



the student handbook

Benson High

2023-2024



BENSON
MIGHTY BUNNIES



Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) is being implemented in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs.

The Omaha Public Schools (OPS) implements Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) to promote student use of positive behavior. Through this framework, OPS has committed to providing staff with tools and resources to positively engage students and families through implementation of school-wide positive behavior interventions. These practices are designed to support safe and encouraging learning environments.

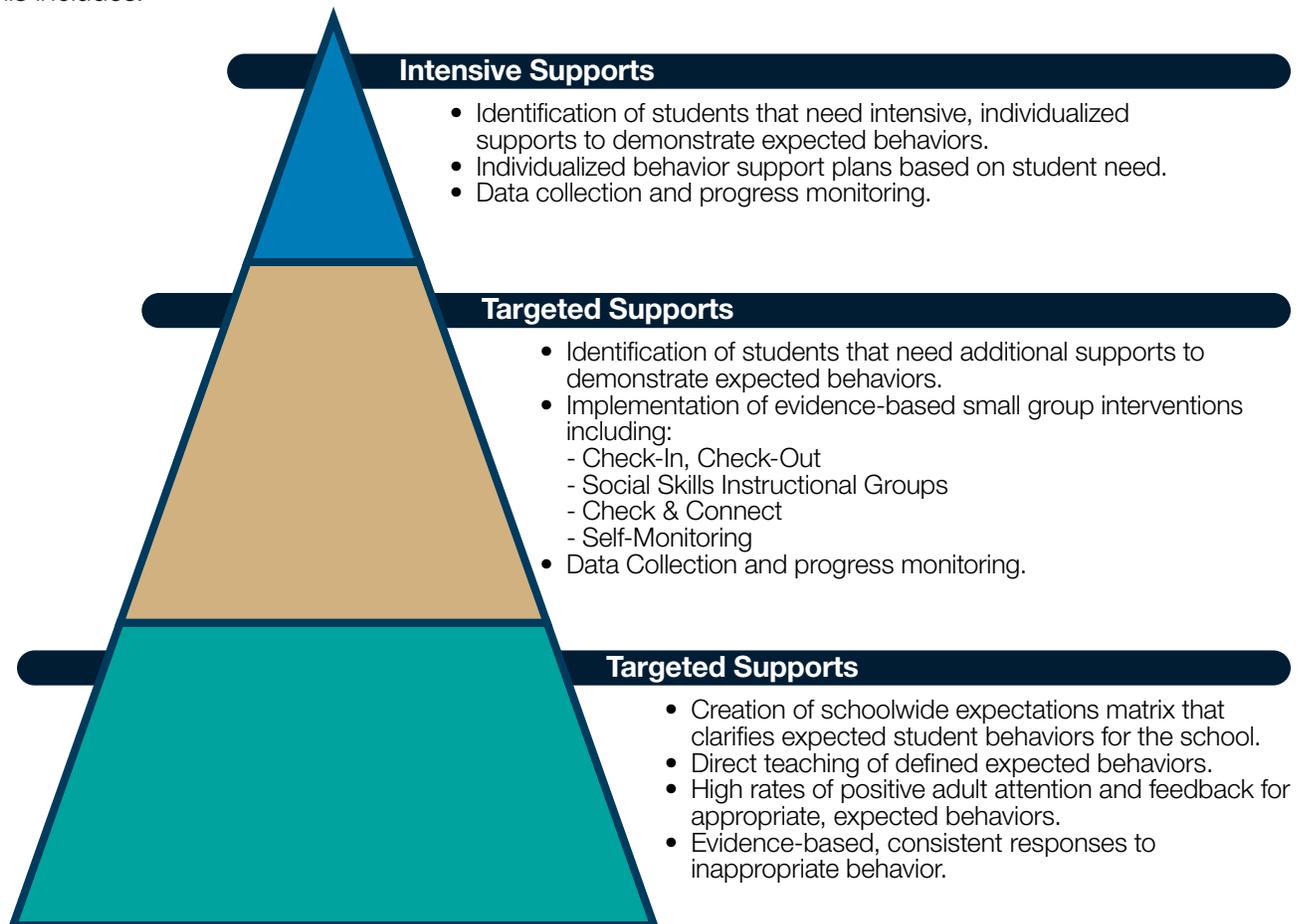
We believe that we cannot “make” students learn or behave. But we can create environments to increase the likelihood of positive behaviors occurring.

MTSS-B is a research-based, highly effective behavioral framework that is designed for teaching and reinforcing students’ social, emotional, and academic learning skills in order to sustain academic achievement and support the social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of students. Consistent implementation of MTSS-B leads to:

- Improved school climate;
- Reductions in major disciplinary infractions;
- Improved academic achievement;
- Improved concentration, positive social behavior, and emotional regulation.

OPS is committed to supporting students through behavior interventions and alternatives to exclusionary practices that require removal from the educational setting where the safety of the student and/or others is not of immediate concern.

