

ZEPHYR TRACKS



News of the Benton School District

Spring 2023

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CLASS OF 2023!

From the Administrator's Desk-Mr. Bastian

The summer is here and we, the community, have prepared the fourteen students that graduated this year for the workforce, college, and the military. They have been a great group of young men and women. We are looking forward to seeing the great things the Class of 2023 will accomplish in the future.

Although school is out for the summer, things are really buzzing around the school. On the first day of summer break, we had a couple of projects being started or being completed. The roofing crew from Johnson Creek started replacing the roof on the elementary building that is over twenty years old. The new roof should help ensure that our school building will be in great shape long into the future. We also finished the sign project on the north end of the parking lot. The brick and the capstone look great. Please stop and see them when you get a chance.

In the main office, we are wrapping up the current school year and preparing for the next school year. We are welcoming several new employees that include:

- Kaylee Meyers fourth grade teacher
- Cora Holland second grade teacher
- Michaela Ackerman 4K teacher
- Ragan Carey first grade teacher
- John Strause as a paraprofessional
- Gabriela Kuhl as a paraprofessional
- Nathan Keleher as a summer cleaner

We are looking forward to getting to know each of them in what we feel will be a seamless transition into next school year.

This year it was great to get back to normal and just concentrate on educating students. I want to give a big shout out to our teachers, support staff, and Mrs. Lawrence, our principal, for doing a great job of preparing our students for whatever they might encounter. The great students we have in our district may or may not have been looking forward to summer vacation, but because of our staff, I am betting they will be happy to be back in the fall.

Thank you to the Benton Board of Education for making decisions in the best interest of the students of Benton. Thank you, the community, for your continued support of the School District of Benton. With your support, the Benton School District is a great place for students to experience school, sports, co-curricular activities, and many other life lessons.

It is always a great day to be a Zephyr!
Todd Bastian

From the Principal's desk-Mrs. Lawrence

Gratitude. That word sums up the 2022-2023 school year. From the first day of school to the final day of the year, I am grateful for the community support, the parent support, our amazing staff, and most of all, I am grateful for our students. Looking back at some accomplishments our district has earned academically as well as in extracurriculars, we could not accomplish our goals without such positive community support. All accomplishments are worthy but knowing that the community members and students go above and beyond to be good humans, is the best reward of all. I have no doubt that the BHS Class of 2023 will go above and beyond expectations on their next journey. Congratulations to all!

One example that hits home this year is the community support in which two Benton families were struck with devastating news regarding a cancer diagnosis. The community and students rallied together and gave unbelievable support to both families. We celebrated one of those good moments at the end of the school year. Our positive thoughts are extended to one of our staff members, Roxanne Boardman.

Summer is a time of recharging and preparing for the upcoming school year. You may notice the new digital sign has been completed in the parking lot and the maintenance completed on the school roof. Custodians are busy cleaning and maintaining our building making sure all details are ready for the fall. Be sure to take some time to relax and unwind to spend some special time with family and friends.

On a side note, one change that I would like to make parents aware of for the 2023-2024 school year is that students will not be allowed to use personal devices. Each student will be issued a school-owned device at the beginning of the school year. More information will be available as the school year begins.

Once again, thank you for being a part of our school community. I encourage you to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions that you may have to improve our school district. Have a great summer!

Lisa M. Lawrence

PK-12 Principal

llawrence@benton.k12.wi.us



A B C D E F G

Ms. Baty * 4K*

4K has been a fun year of learning, singing, dancing, and playing. We worked hard, did lots of crafts, and made lots of important memories. 4K made lots of friends while mastering their letters and letter sounds, numbers, shapes, and so many more things. 4K has loved doing their 4K Alphabet countdown; we practice our sign-language letters, predict what we could be do for the letter action, and then do the activity of the day! We love our alphabet hats!



T S R Q P O N

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KINDERGARTEN



Waving Goodbye to Kindergarten



We've become a family.
We have an unbreakable bond.
This is a "See you later, not a "So long!"
We can count to 100.
We've learned how to read.
Let's go to first grade and succeed!



