



EXPLORATION AND GROWTH

Student needs, interests, and career plans help drive educational options at Benton Community Middle and High School. Curriculum options include emphasis on core subjects and also include technology, world languages and classes that prompt exploration of their own passions.

Exploratory programs available for middle school students include: Technology, Health, Careers, Art, Agriculture, Spanish, Industrial Technology, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Benton Community encourages student development at the high school level through the exploration of a variety of courses including:

- ★ Agriculture
- ★ Arts
- ★ Business and Technology
- ★ Engineering
- ★ English
- ★ Family and Consumer Sciences
- ★ Industrial Technology
- ★ Mathematics
- ★ Music (Instrumental and Vocal)
- ★ PE and Health Sciences
- ★ Science (Chemistry, Physics, Biology)
- ★ Special Education Support Services
- ★ Social Studies
- ★ Workplace and Vocational Experiences (Internships)
- ★ World Languages
- ★ And additional online courses



COLLEGE PREPARATION

Benton Community High School students are able to earn college credit while meeting Benton Community High School graduation standards. These college level classes taught on Benton's campus or at a partner college provide juniors and seniors with a wonderful opportunity to learn about different career possibilities, earn valuable college credit to transfer to a school, or take classes that will allow the student to start at a higher level at a partner school.

Concurrent Credit- Concurrent credit classes allow students to earn high school and college credits while taking classes at BCHS.

Career Edge Academy- Career Edge Academy classes offer students the opportunity to take a series of classes associated with a specific career prep program while in high school. These classes may afford students opportunities to earn articulation credits or transferable college credits in high demand fields.

Access to Other College Level Classes- In addition to the classes offered at the high school or through sharing programs, students have an opportunity to take college courses at the local colleges in consultation with their counselors and teachers.



BENTON

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PLACE TO BELONG



BENTON

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.benton.k12.ia.us

*2017-18 Post-secondary data reported by EdInsights within 1 year of graduation.

**State report (2015-2016 through 2017-2018) of student demographic information on public high school graduates who enrolled in a postsecondary institution within one year of graduation.

8 COMMUNITIES ★ 1 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Benton Community School District's geographic footprint covers 342 square miles and includes the communities of **Atkins, Blairstown, Elberon, Keystone, Newhall, Norway, Van Horne, and Watkins.**

Our district embraces the best of each community's rich traditions and celebrations and combines those strengths as the foundation and character of our school district.

We boast both the benefits of a small town atmosphere with the rich advantages of being located in a prosperous area of Iowa, and we call the benefits and core values we embody **THE BOBCAT WAY.**

PRESCHOOL

The Benton Community School District Preschool Programs provides three and four year old children with a positive, safe and hands-on learning environment. Benton Community has preschool centers in each of its elementary buildings that are staffed with licensed teachers and certified associates.

ELEMENTARY

(Preschool -3rd grade)

Teachers and staff at the elementary level are attuned to the needs of young learners and support both academic and social development for their students. They are committed to creating an environment where students feel welcome, appreciated and challenged to do their personal best every day.

INTERMEDIATE

(Grades 4-6)

Students are the focus at Norway Intermediate, where the educators provide a safe and supportive learning environment where students demonstrate safety, responsibility and respect while having fun learning.

BENTON MIDDLE/HIGH

(Grades 7-12)

Benton Community staff at the middle and high school levels support students' academic needs in a trusting environment where students feel physically and emotionally safe. Students enjoy a rigorous and relevant curriculum with personal Chromebooks at the high school level.



Atkins Elementary
216 4th Avenue
Atkins, Iowa
52206



Keystone Elementary
280 4th St.
Keystone, Iowa
52249



Norway Intermediate
100 School Drive
Norway, Iowa
52318



Benton Middle/High
600 1st St.
Van Horne, Iowa
52346

Benton CSD
Mission Statement

"QUALITY EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING"

Benton Community School District's mission statement "Quality Education for a Lifetime of Learning" is the central focus for all efforts in staff training and student achievement. Staff engage in student-centered classrooms, teaching for understanding, assess for learning, create rigorous and relevant curriculum and accommodate diverse learners in their classrooms.



