

Benson High School Profile 2018-19

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Benson Community

Benson is one of seven Omaha Public High Schools in a city of nearly a half a million people. Its 21 acre campus is located on the highest tract of land in Douglas County. Beginning in 1990, Benson was renovated to include new and up-to-date facilities in all areas of curriculum, activities and athletics. This massive renovation has provided greater opportunity for Benson to lead the way in quality education at a modern, attractive facility. Benson High is dedicated to high student achievement.

Significant Institutional Changes:

2006-2007: BHS instituted the 4x 4 block schedule; all 9th grade teamed in English/U.S. History & Biology/Research Seminar

2007-2008: BHS became BHS Magnet Center for Academic Research & Innovation. Introduced AVID into the curriculum

2010-2011: Omaha Public Schools instituted Standards Based Education & Standards Based Grading

2011-2012: BHS changed to “A-B Block” schedule

2014-15: BHS established a Freshman academy with 9th graders teamed in English, math, social studies and magnet classes

2015-2016: BHS established wall-to-wall Career Academies in Business & Entrepreneurship, Construction & Design, and Health Professions with all 10-12 grade students teamed in English, social studies and academy classes

2016-17: BHS adds an AP Cohort to the Academy structure

2017-18: BHS expands Career Academy core class teaming with students teamed in English, social studies, math, science and academy classes

2018-19: BHS establishes the ELL Cohort and renames the Design Academy. OPS adds Personal Finance as a requirement for all graduating seniors.

Student Diversity

American Indian/Alaska Native	>1%
Asian.....	20%
Black or African American.....	36%
Caucasian	22%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	>1%
Hispanic/Latino	16%
Two or more races	5%
Approximate Student Enrollment	1350

Grading System

BHS uses a Standards Based Education model grade scale:

Grade Points

	Academics	Honors/AP
A = 3.26 – 4.0	4	5
B = 2.51 – 3.25	3	4
C = 1.76 – 2.50	2	3
D = 1.01 – 1.75	1	2
F = less than 1.0	0	0

Class Rank

Class rank is computed at the end of each semester, based on the student’s overall grade point average. GPA is figured by dividing the total number of grade points by the number of credits attempted.

Graduation Requirements (1 semester = 1 credit)

English	8
Social Studies	7
Mathematics	6
Science	6
Physical Education or JROTC.....	4
Human Growth and Development.....	1
Personal Finance.....	1
Electives	17
Total Credits (minimum)	49

Curriculum

Benson High School is a comprehensive high school that provides 40 Honors and 16 AP courses to meet the interests and needs of all students.

Art – Honors Art 7/8, Honors Pottery 5/6, AP Studio Art 2-D, AP Studio Art 3-D (pottery)

Business – Honors Principles of Business, Honors Business Economics, Honors Principles of Finance, Honors Principles of Management, Principles of Business Strategies, Honors Personal Finance

English – Honors Drama 3/4, 5/6; Honors English 1/2 & 3/4; Honors Advanced Newspaper Production 1/2, 3/4, 5/6; Honors Journalism, Honors Yearbook 1/2, 3/4, 5/6; AP English Lang & Comp, AP English Lit & Comp

Foreign Language – Honors French 5/6, Honors Spanish 5/6, 7/8; Honors Spanish for Spanish Speakers 3/4, AP Spanish Language

JROTC – Honors JROTC 5/6, 7/8

Math - Honors Algebra 1/2, 3/4; Honors Geometry, Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, AP Calculus, AP Statistics
Music - Honors Concert Band, Honors Concert Choir, Honors Jazz Band, Honors Orchestra, Honors Swing Choir, AP Music Theory

Science – Honors Anatomy & Physiology, Honors Medical Biology, Honors Medical Chemistry, Honors Physical Science, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics

Social Studies – Honors Economics, Honors US History, AP Human Geography, AP Government & Politics: U.S, AP Government & Politics: Comp, AP Psychology, AP World History

Other – Honors Academic Decathlon