Mrs. Bader



FIRST GRADE

Ms. Frain

Wow! It is hard to believe that the 2022-2023 school year is almost over. What a great year it has been in first grade. We have learned so much.

In reading, we have been working on finding clues in our stories to help us decide the theme of the story. We have been picking out key details to help us better understand the stories we are reading. We have also been working on cause and effect. These skills as well as many other skills we have worked on will help us to become more confident readers.

In math, we have been working on measurement, time and shapes. We can tell time to the hour and half hour now! We are finishing up our unit on 2-dimensional shapes then we will learn about 3-dimensional shapes.

As the year winds down, we will keep working hard to master the skills we need for 2nd grade!



Mrs. Casper

Our reading has taken us on many great adventures! As readers we have a lot of jobs to do when reading a story. While reading various texts, students have learned how to identify the plot of a story. We connect this with lessons about cause and effect. Predicting and visualizing are two more important skills we've worked through.

In addition to improving our reading skills, this class has become good writers too. They loved doing the ten minute write so much that they asked me almost every day if we could do one.

Addition and subtraction are extremely important math skills for first graders to master. We've practiced using good problem solving strategies and, most recently, worked on telling time and counting money. Sorry, no more fooling these smart first graders about if it's really bedtime!

For science and social studies, we learned about the past in homes, schools and communities. Of course, we can't forget to mention our favorite end-of-the-year unit with the life cycle of a butterfly. We were so excited and eager to learn more about the stages of our caterpillars and watched them grow, turn into chrysalises, and hatch into butterflies. We were very responsible and good caretakers so we ended up with all 10 beautiful butterflies! After having them in our classroom for the last month, releasing them into nature was bittersweet. We sure hope we see them around!



Speaking of bittersweet, it has been an amazing past nine years as the Benton first grade teacher, but I have accepted a teaching position in Galena. I would like to thank administration, staff, parents, students and the community for all of your support! You will forever have a special spot in my heart.



SECOND GRADE SCOOP

*"I am ready for a great day! I believe in myself! I trust that I will accomplish my goals and dreams!" Second Grade Motto
Energy Bus*

Time flies when you are having fun! Here are a few flashbacks of our fun times together this quarter. We took field trips to the Creative Adventure Lab in Dubuque, Children's Museum in Madison, and we saw the puppet show Rumpelstiltskin in Hazel Green. Students were rewarded for their hard work and outstanding behavior this quarter with a Stuffed Animal Party, Ice Cream Party, and a Toy/Show and Tell Party. A few of our favorite class projects are pictured below. Students became "Kindhearted Pet Owners" after graduating from our Two by Two Kindhearted Kid Program which taught us some important life skills such as fairness, kindness, respect, responsibility, empathy, cooperation, perseverance, and citizenship. Students created Animal Research Books. They also designed habitat dioramas! They presented their hard work to the Freshman and First Graders. Students created surveys in math. They surveyed the Third Graders and even quizzed them on the data that they presented using a bar graph, picture graph, and tally chart. Students worked hard while learning to tell time and count money. Students even got to practice purchasing ice cream toppings during our Ice Cream Party. Students explored identifying vertices, faces, and edges in 3D shapes by creating shapes out of toothpicks and marshmallows. Students also created a 3D Shape Museum in the hallway for students to explore. Students created a biography timeline. It was neat learning about each of our classmates accomplishments. Students set some rigorous goals before IReady testing and soared high above them! Overall, our Second Grade Class grew 749 points since the fall in reading and 529 points in math. It was AMAZING and rewarding to see how much students have grown. I know this special group of Second Graders will do great things in the future and I am so glad I was able to be apart of their journey. Continue to believe in yourselves as much as I believe in you! Have a wonderful summer!