MTSS-B utilizes consistent practices that have tiers of increasingly intensive supports, and in our schools, this includes:



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

In addition to MTSS-B, Omaha Public Schools continues to support Social Emotional Learning (SEL) development through curriculum, strategies, and resources. SEL is defined by the Collaborative of Academic Social Emotional Learning (CASEL) as the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

Within the Omaha Public Schools, our goal is to focus on CASEL's five SEL competencies:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making

SEL promotes knowledge, skills, and attitudes that support lifelong success and advance educational equity and excellence.

How do MTSS-B and SEL Align in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs?

MTSS-B and SEL are frameworks that work together to provide an ethic of care for students and promote success in students' academics, behavior, attendance, and overall well-being. Combined they create positive learning environments where students and staff are equipped with resources and skills for successful school communities.



If you would like more information about how MTSS-B and SEL are implemented in your school, contact the building principal.



Benson High

5120 Maple Street / Omaha, Nebraska 68104-3599

531-299-2520 / ops.org/benson

BHS Mission:

The mission of Benson High is to prepare students to excel in college, career, and civic-life through career academies, high-performing educators, and community partners.

BHS Vision:

To graduate students prepared to excel in college, career, and civic-life.



Mission Statement

Omaha Public Schools prepares all students to excel in college, career, and life.

Vision Statement

Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

Table of Contents

Benson High Student Handbook

About Benson High	1
Benson High Administration	1
Department Administration.....	1
Visitors to the School	2
College and Career Academics.....	2
School Counseling Program	2
Scheduling Changes/Requests for Dropping or Adding a Class:	2
Shortened School Day.....	3
Class Rank.....	3
National Honor Society.....	3
Academic Letter	3
Valedictorian and Salutatorian	3
Benson High Wall of Distinction	4
Attendance Procedures.....	4
Block Scheduling	5
Tardy To School and To Class	5
Lockers and Personal Possessions	5
Buses and Vans.....	5
School-Based Health Center Construction Updates 2023-2034	6
Student Parking.....	6
Technology and Email	6
Parent Communication.....	6
Code of Conduct.....	7
Student Success Center.....	8
Suspension After School (SAS).....	8
Guidelines for attendance at Homecoming Dance/Prom	8
Guidelines For Appropriate Dress In School.....	9
Combined District and School Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.....	11
Parent Right To Know Clause.....	12
Title I School Parent Involvement Policy.....	12
Omaha Public Schools 2023-2024 Calendar.....	14
Omaha Public Schools District Handbook	15
Omaha Public Schools Student Code of Conduct.....	16

About Benson High

- The forerunner of Benson High was organized in 1904 as a two-year program added to Benson Central School located at 60th and Maple Streets. The district added 11th grade in 1905 and completed the addition of 12th grade in 1908. Benson proudly celebrated its centennial in 2004 with an all-class alumni banquet at the Century Link Center.
- Benson High graduated its first four-year class consisting of six girls and two boys in 1913 and in the early 1920's, the Omaha School District approved building a Benson High School and Monroe School on a 22 acre site northeast of 52nd and Maple Streets.
- On December 17, 1926, Benson High students marched in a parade from Benson Central School to their new building at 52nd and Maple. The new high school cost \$481,000 to build. Benson was designed in the Georgian colonial style, with stately columns at the south entrance and three cupolas on the roof that would lend the school's yearbook its name. Miss Mary McNamara, the school's first principal, organized the parade so that students could move the furnishings of their old school to their new school. All boys pulled wagons that they brought from home full of school furnishings, and girls carried items in their aprons. Additions to Benson took place in 1957-58 and a multimillion dollar renovation was completed in 1991.
- Today Benson enrolls about 1,400 students in grades 9 through 12 and is a comprehensive high school offering a full array of high school, vocational, and college preparatory courses to meet the needs of today's students.

Benson High Administration

Name	Title	Student Discipline	Phone	Email
Melinda Bailey	Principal		531-299-7224	melinda.bailey@ops.org
Deondre Jones	Assistant Principal – Athletic Director	Administrator for Grade 12 (L-Z)	531-299-2530	deondre.jones@ops.org
Kristin Hughes	Assistant Principal – Activities	Administrator for Grade 11	531-299-8984	kristin.hughes@ops.org
Cathy Bell	Assistant Principal – Data	Administrator for Grade 12 (A-K)	531-299-8864	catherine.bell@ops.org
Shauntae Starks	Dean of Students	Administrator for Grade 9	531-299-8864	shauntae.starks@ops.org
Jason Rhine	Dean of Students	Attendance Specialist	531-299-7986	jason.rhine@ops.org
Laura Geiger	Dean of Students	Administrator for Grade 10	TBD	laura.geiger@ops.org

Department Administration

Name	Department	Phone	Email
Michael Duggan	Special Education	531-299-7942	michael.duggan@ops.org
Jared Wagenknecht	Math, Art, Industrial Tech, Science	531-299-9713	jared.wagenknecht@ops.org
Holly Murphy	Curriculum Specialist	TBD	holly.murphy@ops.org
Angela Johaneck	Career Academy Specialist	531-299-8040	angela.johaneck@ops.org
Christine Acuna	English as a Second Language	531-299-8018	christine.acuna@ops.org
Mary Reece	Social Studies, PE, Health, JROTC, World Languages, AP	531-299-7947	mary.reece@ops.org