QUALITY EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

1,600 PreK-12 students

98.29% 5-year Graduation Rate (2018-19)

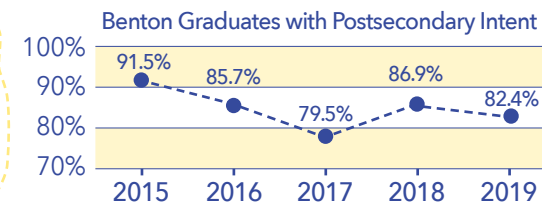
Elementary class size average **19** students per teacher

82% BENTON
80% IA GOAL
71% IA AVG

Enrolled in a postsecondary institution

73.8% Benton

66.6% Statewide



82% of Benton elementary students meet proficiency standards in **reading skills.**

In 2019-20...

179 students enrolled in **339** sections of college credit courses
233 arts/science transfer level

94 career technical education

12 alternative concurrent courses

This totaled **1,026.5** credit hours saving Benton Community families **\$180,644.**

29% attended a 2-year public college*

35.5% attended a 4-year public college or university*

11.2% attended a 4-year private college or university*

*2017-18 EdInsights data

ACTIVITIES & CLUBS

Over 90 percent of Benton Community students participate in our activities and clubs including Robotics, Spanish Club, Future Farmers of America, Family Career Community Leaders of America, HOSA, Industrial Technology Club, National Honor Society, Drill/Dance Teams, Student Council, Art Club, Mock Trial, and Yearbook Club.



PERFORMING ARTS

Benton Bobcats enjoy fine and performing art programs and activity programming including choir, show choir, band, jazz band, marching and pep band, speech, dramatics, cheerleading and theatre arts.



ATHLETICS

Benton Community competes in Iowa's WaMaC athletic conference and has athletic programs in basketball, baseball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, track and field, volleyball and wrestling.



ACADEMICS

Bobcats begin their educational journey with a foundation of **reading, writing and math** that culminates into opportunities at the high school level.

A STRONG EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION CORE

Benton Community students learn all contents including Mathematics, Reading, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and 21st Century Skills in intimate classroom settings. With an average elementary class size of 19 students, each child is supported based on their specific needs, and regularly assessed to ensure the instructional strategy is empowering continued growth.

TECHNOLOGY

Access to learning opportunities with the support of technology is embraced at Benton Community. Students at the primary level all have access to iPads, and students at the intermediate and secondary levels have access to Chromebooks.

CONSISTENT ACADEMIC GROWTH

Benton Community students regularly scored at higher proficiency rates than the state average on the state assessments. Our Benton Community students have a higher participation and success rate on the ACT than the state average.



Benton CSD ACADEMICS

BENTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



With an average elementary class size of 19 students, each child at Benton Community is supported based on their specific needs, and regularly assessed to ensure the instructional strategy is empowering continued growth.

- 82 percent of Benton Community elementary students meet proficiency standards in reading skills. (Designer note: Show on graph: 82% Benton / state goal is 80 / State average is 71)
- Benton Community students regularly scored at higher proficiency rates than the state average on the state assessments.
- Our Benton Community students have a higher participation and success rate on the ACT than the state average.

Preschool and Elementary Students (Pre-6th Grade)

Benton Community proudly offers preschool and elementary programs designed to meet the individual needs of every child and family. At each grade level teachers provide curriculum and instruction that are developmentally appropriate while supporting the social and emotional needs of each young child.

With a goal of providing the best possible early learning experience for your child, the programs offered to Benton's youngest Bobcats promote school readiness through meaningful, developmentally appropriate experiences in the areas of

- Social and emotional development,
- Active participation and observation,
- Reading, Science, and Math, and
- Physical development.

Benton Community educators to match curriculum to the developmental needs, interests and learning styles of each child.