~Mrs. Schnitzler



Mrs. Lyne

THIRD GRADE

Third grade is winding down the year with tons of fun activities and field trips. We took a walk to the post office to mail our friendly letters and get a tour of the post office. For reading, student practice, made props and costumes, and performed a King Midas play to their peers. They were very creative in costume and prop-making! Third quarter was celebrated with a trip to Creative Adventure Lab where students used STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) skills to build, create, and play. They used materials such as foam blocks, magnetic tiles, Legos, and more. We recently took our end of the year class trip with 2nd grade. We went to Madison Children's Museum and a park for lunch. The museum had plenty of interactive exhibits and places to climb and explore. We will end our year with fun activities the final week at the park and at school. We will say goodbye to our student teacher, Ms. Hussey and wish her the best on her next adventure. The students and I have both enjoyed having her in the classroom and we all have learned so much this year. We are looking forward to a summer full of fun, sun, and friends!

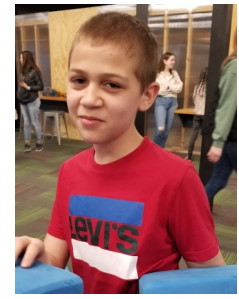
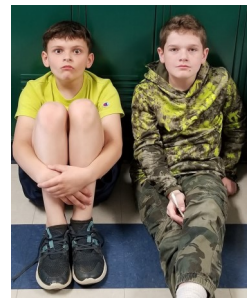


Mrs. Homb

FOURTH GRADE

It's hard to believe our school year is coming to an end! We spent the 4th quarter finishing our trade book, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, learning all about the state of Wisconsin, and had lots of educational field trips. I am proud of this group and how hard they have worked all year long. I hope everyone has a great summer!





Mrs. Neis

Fifth Grade Adventures

What a quarter we had! We went on one adventure after another! Rural Safety Days, Earth Day, a visit to the River Museum, and the Creative Lab to name a few. Experiences help us to learn and to grow and we certainly have done that this year. Have a great summer, have fun, and stay safe!



Mr. Savala

Sixth Grade

The 6th-grade class has made great progress this year. They have done quality work on projects, such as their hydraulic machines and presentations for the Trip Around Asia. We are finishing our school year with fun hands-on activities, including composting food scraps from lunch, identifying tree species around the school, and making sourdough bread.

The summer is a great time to continue to work on skills and be prepared for the next school year. I look forward to seeing students for summer school classes!

Enjoy your summer break!

Mrs. Hulse

The seventh and eighth grade students have been working hard in their literature and language classes. For the 4th quarter, the seventh grade students have been reading Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. The eighth grade students have been reading The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. They will watch the movie to make comparisons to the book. The seventh grade students were also able to help the 4K students with their letter "S" day by helping them make ice cream sundaes! It has been a wonderful school year!



Mrs. Keleher

Elementary Special Education has had a busy year! We continue to work on reading and math goals in addition to comprehension skills. We learn about the story elements and use our background knowledge to understand many different genres of stories. The students are hard workers and have a great attitude. They recently finished up their final iReady exam for Spring and were very happy to be done with testing for the year! We are just headed to the Champion Games in Boscobel this month. This is an outdoor day filled with many activities, inflatables, and track and field events to round out the day! The students went for the first time last year (after a few years off from Covid) and LOVED the day!!! They were very excited to partake again this year! They get lots of exercise, meet new friends, and enjoy their day off!! Many of them are looking forward to the summer break and enjoying some downtime. As always, they have been a great group to get to know and work with. Please have a safe and enjoyable summer and looking forward to seeing everyone in the fall!



Mr. Ihm

Geometry

Geometry students are wrapping up the year by modeling a town. We are calling back to our map project that was worked on in November. They were given the opportunity to design their own town and discover that several geometrical features are used in designing roads such as parallel or perpendicular streets, rays, line segments, etc. We look to bring these towns to life with our modeling project. Students can choose to go off their original town or design a new town. Similar to the map project, geometric figures like lines, line segments, and rays will be utilized. Students will also include several shapes that we discussed this semester such as a triangular park and a quadrilateral-shaped (4-sided) swimming pool. With this project, students have the opportunity to discover more geometric features in their town while also allowing creativity to spark their work.