Visitors to the School

Many times throughout the year, there are reasons for people to visit the building (dropping off/picking up student, visiting a teacher, meeting with administrator, lunch with student, etc.) We welcome visitors to Benson High. Below is the process for visiting:

- All visitors must enter through the **SOUTH** door, sign in with security, obtain a visitor's badge (and display it), and sign out with security when leaving.
- Visitations to a classroom must be arranged at least 24 hours in advance with the student's administrator. The visit cannot disrupt the classroom learning environment. We ask that visitors follow classroom & school procedures (no disruptions, classroom cell phone policy is followed, etc.).
- If there is potential for disruption, the principal or his/her designee has the discretion to deny access to the classroom. Should this happen, a private meeting will be arranged with the parent, teacher, and other appropriate school personnel.
- Parents/guardians wishing to pick up their students, after signing in with security, must present ID to the attendance secretary. For this reason, please make certain we have accurate records for who may or may not pick up your student.

College and Career Academics

Benson High resides in the middle of the historic community of Benson, one of Omaha's most famous arts and entertainment districts. Benson High is the only "wall-to-wall" career academy in the Omaha Public Schools, where every student is involved in a career academy program. Our career academies are made relevant by community members, business leaders, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders. We identified three Career Academy themes: Business & Entrepreneurship, Design and Construction, and Health Professions. Each of the career academy programs will introduce students to College and Career opportunities for students to enter employment directly after high school, continue their postsecondary training (at a community college and/or university) or do both; work can be tailored to the individual student. Real life experiences are offered in each academy. Each student will have access to Honors and Advanced Placement® coursework in each of the three academy programs.

"Our goal is to prepare students to be both college and career ready upon graduation."

School Counseling Program

Students are assigned to a counselor. That counselor is responsible for students' four (4) year academic plan, post-secondary plan and social-emotional needs. Counselors coordinate assemblies, classroom lessons, small groups and individual planning with students to meet these needs. They are available daily to respond to families and student's needs.

Andrea Brown (Director)531-299-8043..... andrea.brown@ops.org
Katie Cameron.....531-299-8012 deborah.cameron@ops.org
Susan Barnes531-299-7695 susan.barnes@ops.org
Anne Dyke531-299-8033..... anne.dyke@ops.org
Robert Koneck-Wilcox.....531-299-7992 robert.koneck-wilcox@ops.org
Audel Salazar531-299- audel.salazar @ops.org

Scheduling Changes/Requests for Dropping or Adding a Class:

Students register in the spring for the following year. A student will have two opportunities to select courses:

Course registration changes for the following year will be made only:

1. If the course was completed during summer school.
2. If the student must repeat a course that was failed during the previous school year.
3. If a conflict in the schedule cannot be adjusted without dropping or changing a course.
4. If the student needs an additional course to meet graduation requirements.

Dropping a course after the first 15 days of the semester will result in a grade of "F" which is included in grade point average calculations. Requests to drop a course will be initiated by the student or parent to the school counselor

Shortened School Day

A shortened school day is an option for seniors only. In order to be eligible for class release, seniors must earn 32 credits by January of their junior year. Class schedules will not be rearranged to accommodate a shortened day once schedules have been printed and distributed to students. Arrangement for a shortened day must be made prior to the beginning of the school year. A complete guide to eligibility can be found in the Course Catalog. **Students must sign out and leave the school area immediately upon their release. Failure to do so will result in reinstatement of a full schedule.**

Class Rank

A student's class rank is determined by the cumulative grade point average. The GPA takes into account the credit earned, the points awarded with the grade, and the weight of the course. Courses are weighted according to the following chart:

Grade Earned	Grade Points Awarded
A.....	4 (or 5 for Honors/AP)
B.....	3 (or 4 for Honors/AP)
C.....	2 (or 3 for Honors/AP)
D.....	1 (or 2 for Honors/AP)
F.....	0

National Honor Society

Membership in the Benson High National Honor Society is gained through the selection by a Faculty Council. In order to be considered, a student must be eligible. A student's eligibility is based on the following criteria:

1. **Scholarship** — Each sophomore or junior to be considered must have a Grade Point Average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.
2. **Character And Leadership** — Each student will be rated for the qualities of character and leadership only by those members of the teaching staff who have had that student in class.
3. **Service** — Each student will have an opportunity to complete a Student Activity Information Form on the services he/she has rendered to his/her school and community.
4. Eligibility is determined after the third semester of high school career. (2nd semester of sophomore year.)

Utilizing these four sources of data (scholarship, character, leadership and service), the Faculty Council will select its members for the National Honor Society. Membership is open to all eligible students. Every year each student in the National Honor Society is reconsidered for re-election. Membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to maintain a standard of excellence in the four areas of selection or they will be dismissed.