Benton CSD ACADEMICS

Intermediate, Middle and High School Students - Building for the Future

Intermediate, middle and high school students at Benton Community Schools bring their knowledge and learning alive as they gain confidence and maturity. Benton Community educators honor the developmental uniqueness of young adolescents, and provide a safe school environment while honoring student-initiated learning. Benton students not only excel in the classroom but they also exceed expectations in our extra and co-curricular programs with more than 90 percent of Benton Community students participating in activities and clubs.

Intermediate students continue building their core competencies and explore new areas of learning.

- In 2018 students spent more than 350 hours coding during Hour of Code Week as they bridged their learning into computer science fields.
- In 2019 the students' annual music concert included the rhythmic beats and drumming skills after receiving new drums through a grant awarded by Cargill, Benton County Community Foundation and the Benton Community PTO.
- Students enjoy hands-on learning in science including science demonstrations, explorations and experiments.

- Activities for students at this level expand to include options like the Norway Pacers Running Club, FFA and choir.

Benton Community Middle and High School students have variety in their learning choices, and are encouraged to pursue their personal interests as they grow academically so they can be ready for their future career and involvement in the community.

- Benton's Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses allow students the opportunity to apply what they are learning across all academic disciplines.
- Family and Consumer Sciences is offered as part of our CTE program. Students are able to enroll in Foods and Nutrition 1, Food and Nutrition 2, Culinary Arts, Child Development 1, Child Development 2, and Independent Living.
- Benton also equips all Benton Bobcats with industry standard computer skills through business and technology courses. All students are taught about word processing, spreadsheets, databases and presentations using Microsoft Office software, and are able to take national certification tests upon completion of their training.

- Students also enjoy Project Lead the Way courses. These learning experiences engage our students as they learn about physics and technology through the science of real-world problems and solutions in engineering. Several Project Lead the Way courses including Intro to Engineering design (IED), Principles of Engineering (POE) are available to Benton students through Kirkwood Community College.



Becoming a BOBCAT

BENTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Benton Community School District's student enrollment of 1,600 includes 1,000 students from the Atkins, Blairstown, Elberon, Keystone, Newhall, Norway, Van Horne and Watkins communities, and approximately 600 from the rural surrounding areas. Our school communities are located near the Cedar Rapids metro area in east central Iowa.

A quality education for a lifetime of learning takes place at Benton Community School District:

- Outstanding opportunities for our students
- Caring, committed professional staff
- Excellent facilities from fine arts to athletics
- A feeling of inclusion among our students, and strong support from our teachers and staff
- Dedicated school board, staff, and parents

We believe that our students can and will learn at high levels. Students give us their best each day and the school community is here to assist and support their learning.

Information about Teacher Leadership and Instructional Coaching

Benton Community believes in the importance of creating a professional learning community approach to teaching and learning. Benton Community teacher leaders are catalysts for change and visionaries who are never content with the status quo. This culture of change has resulted in a high level of collaboration of teachers and administrators.

- Benton Community was selected by the state department of education in 2014 as one of the Tier I schools to begin a teacher leadership program. Since then, Benton Community has continued

to provide high-level coaching and mentoring for our teachers including research-based professional development.

- Our Teacher Leadership System (TLS) vision is to create a teacher leadership system designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning resulting in a world-class education for a lifetime of learning. The Benton Community TLS utilizes servant leadership principles by supporting capacity building opportunities for teachers to foster and promote best practices in the classroom while increasing student achievement.
- Our Instructional Coaches are full-release and focus on high quality instructional practices, setting goals and delivering instruction, supporting teachers and data team leaders, researching educational strategies and initiatives, assisting with alignment of district-wide curriculum, and engaging in extensive continuous growth opportunities.
- In addition to our Instructional Coaches, our teacher leadership program includes 32 teacher leaders who facilitate the data-team process with their peers. Data teams collaborate throughout the week to set goals, review student data, adjust instruction, and evaluate progress.