The last unit of sophomore English is Film Study. The question I always get as I introduce the unit invariably is, "So we just get to watch movies for the rest of the school year?" And, basically, the answer is yes. But what are films (we use the term "film" instead of "movie"; it's more academic that way) if not visual stories being told? The students learn early on that the same tools they've been using all year to analyze books and stories, identify symbolism, and question the author's intentions are applied to the study of films as well. This encapsulation of the skills they've been learning for the past couple of years in High School has three major sections. The first unit is about camera angles and shots, to introduce students to the ways in which a director tells a story or evokes an emotion. We watch Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*, which tells the story of a wheelchair-bound photographer who, with nothing else to do while he waits for his broken leg to heal, sits in his apartment and watches his neighbors. Everything seems fine, until he suspects his neighbor of having murdered his wife! The film uses mostly POV shots to put the viewer right into the action. A slow burn at first, it has an edge-of-your-seat climax, and deals with the question that many ask today regarding the nature of media: Why do we, as a society, take so much enjoyment from watching others?

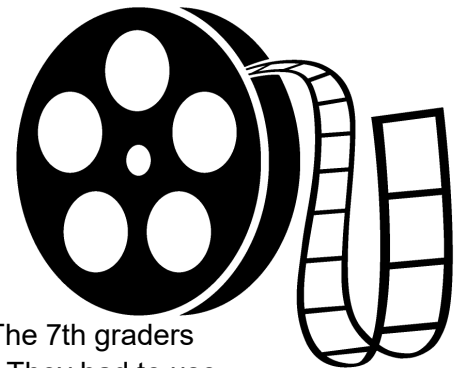
Second, we learn about the history of cinematography, from the invention of the photo camera, to capturing sequential storytelling, vaudeville, silent films, talkies, all the way up to the "Golden Age" of Hollywood and the height of the movie musical genre. We watch *Singin' in the Rain*, which shows the transition from silent pictures to "talkies", and discuss the theme of "appearance vs. reality." Essentially, everything we see on the screen isn't exactly what's happening behind the scenes. For example, Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds, who play the main characters in the film, have great romantic chemistry on the screen. But did you know that they actually didn't get along during the production of the film? In fact, Reynolds described Kelly, who did the choreography for the dancing, and also directed, as a "severe taskmaster" who "criticized everything [she] did" on the film.

Our final unit in Film Study is what I'd call the "meat and potatoes" of the whole thing, wherein we study the four methods of analyzing film. These are Semiotic (symbols), Contextual (having to do with the time period in which the film was made), Narrative Structure (how the story is told), and Mise-en-Scene Analysis (or how the unique qualities of film, like camera angles, sound, lighting, actors, etc., help tell the story). We watch the 2016 film *Arrival*, starring Amy Adams, for this unit. The film, which tells the story of how aliens arrive on earth and humanity's response for learning how to communicate with them, is a fascinating film, and really encapsulates all the ideas we've been working with in the unit.

The last task now is to apply what we've learned to analyzing a film of our choosing and presenting it to the class. This whole unit is great because it really changes the way students look at and appreciate films. Already, I've had students tell me that they can't watch a movie now without thinking about camera angles or asking why the director made certain decisions. Sorry, not sorry.



Mrs. Sturtz



Students have been busy finishing up chapters and big projects in my classes. The 7th graders wrapped up their computer class by completing a Google Earth scavenger hunt. They had to use research skills and basic keyboard functions to complete this task. As a reward for doing well this year we ended with watching the movie *Ron's Gone Wrong*. This animated movie talks about themes related to social media use and the dangers of overconsumption of technology. It is also just a really funny movie that students really enjoy. The 8th graders just wrapped up a unit on social media. They completed a project where they had to research a social media developer and create a Facebook page and Spotify playlist. This project had students practicing their research skills as well as getting a deeper understanding of how Google Slides works. Sports and Entertainment marketing got through 13 chapters this year. This group of seniors was a joy to have. They worked hard and I can see that they will do great things in their future. Personal Finance ended the year by learning about taxes. Students came away from the unit with a better understanding of how to do taxes and what taxes are used for.