Academic Letter

Students earning a 3.5 term GPA for three (3) semesters **at Benson** will be awarded an academic letter at Honors' Night. Student that have not already received a Benson High letter will receive a letter and all will receive an academic pin. At five (5) semesters **at Benson**, students will receive a bar. At seven (7) semesters **at Benson**, students will receive an additional bar.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The top two students who have earned the highest cumulative grade point averages after their seventh semester, will be recognized as senior class valedictorian and salutatorian at Honors' Night and Commencement.

Benson High Wall of Distinction

Benson High students who complete a Wall of Distinction Application by the last Friday in March and have achieved an exceptional level of excellence, as outlined below, will be recognized on the Wall of Distinction.

	Local Academic	National Academic	Extra-Curricular	Leadership/Character
5	Top 1–2% of Graduating Class	ACT > 90% or SAT > 90% or National Merit Finalist/ Semi-finalist or 5 AP Exams Score 4 or Higher	Involvement in 4 or more activities (athletics, music, drama, journalism, ROTC, robotics, NHS, academic decathlon, student council, other clubs) or National Recognition	Holds officer/captain position in any school activity/organization and no behavior incidences.
4	Top 3–5% of Graduating Class	ACT > 80% or SAT > 80% or National Merit Commended Student or 4 AP Exams Score 4 or Higher	State Place Winner and involvement in 2 additional activities	More than just a passive member of any school activity/organization and no behavior incidences.
3	Top 6–10% of Graduating Class	ACT >70% or SAT > 70% or 3 AP Exams Score 4 or Higher or an AP Scholar	Involvement in 3 or more activities	Holds officer/captain position in any school activity/organization and fewer than 3 behavior incidences.
2	Top 11–20% of Graduating Class	ACT >60% or SAT > 60% or 2 AP Exams Score 4 or Higher	State Qualifier/Competitor and involvement in 1 additional activity	More than just a passive member of any school activity/organization and fewer than 3 behavior incidences.
1	Top 21–25% of Graduating Class	ACT >50% or SAT > 50% or 1 AP Exam Score 4 or Higher	Involvement in 2 or more activities	More than just a passive member of any school activity/organization and fewer than 4 behavior incidences.

- Any member of the senior class with a score of 16 or higher and at least one 5 will be recognized on the Wall of Distinction.
- Student must have attended Benson High for the last 4 semesters or score an 18 or higher.
- If more than one score in a column applies, the higher of the two scores will be applied to the overall score.

Attendance Procedures

Please call the attendance office at 531-299-8009 if your student will be absent from school.

Regular attendance is directly related to school success and is required of Benson High students. Our goal is to encourage students to attend a maximum number of days each year. Students attending Benson High are made aware of the importance of regular attendance and the consequences of poor attendance.

On return to school after an absence, students will not need a note if a parent or guardian previously called to report the absence. Students whose parents did not call the school must bring a note from a parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence with a phone number at which the parent can be contacted during the school day.

If an absence of several days is anticipated, the parent or guardian should notify the Attendance Office **in writing** at least two days in advance of the absence. This allows the student and his or her teachers to plan for make-up work in advance.

Students needing to be excused during the school day for a non-medical reason must bring a note from a parent or a guardian to the attendance office before school begins. A call will be made to the parent to verify the need to leave early. The student must sign out from the attendance office before leaving school.

Students needing to be excused for medical reasons must bring a note from a parent or guardian to the nurse before school begins. The nurse will call a parent to verify the appointment. The student must sign out from the attendance office before leaving school.

Only legal guardians and/or parents may sign a student out of school, unless otherwise specified as “authorized to pick up “ in Infinite Campus. Parents and guardians who have not made advance arrangements must come into the school to sign a student out. Parents/Guardians will be asked for photo ID at this time for verification purposes. Students will not be released solely on the basis of a phone call to the office or nurse.

Students who are absent, whether excused or not, are expected to do daily assignments.

Block Scheduling

Benson High has an A/B alternating block schedule. Students take four classes each day, plus a homeroom. There are no study halls.

Benson High • Regular Bell Schedule 2023 – 2024

Block Name	Time
Block 1	7:40-9:14
Block 2 (Advisement)	9:14-9:43
Block 3	9:48-11:16
Block 4 (Lunch)	11:21-1:32 – First lunch – 11:21-11:51 – Second lunch – 11:55-12:25 – Third lunch – 12:29-12:59 – Fourth lunch – 1:03-1:33
Block 5	1:38-3:05
Extended Learning Opportunities	3:15-5:00

Tardy To School and To Class

- Students are expected to be present and on time to all of their classes on a daily basis. We see this as a skill they will need for the rest of their lives and consider it to be very important.
- Communication will be sent out if your child misses class during the school day.

Lockers and Personal Possessions

- All lockers are the property of the Omaha Public Schools and may be searched at any time an administrator feels it necessary.
- All students have access to a hall locker for the protection of their personal belongings. The locker is safe and secure only if the door is completely closed and the dial spun or cleared. The lock combination must be kept in confidence. **The school cannot accept responsibility for lost or stolen items.** Students are not to change lockers after assignments have been made in the fall, share their combination with anyone or keep their belongings in another student's locker.
- Students enrolled in Physical Education classes will be issued their own individual lockers in the locker room. Students will be expected to store their backpacks/bookbags in their PE lockers. These items are not allowed in the gym or weight room.