Benton CSD

BECOMING A BOBCAT

Teaching and Support Staff Packages:

Benton Community offers competitive wages, salaries and benefits for teachers and support staff. Packages may differ depending on departments of employees.

Teaching salaries are competitive with the surrounding school districts. New teachers begin at \$39,860 which includes Teacher Salary Supplement (TSS).

Benefit packages include:

- Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS),
- Health and wellness coverage through Wellmark (Mercer Trust) (purchased or district benefit), and employee options for Delta Dental, VSP Vision, Life Insurance/AD&D, Cancer Insurance, and Short-term Disability Insurance.



Benton CSD PRESCHOOL

BENTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Preschool Experience at Benton Community School District

A preschool experience at one of Benton Community Elementary Centers helps prepare children for success in kindergarten. Our goal is to provide the best possible early learning experience for your child. Active participation, observation and exploration activities are integral to our program. We intend to match curriculum to the developmental needs, interests and learning styles of each child. We also place special emphasis on nurturing the development of a healthy self-concept in each child.

Our preschool programs are growing and typically include 45 students in our 3-year old Preschool programs and 90 students in our 4-year old Preschool program!

Locations: Keystone and Atkins

Programmatic Details:

- 3-year old students (tuition-based program) available for half-days for \$130/month. Sessions are held Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- 4-year old students (statewide voluntary preschool program) is free to any 4-year old student who turns 4 by September 15. Sessions are held Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Curriculum and Instruction

Benton Community preschool programs are served by highly qualified teachers who specialize in early childhood education and early literacy. The preschool educators use the state approved Creative Curriculum and Gold Assessments and follow the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards. These guidelines assist the preschool staff in providing appropriate preschool curriculum and environments for your child.

Benton Community Preschools are designed to promote kindergarten readiness skills. A variety of activities to nurture the following will be explored daily. **These include:**

- Positive self-esteem
- Social awareness
- Cognitive, language, physical and emotional growth
- Independent thought and behavior
- Character education traits
- Multicultural environment

In addition, the curriculum will foster the education of:

- Language and literacy skills
- Pre-reading concepts
- Early mathematical concepts
- Active receptive and expressive language skills
- Critical thinking
- Decision making
- Large and small motor ability

Contact us to enroll or to request a tour!

Jason West, Principal, Atkins Elementary Center
319-446-7525

Anna Upah, Principal and Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Keystone Elementary Center
319-442-3221

www.benton.k12.ia.us



Benton CSD STUDENT PROGRAMS

BENTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS from A- Z

ART CLUB

Benton Art Club is a 9-12 organization that works to promote the Visual Arts, throughout the building and towns that make up Benton Community. The club allows art students an opportunity to experience new materials and processes not offered in the academic courses, collaborate with other artists, as well the opportunity to create artwork for and around the community. Art Club helps promote creative problem solving, and teamwork through our projects, and allows students a chance to take leadership roles during these projects. Students may also receive a Fine Arts Letter for Art Club by fulfilling the necessary requirements.

DANCE TEAM

The Dance Team is made up of eight dancers who compete during a 10 month season, which makes us unique compared to other sports! Benton's dancers compete at the Iowa State Dance Championships, and perform at multiple local events.

FFA

Future Farmers of America (FFA) is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success.

FFCLA

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a national Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) for young individuals in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) education in public and private schools through grade 12.



FINE ARTS

Benton Community takes great pride in offering both fine arts and performing arts programs. Students enjoy choir, show choir, color guard, band, jazz band, marching band, pep band, speech, dramatics, and theatre arts. Our fine arts programs are respected throughout the state.

MARCHING BAND, JAZZ BAND, PEP BAND

The Benton Community High School Bands serve more than 85 students in grades 9-12. Our curricular offerings are centered around the Concert Band, with the Marching Bobcats and Color Guard meeting during the fall semester. These ensembles perform at a wide variety of events, including community concerts, competitions, and parades. The Marching Bobcats have placed at or toward the top of a number of marching band competitions in recent years, and our Color Guard was named the Class 2 State Champions at the 2019 ISDTA Winter Guard Competition. Co-curricular offerings include the First Street Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, and various chamber ensembles. All students receive a weekly private lesson for 15-20 minutes.