Mr. Neis

To end the school year the Juniors in Ethnic Minorities are having a debate on the gender pay gap. One side is arguing that the pay gap does not exist and the other side is arguing that it is relevant and present in today's society. The students did an excellent job being respectful as they presented their arguments. Both sides made some really good points. I am very happy with how it turned out.

Mr. Tyson

Grades six through eight took an eventful trip to Wisconsin Dells and spent the day at Mount Olympus. The weather was spectacular with lots of sunshine and temperatures in the 80s. Students were able to experience roller coasters, go-karts, water slides, and an enormous wave pool. Mrs. Hulse and Mr. Savala even got into the action on a thrill ride called Apollo's Swing! The trip was a great experience, and everyone had a great time!



8th grade science

Ms. Schreiber

To complete the school year, the 8th grade science students' worked on a LEGO Mindstorms project where they constructed an elephant, dogs and conveyor belt. The LEGO instructions were very detailed and they did an excellent job! Their creations were able to move, make sounds and even though Lego pieces 4 feet into the air! It was a very interactive, exciting way to wrap up Junior High!



Mr. Brant

Elementary (K-5)

The elementary students finished the school year working on ways to solve problems. They used the acronym STEP to figure out solutions to problems. **S - Say the Problem, T - Think of Possible Solutions, E - Explore the Consequences, and P - Pick the Best Solution.**

Middle School (6-8)

Middle school students interested in the healthcare field participated in Club Scrub. This is a program put on by the Memorial Hospital in Darlington. Students were able to tour the hospital, as well as participate in hands-on activities led by the hospital staff. The program lasted five weeks, and each week was a different field in the hospital. The areas were Radiology, Surgery, Nursing, Rehab, and Lab.

High School (9-12)

In March, the Senior class went to Colony Brands in Monroe. The group received a tour and learned about all the different career options at Colony Brands. Each Senior also received a \$350 scholarship from Colony Brands. At graduation, the Senior class received roughly \$156,000 in scholarships.

School Counselor

Mrs. Ward

On March 16, three fourth graders and three fifth graders competed in CESA 3's Lit War competition. The students were asked to read six books and to become an expert in one of them. Each student then competed against other students on their expert book. Out of our six students, we had three of them place: Mason Gudgeon placed 3rd on *Posted*, Nicolas Flatley placed 3rd on *When You Reach Me* and Khloe Neis received 1st place on *Save Me a Seat*. Each received a ribbon for their awards. Then as a team of three each grade participated as a team over all six of the books. Our fifth grade team placed 3rd. We had a very successful day bringing home the most ribbons since I have been doing this. Congratulations to all and thanks for making Benton proud!

On April 21, thirty-eight students in grades 5-9 attended the UW-Madison Varsity spring concert. They were treated to a charter bus ride, a free concert ticket, and money to eat with at Culver's all thanks to the Music Boosters. A great time was had by all. Our students enjoyed the music and were up dancing and singing to many of the songs. This trip was possible due to the music parents working the concession stands and to all the great people who support the concession stands during the volleyball and basketball games. Thank you to everyone who made this trip a success.

Spring testing has finished. I believe the juniors should all have received their ACT scores already through their email. The students in grades 9-10 did the Pre-ACT test but won't receive their scores until summer. Also, the students in grades 3-8 did the Forward Exam and again scores don't get sent until summer and will be handed out during conferences. We had some scheduling craziness with vacations, the unpredictable weather, and illnesses but we finally finished with a few days to spare. Our students also completed our district testing which is the iReady and MAP. Test results will be sent home with their 4th quarter report cards. Hopefully, we see some great growth with all their hard work all year long. I know it is a lot of testing and as many student have told me "it doesn't affect my grade," but it does allow kids to work on their perseverance, time management, and test taking skills that we use in life outside of school, too. We have survived and now it is time to relax and rejuvenate for next school year.