Transportation

Buses and Vans

The Omaha Public Schools provides transportation to Benson for students who qualify. All buses and vans leave promptly at 3:15 p.m. Students are expected to board buses and vans promptly at dismissal. Buses and vans will not be held for students who fail to board by 3:15 pm. ***Transportation to school is a privilege, not a right. All rules and regulations of the Omaha Public Schools and Benson High apply to students on buses and vans.*** All students must respect the driver and other riders to ensure a safe ride for all students. Students who fail to meet all expectations and follow all rules may be denied transportation.

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATES 2023-2034

Due to the construction of the School-Based Health Center, for the 2023-2024 school year, the **SOUTH** doors will be the main entrance to Benson High. Buses will pick up and drop off students in the South parking lot. **PICKING UP STUDENTS AT THE SOUTH DOORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BETWEEN 2:30-3:15, THIS WILL BE A BUSES ONLY ZONE.** Parents will need to park at Gallagher Park or the north parking lot and walk around to the **south doors** to pick up students from school early.

- Students will enter and exit through the **south doors**.
- Benson High Attendance office will be located at the **south doors**.
- All visitors will enter and exit through the **south doors**.
- Parking will be limited, so we appreciate your patience in advance

We apologize for this temporary inconvenience, but we are truly excited about our new addition. We appreciate your flexibility as we go through this wonderful construction for our school.

Student Parking

1. Parking is strictly limited to the student parking area (north lot and Gallagher). The south and east lots are solely for staff.
2. To facilitate identification, automobiles are to be parked front end in first, one car per stall.
3. All students must be licensed and covered by insurance. The school is not responsible for the automobile or its contents.
4. There is to be no loitering in the parking lot (north lot and Gallagher). **The parking lot is off limits during the school day.**
5. There will be no speeding, over 5 miles per hour, or any form of reckless driving on the school grounds. Violators may be ticketed or banned from the lot.
6. Student vehicles may be subject to search if there are reasonable grounds to believe that drugs, alcohol, stolen property or other contraband might be present in that vehicle.
7. Parking regulations are strictly enforced. It is considered a privilege to park on school grounds. Suspension of parking privileges, tickets, towing of vehicles and/or suspension from school may occur when violations of these regulations occur.
8. All parking regulations also apply to the Gallagher Park lot.
9. Students ARE NOT ALLOWED to park in visitor parking stalls.

Technology and Communication

Technology and Email

- Students will be instructed in proper use as well as ethics and safety for use of Omaha Public Schools technology. All rules, policies and procedures outlined by the Omaha Public Schools will be strictly enforced to ensure that all students have safe, reliable access to the schools' technology.
- All students will be issued a school email account through Office365. Careful attention will be paid to appropriate use of email as a professional means of communication. All rules, policies and procedures outlined by the Omaha Public Schools in their "Behavior Rules for Students Using School Computers and Networks" will be enforced for use both inside and outside of school.

Parent Communication

Parents are encouraged to sign up for access to the online Parent Portal offered by Omaha Public Schools if they have not already done so. This access will be available wherever an Internet connection is located. Parental monitoring of assignments, grades and attendance is strongly encouraged. If there is any question about your child's academic progress, the parent is strongly encouraged to call or e-mail the teacher. All teachers' telephone numbers and e-mail addresses can be found on the Benson website. If

a parent is not satisfied with the communication with a teacher, the parent is strongly encouraged to call the child's administrator. There is no such thing as too much communication when working to encourage, monitor and improve a student's academic progress. Students, parents and Benson staff members all share in the responsibility of keeping lines of communication open and productive.

Code of Conduct, Guidelines and Expected Behaviors

Code of Conduct

The rules governing student behavior at Benson High School have their roots in the simple code of courteous and considerate behavior toward one another. Our goal is to help develop self-discipline and a strong sense of responsibility and respect for self and others. All rules in the white and buff pages apply to all areas of the school and grounds, including adjacent property such as Gallagher Park. Standards of conduct which staff members expect of all students:

