March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 (5 sessions) 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. \$60.00 Class limit of 10 OR

Wednesdays: March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 (5 sessions) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. \$60.00 Class limit of 15

Aerials: Advanced; Gr. 2-6

This class is designed for gymnasts who can do round-off, back handsprings with little or no assistance. Skills and combinations required for competitive gymnastics will be emphasized on the bars, beam, floor, vault. Increasing strength, balance, flexibility and conditioning will also be emphasized.

Tuesdays: March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 (5 sessions) 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. \$60.00 Class limit of 8

Please register by March 2

benson.k12.mn.us; webstore Community Education; Youth Recreation

In person in the Community Ed office from 8:00-4:00 Monday-Friday. Must have cash or check (payable to Benson Schools) to register in person. For questions: 320-843-4545. Will not take registrations over the phone without payment by credit card.

Gymnastics Camp Reminders:

- * All camps held in the Benson Activities Center.
- * Please send your child in stretchy clothes that do not have snaps, buttons, or zippers.
- *Please have long hair tied up in a ponytail or braid.
 - *Parent/Guardians should drop off and pick up participants at the main door of the BAC.
- *A viewing day will be held on the last day of camp for participants to show off their skills.



Celebrating our 36th year in District #777!

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

ECFE is based on the idea that parents provide their child's first and most significant learning environment and parents are children's first and most enduring teachers.

ECFE works to support you as a parent/caregiver and to strengthen and empower families. The goal is to enhance the ability of all parents and other family members to provide the best possible environments for their child's learning and development.

You are your child's first and most important teacher! Our mission is to provide support and information to families and help all children prepare for school success.

ECFE Special Events

These events are FREE but pre-registration is required (online or by calling Community Education at 320-843-4545)

Young Scientist Night & How to Make Meaningful Family Connections Using Media & Tech

For: Parents and preschool children 4-5 years old

Make up date TBD * 5:30-6:45 p.m.

NS Elementary, Early Childhood Addition, Room 123

Parents: bring your child for some pizza and an opportunity to try some wacky experiments! Parents will attend a presentation on the benefits of co-using media with your kids and learn questioning strategies to strengthen important early childhood skills. Children will experience STEM related activities. FREE—but pre-registration is required

Open Toddler Play Time

For: Parent and children ages 12-33 months

Thursday, March 2nd * 5:00-6:00 p.m.

NS Elementary, Early Childhood Addition, Room 123
Parents come and play with your toddler in a toddler proof environment.

FREE—but pre-registration is required.

Open Gym

For: Parent and children ages 18 months-prek 5 years

Saturday, March 11th * 10:00-11:00 a.m.

NS Elementary Gym

Come play with balls, hoops, bowling and more! FREE—but pre-registration is required.

Let's Build a Birdhouse & How to Use Media & Tech to Build Life Skills

For: Parents and preschool children 4-5 years old Thursday, March 23rd * 5:30-6:45 p.m.

NS Elementary, Early Childhood Addition, Room 123

We will start with a light meal and then parents and children will construct a birdhouse to take home. Parents will attend a presentation on the role media and technology play in their child's early childhood development and learn ways to nurture this development while using media. Children will experience SMART activities.

FREE—but pre-registration is required.

Preschool Options

Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) & School Readiness are public school programs for 3 to 5 year old children and their families.

VPK & School Readiness provide children with various opportunities to participate in early childhood programs that enable them to enter school with the skills and behaviors needed for them to progress and flourish.

We offer these options this year:

The **3 year old School Readiness program** is for those students who will be 3 on or before September 1st and in Kindergarten in the fall of 2024. Student must be fully potty trained.

Our **4 year old VPK program is** designed for those students who will be 4 on or before September 1st and in Kindergarten in the fall of 2023.

Both the 3 and 4 year old programs are designed around social skills, academic skills, play, pre-kindergarten basics, fine and large motor skill development, and many other exciting experiences.

Fall 2023 registration information will be coming out in late March!

BE COUNTED! It is very important that all residents of ISD #777, even babies, be included on the school census. If you or someone you know recently had an addition to the family, or have moved into the school district, please call Chrysees Forbord at 843-2710. Being on the census will ensure that you receive the ECFE newsletter, School Readiness registration materials, and other important school information.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING All preschoolers who will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2023 are eligible to be screened. This program provides a comprehensive health and development screening once before the childhood enters Kindergarten. You will receive a letter prior to the screening date.





DISCOVERY KIDS

WHAT IS DISCOVERY KIDS?

Discovery Kids is an early learning child care center offered through Benson Public Schools. We accept children 6 weeks through 6th grade. Our mission is to provide childcare where children can learn and grow physically, emotionally, intellectually, and socially.

Location: Early Childhood Center, Northside Elementary

Hours: 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday **Financial Assistance** available through:

• Swift County Human Services (child care assistance)

Parent Aware (Pathway)

We use "Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum with Assessment Gold" in all of our rooms.

It's a great addition to School Readiness, Voluntary Pre-K and Headstart!

Why Discovery Kids?

- Educationally enriched curriculum that encourages literacy, language, social, and emotional development
 - Secured Building
 - Daily Activities and Schedule
 - Meals Provided
- Accept County Assistance and Parent Aware Scholarships
- Open every weekday, with exception of holidays
 - We have extended hours
- All staff receive over 30 hours of a training a year in the areas of Early Childhood!





How do we sign up?

Parent Handbooks and Registration Forms are available on-line at http://benson.k12.mn.us/community_ed_/DiscoveryKids.

You may also contact Discovery Kids at 842-2723 for paperwork.

A \$20 registration fee is due at initial registration time.

Your child must be registered before attending Discovery Kids.



Like Us on Facebook!

Phone: 320-842-2723

E-mail: discoverykids@benson.k12.mn.us

Find us & Like us on Facebook!

Benson Area Community Education Independent School District #777 1400 Montana Avenue Benson, MN 56215-1246 http://www.benson.k12.mn.us (320) 843-4545



K-5 Grade Trimesters: Nov. 28 (58 days) March 2 (58 days) May 25 (57 days)

V/M = Vacation Days but potential snow make up days 5/26, 5/30, 5/31

Updated 03-11-22