CHOIR, MADRIGAL CHOIR, SHOW CHOIR

The Benton Community vocal music department encompasses a wide variety of opportunities for students that includes an 11-12 grade concert choir, a 9-10 grade mixed choir, two show choirs, a chamber choir, a madrigal choir, a men's choir and a women's choir. In addition, students at Benton Community have the opportunities to participate in Iowa All State Choir auditions, OPUS Honor Choir, an annual musical, state solo

Benton CSD STUDENT PROGRAMS

and ensemble contest, two home variety shows, as well as traveling to Washington D.C. and New York City. The choirs are involved in multiple home concerts, Veterans Day programs and state large group competition where they have earned consecutive division 1 superior ratings year after year.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Bobcat Chapter of the National Honor Society is an honor organization that recognizes positive character, scholarship, leadership and service. Benton juniors and seniors with a cumulative 3.5 GPA who are involved in at least two recent school activities and a minimum of 20 service hours are invited to submit their information for consideration by the five member faculty committee. Since 1962, the Bobcat Chapter has inducted over 1,100 students.

PERFORMING ARTS

SPEECH

Speech has two seasons each year. First, beginning in November, students begin preparing for Large Group Speech. Students can compete in a variety of activities that are either recorded or performed live in front of judges. There are a variety of categories and group sizes for students to choose from. These events are designed to highlight students' skills in the areas of acting, public speaking, and singing. Groups compete in January at our WaMaC Conference Speech Competition and then at Districts and State if they qualify. The best performances will advance to All-State. In late January, students who are interested in competing at an individual level begin preparing for

Individual Event (IE) Speech. IE has a wide variety of categories from giving formal researched speeches to acting categories. Joining speech provides students an opportunity to build their communication skills and acting abilities beyond the major theatre productions the school offers each year.

THEATRE

Benton Community High School produces two full-scale productions each year: a play and a musical. Students can participate in either of the productions or both. This gives students a chance to work on two separate shows each year and allows them the opportunity to work with different groups of students and directors. There are many opportunities for actors to shine on stage, as well as provide support behind the curtains. Students are involved in creating set pieces, helping with choreography and blocking, designing lighting and sound effects, as well as student directing.

PHILANTHROPY

Students at Atkins and Keystone Elementary Schools have coordinated food and sock drives, and welcomed home an Eastern Iowa Honor Flight.

Recently, students at Norway Intermediate focused their attention on the University of Iowa's Children's Hospital and donated blankets and baby hats.

ROBOTICS

The robotics team designs, builds, and programs a robot to perform specific game tasks. The game changes each year. The team also provides community service, documents the process, and markets the team.

SPANISH CLUB

Spanish Club is an extracurricular activity. It is an opportunity for students to learn more about Spanish traditions and culture. It is open to any student studying Spanish at Benton Middle/High School. In the past Spanish Club has sponsored activities such as movie night, restaurant night out, cooking classes, and Spanish craft night.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The High School Student Council is composed of 20 students elected by grade to the council. During the school year, the Student Council creates opportunities for students to enjoy being Bobcats. Every Bobcat matters at BC and the Student Council tries to find different ways to show students they matter to us. Student Council organizes Homecoming, the Bobcat Roar, recycling pop cans for indoor activities, and a Senior Walk for Benton Community students before graduation. In addition, the Student Council encourages our students to give back to their community by organizing the Silver Cord Program that promotes volunteerism throughout our communities. All of these ideas were created by student council members to help improve the student experience at Benton.



Benton CSD ADMINISTRATION

BENTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Central Office and Building Administration

Dr. Pamela Ewell, Superintendent
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Benton Community School Board

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Emily Upah
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