1. Always follow the directions of any staff member. Defiance and disrespect to any staff member will result in disciplinary action.
2. All students should have their student ID during school hours. Always give your full name when asked. Students who refuse to give their name at the request of a staff member will receive disciplinary consequences.
3. Always report to the office when directed.
4. Attend all assigned classes unless officially excused. Students must be where they are assigned at all times. All students are expected to remain in class. Any student that walks out of class because of a security call will be referred to administration. Students in this situation are expected to wait for security escort.
5. Do not bring large amounts of money or any personal items of great value to school. The school cannot be responsible for lost and stolen items. Do not expect staff to conduct searches for lost or stolen personal items.
6. Students must remain in authorized areas only. Unauthorized areas include the gym or locker room at any times other than a student's class block, closed hallways before or after school, during lunchtime, any classroom where the student does not have a class, and the outside grounds or parking lot during the school day.
7. The building opens at 7:10 a.m. Students are not allowed inside until 7:10 a.m. Please plan rides accordingly.
8. Students may access the cafeteria, library or Commons ONLY until 7:30 a.m. All other areas of the building including stairwells are closed until 7:30 a.m. Students may go to their lockers and begin reporting to class at 7:30 a.m.
9. Students must exit the building at dismissal. All students must be under the direct supervision of an adult by 3:15 p.m. We understand that students may have to wait for a ride home. Students are allowed to wait inside in a designated area if the temperature is below 35 degrees or if it is raining. Regardless of the weather, all students must exit the building no later than 5 p.m. Students are to remain quiet and respectful if waiting inside. Students that act inappropriately will have to exit the building.
10. Although rare, fights and altercations can be extremely disruptive. Students are expected to avoid these situations. Students who contribute to the disruption by running to the fight, blocking adult access to the combatants, cheering or encouraging the behavior, or in any other way adding to the disruption will face disciplinary consequences that may include out-of-school suspension.
11. During a student's lunch hour, all students are to report to the cafeteria or the library (if open). Those are the only two options during lunch unless specific teacher permission is obtained.
12. Students are not permitted to order food from outside sources (Doordash, GrubHub, UberEats, etc.). Deliveries will be turned away and not accepted by security.

Any other inappropriate behaviors not specified in the white or buff pages of the handbook will be handled on an individual basis with disciplinary action determined by the appropriate administrator. All rules and regulations are enforced at all school-related activities regardless of where they are held. They are also in effect in all buses and vans. Repeated violations may result in an out-of-school suspension.

Student Success Center

The Student Success Center (SCC) is an in-school suspension room where students are assigned to learn behaviors that will help them be successful both socially and academically in school. Students will have a limited time to work on their classroom assignments. Instead, the SSC facilitator will guide students through a day of activities targeting the behaviors which have caused the student to be assigned to the center.

Students may be assigned to the Student Success Center for a number of different Code of Conduct violations including, but not limited to the following:

- Continued excessive tardiness to class
- Failure to serve suspension after school (SAS)
- Continued classroom disruption
- Continued truancy/skipping class
- Disrespectful behavior
- Excessive vulgarity/profanity
- Refusal to identify self
- Continued dress code violations
- Insubordination

Students needing to be removed from SSC could face an out-of-school suspension.

Suspension After School (SAS)

SAS is a detention that begins at 3:15 p.m. and ends at 5:00p.m. SAS may be assigned for a number of different Code of Conduct violations including, but not limited to the following:

- Classroom disruption
- Truancy/Skipping class
- Excessive tardiness to class
- In unauthorized area of the building
- Loitering on school grounds after school
- Sleeping in class
- Vulgarity/profanity
- Failure to cooperate with staff member
- Leaving class without permission
- Misuse of electronic devices
- Inappropriate cafeteria behavior

SAS is held in room 144. Students are expected to bring homework to complete during this time. Sleeping will not be tolerated. Students who have to be removed from SAS may receive harsher disciplinary action.

Guidelines for attendance at Homecoming Dance/Prom

Prom and Homecoming dances are time-honored traditions at Benson High and are meant to celebrate school spirit and enhance students' high school experiences. The Homecoming dance is meant to be enjoyed by all BHS students and Prom is designed for juniors and seniors. There are behavioral expectations that must be met in order to be able to attend these student functions. The following behaviors will exclude students from participating in the Homecoming dance and prom. The following guidelines also pertain to guests.

- Students suspended during the first semester for fighting (less or more serious), may not attend the BHS Homecoming dance that school year.
- Students suspended during the first semester for drug/alcohol/controlled substance related behaviors may not attend the BHS Homecoming dance that school year.
- Students considered chronically absent (10% or more missed total days of school) the Friday prior to Homecoming, may not attend BHS Homecoming.
- Students suspended during the second semester of school for fighting (less or more serious) may not attend BHS Prom that school year.
- Students suspended during the second semester of school for drug/alcohol/controlled substance related behaviors may not attend BHS Prom that school year.
- Students considered chronically absent (10% or more missed total days of school) the Friday prior to Prom, may not attend BHS Prom

Guidelines For Appropriate Dress In School

School is a place for serious work and study. Certain types of fashion and dress are not appropriate for school. All students are expected to dress appropriately. It is important that students develop appropriate habits of dress for school that will prepare them for the world of work. What is considered appropriate dress for school is at the discretion of Benson High staff and administration. **Students who dress inappropriately must change or will be sent home to retrieve appropriate clothing.**

1. Clothing must not distract or disrupt the learning atmosphere within the school. Clothing which advertises and/or displays graphics of alcohol, drugs, gambling, or sexual content are prohibited. Provocative clothing, sagging pants, and pajamas are not acceptable.
2. Overcoats and jackets should not be worn during the school day if at all possible. These items should be kept in a student's locker during the day.
3. Sunglasses are not allowed. Blankets should be at left home.
4. Sleeveless muscle shirts and fishnet or see-through shirts are not acceptable. Spaghetti straps are not allowed.
5. Shoes must be worn at all times.
6. Midriff, back, both shoulders and cleavage must be covered.
7. Undergarments cannot be visible and must be covered.
8. **Any clothing that draws undue attention to a student and which is disruptive to the school environment is not acceptable. This includes clothing that might be associated with gangs and excessive display of cleavage.**
9. Face paint is not allowed. Students must remove face paint while at school.

The Board of Education has determined that studded jewelry such as bracelets and necklaces could be used as weapons. The same is true of heavier chains such as chains attached to wallets, dog chokers, and similar items. Chains over six inches are prohibited. These items will be treated as weapons if worn or brought to school. The result could be expulsion, so please do not bring these items to school.

Hall Passes

Only official hall passes that include name, time, date and a staff signature will be honored. Student passes are used when a student needs to be excused from class to go elsewhere in the building. Students should not be in the halls during class time without a valid pass signed by a teacher or an administrator. Passes should be visible at all times. **Any staff member may ask to see a hall pass. Failure to cooperate will result in disciplinary action.**

NO STUDENT will be given a pass during the first ten minutes and last ten minutes of each class block. No passes will be issued during 4th block.

Library Media Center

Benson High School's Library Media Center, located on the first floor of the building, contains more than 15,000 print and non-print resources and subscribes to more than 15 magazines. Not only are there reference works to be used in supplementing textbooks, but there are also many books of fiction, travel, biography, and other fields. All books may be checked out with the exception of some reference books. Books may be kept for varying periods of time. Students should note the date due slip inside the front or back cover of the book. Students should remember that the date due is stamped when the book is checked out to them and be sure to return books on or before the day they are due. Books may be renewed as needed. Fines of five cents a day are charged for books that are overdue with a maximum of \$2.00. When a book is lost, the student is required to pay the cost of the book. If the book is found during the current school year, the money will be refunded, less a \$2.00 overdue fine. Any unpaid library fines will be placed on the fine list. Reference and reserve materials are not available for checkout.

Bunny Code

	Respect	Responsibility	Safe
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use professional language • Follow classroom procedures • Care for school property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be on time to class • Be prepared with materials • Ask teacher for help • Complete all assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands and feet to yourself • Use materials appropriately
Cafeteria/ Commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start at the back of line and wait patiently • Put all trash in bins • Clean up after self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep account current • Place order quickly • Attend assigned lunch only • Use food and silverware as intended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a seat quickly and remain seated until the bell • Keep hands and feet to yourself • Have ID visible when requesting to leave • Remove hats and hoods
Hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go directly to your destination • Avoid interrupting classrooms during learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a hallway pass at all times • Have your ID/lanyard visible • Be in assigned room when the bell rings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move with order and purpose to your destination • Stay to the right • Avoid entering other classrooms
Restroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use facility quickly and quietly • Return to class promptly • Respect the privacy of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up after yourself • Practice responsible hygiene • Care for bathroom environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report problems to staff • Remain in own stall
Building Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the dress code • Use professional language with respectful volume • Comply with staff requests • Show respect to all staff, peers, and visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend school each day • Attend all classes • Take care of property • Be on time • Come to school with a willingness to achieve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify adults of unsafe conditions • Use school property as intended • Hats and hoods removed when in building • Have school ID visible



Combined District and School Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Omaha Public Schools intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, Section 1116(a -f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.

In General

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents describes the means for carrying out the requirements as listed below.

- Parents and family members of all students are welcomed and encouraged to become involved with their child's school and education; this includes parents and family members that have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, racial or ethnic minority background or are migratory children. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
 - Back to School Night
 - School Open House
 - Title I Annual Parent Meeting
 - Curriculum Night
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Reading Night
 - Math Night
 - STEAM/STEM Night
 - Family Game Night
 - PTA/PTO – meetings & activities
- Parents are involved in the planning, review, evaluation and improvement of the Title I program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact at an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time. This would include the planning and implementation of effective parent and family involvement activities.
- Conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Use the evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- Opportunities are provided for parents and family members to participate in decisions related to the education of their child/children. The school and local educational agency shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities
 - Climate Survey
 - Title I Annual parent meeting
 - Committee meetings
 - Development of the School Improvement Plan
 - Student Assistance Teams
- Parents of participating children will be provided timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand
 - The student handbook
 - Curriculum Night
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Standardized Tests results
 - Progress reports & report card
- Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
 - Summer Reading Program
 - College and Career Academies and Pathways Night with The Empowerment Network
 - Saturday Parent Workshops hosted at Monroe Middle

Parent Right To Know Clause

At the beginning of the school year, any District that accepts Title I, Part A funding must notify parents that they can request information regarding their child's teacher and his/her qualifications, including certification and endorsements. Parents can also request information about paraprofessionals working with their children.

There's no place like Benson

Title I School Parent Involvement Policy

Benson High School intends to follow the parental policy guidelines that meet the ESEA/NCLB requirements which are distributed to parents and are made available to the community.

1. Parents are involved in the planning, review, and improvements of the school's Parental Involvement Policy through:
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - District Activities
 - Monthly and regularly scheduled parent meetings
2. Annual meetings are held to inform parents of the school's participation in the Title I program and Compact Review.
3. Parent meetings are held at different times throughout the day and week, including but not limited to:
 - Family Engagement Nights
 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Parent Meetings during the school day and evenings
 - Academy Open House
4. Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities:
 - Scheduled Parent meetings
 - Materials to support parent needs to improve knowledge of support needed in reading and math programs
5. Parents are involved in the planning, review, and improvements to the school's Title I program via the Climate Survey; Title I Parent Satisfaction survey, annual parent meetings, scheduled parent meetings, and school newsletters.
6. The parents are involved in the joint development of the School Wide plan through feedback and collaboration on the School Improvement Plan for 2020-2021 and in the Fall 2021 Title I School Compact Review meeting.
7. Parents and guardians receive timely information about the Title I program through the following ways:
 - School Newsletters
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Title I School Compact
 - School / District website
 - School Messenger (email, auto-dialer, text messages)
8. Parents and guardians receive a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments and how to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
 - School newsletters
 - MAP / Pre-ACT assessment reports
 - AP Parent meetings / Academy Parent Meetings / Title I Parent Meetings / Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Title I School Compact
 - School / District website

9. The school will provide assistance to parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
 - Newsletters / Bunny News
 - Informational Meetings at Fall and Spring Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Monthly and regularly scheduled parent meetings
10. The school provides parents with opportunities for scheduled meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Academy Open House and Academy Nights
 - Scheduled parent meetings - Family Engagement Nights
11. A school-parent compact was jointly developed with parents; it outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.
 - Newsletters
 - School wide policy and procedures
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Title I school compact
 - District Action Plan
12. The school provides materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
 - Scheduled Parent Meetings
 - Opportunities to give feedback on the School Improvement Plan
 - Opportunities to be members of Career Academy Advisory Boards
 - Annual Title I school compact review

BENSON
MIGHTY BUNNIES



Omaha Public Schools 2023-2024 Calendar



Next Level Learning – June 6–July 14

Please check with your child(ren)'s school regarding dates of specific school related activities.

Elementary – 8:50 a.m. to 4:05 p.m.

Middle School – 7:40 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

High School – 7:40 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

Juneteenth - No School For Next Level Learning Students - June 19

Independence Day - No School For Next Level Learning Students - July 3-5

Note: At Kennedy, Lewis & Clark, Wakonda, Wilson, and Alternative Programs – Check with the school regarding start & end of school day times.

STAGGERED SCHOOL START - indicated by asterisk*

- **August *15** – Elementary Self-Contained Start Day
- **August *16** – Elementary Student Start Day
- **August *16** – Entry Level Middle and Senior High Student Start Day
- **August *17** – All Other Middle and Senior High Student Start Day
- **August *22** – Early Childhood Special Education Start Day
- **August *23** – Early Childhood Classes Start

Labor Day- No School For All Students September 4

No School For All Students September 15

No School For All Students September 22

First Quarter Ends – October 6

Second Quarter Begins – October 9

SENIOR HIGH CONFERENCES ARE THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9TH

No School For Senior High Students – October 12 & 13

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCES ARE THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 16TH

No School for Middle School Students – October 19 & 20

ELEMENTARY CONFERENCES ARE THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 23RD

No School For Elementary Students – October 26 & 27

No School For All Students November 1

Thanksgiving Recess - No School For All Students November 20-24

Second Quarter Ends – December 21

No School For All Students December 22

Winter Recess - No School For All Students December 25-January 4

No School For All Students January 5

Third Quarter Begins – January 8

Martin Luther King Day - No School For All Students January 15

No School For All Students February 2

Presidents' Day - No School For All Students February 19

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCES ARE THE WEEK OF MARCH 4TH

No School for Middle School Students – March 7 & 8

Third Quarter Ends – March 8

Spring Recess - No School For All Students March 11-15

Fourth Quarter Begins – March 18

SENIOR HIGH CONFERENCES ARE THE WEEK OF MARCH 18TH

No School For Senior High Students – March 21 & 22

ELEMENTARY CONFERENCES ARE THE WEEK OF MARCH 25TH

No School For Elementary Students – March 28 & 29

No School For All Students April 12

No School For All Students April 15

Last student day - Fourth Quarter Ends May 22

Memorial Day. May 27

June 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	*15	*16	*17	18
19	20	*21	*22	*23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

September 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

March 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

November 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Omaha Public Schools Board of Education

Spencer Head, President
Ricky Smith, Vice President

Tracy Casady
Jane Erdenberger
Bri Full

Margo Juarez
Nancy Kratky
Nick Thielen

Shavonna L. Holman, Ed.D.

Matthew J. Ray, Interim Superintendent

Omaha Public Schools District Student Handbook

Senior High • 2022-2023

NOT UPDATED....

GENERIC INFO

FOR NOW

*Every child
Every day.
Prepared for
success.*



Omaha Public Schools

Student Code of Conduct

NOT UPDATED....

2022-2023 School Year

GENERIC INFO

FOR NOW

*Every student.
Every day.
Prepared for
SUCCESS.*



Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students

We ask that you take time to sit down together and read through these guidelines.

Please note the behaviors that may result in an administrative response.