Mrs. Palzkill

Inclusive Leadership

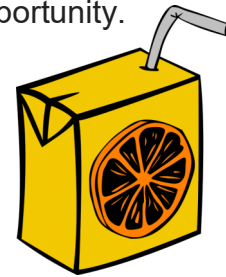
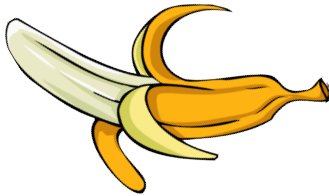
Benton School District was able to send a middle school and high school group to an Inclusive Youth Leadership Boot camp this year. The middle school students went on November 30, 2022 and the high school group when on March 1, 2023. At these boot camps, the students explored life readiness skills, trust-building, and problem-solving. They also learned how to create a positive inclusive culture within the school and community. This boot camps was put on by CESA#3 and facilitated by Brian Kenney. Brian focused on teaching leadership and problem-solving skills to the students through hands-on activities. Students were also taken out of their comfort zone and encouraged to engage with students from other schools while improving their interpersonal skills.



Golf Excursion

Mr. Droessler

The sophomores and seniors in Mr. Droessler's PE classes were able to travel to Apple Canyon Lake Golf Course recently to complete a round of golf. This event was planned with much help from Steve Malone and paid for by Benton State Bank. Each high school student was assigned an adult companion to drive a golf cart and help explain the courtesy and etiquette that should be demonstrated on a golf course. Each foursome completed nine holes of golf in a "best-ball" format. Everyone was rewarded with pizza in the clubhouse following the completion of the round of golf. Thanks again to Steve Malone, Scott Freiburger and Benton State Bank for giving our students this learning opportunity.



USDA Summer Meals for Kids Site Finder

USDA works closely with states to ensure that children who receive on free or reduced-price school meals can get the nutrition they need when schools are closed – whether during summer break or unexpected closures during the school year. Through USDA's summer meal programs, approved sites in communities across the country can serve meals to kids up to age 18 at no cost. The site finder maps are updated weekly.

◆ Visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids> to find the nearest site.

● Call 2-1-1

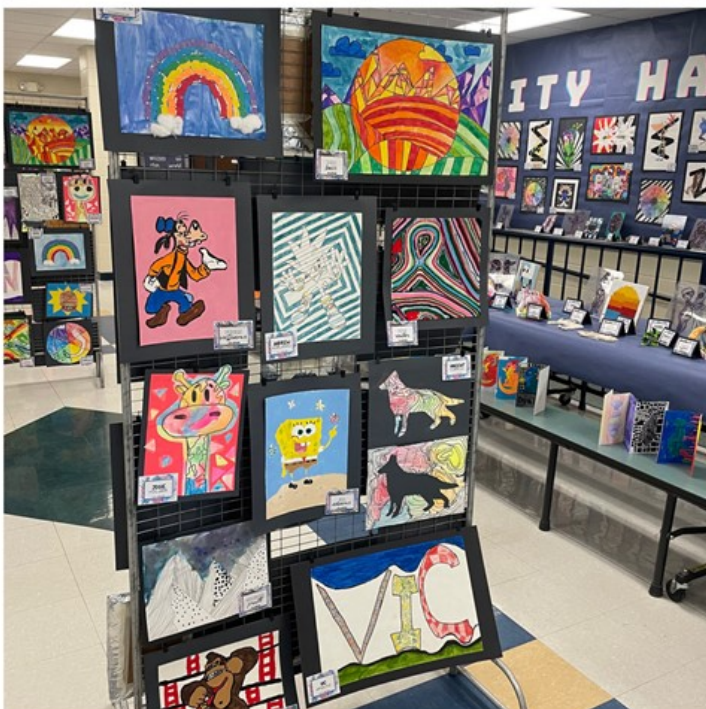
2-1-1 is a free, easy-to-remember phone number connecting callers with health and human services in their community.

◆ Text 'food' to 304-304

In need of additional information on how to obtain food? Hunger Free America operates the [National Hunger Hotline](#) on behalf of USDA. The hotline is a resource for individuals and families seeking information on how to obtain food. The National Hunger Hotline staff connects callers with emergency food providers in their community, government assistance programs, and various social services. The hotline can be reached at 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (for Spanish) from Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET

Mrs. Liddicoat

As the school year comes to an end, it is time to show off all of the great art pieces that were made this year. Fine Arts Night was a great success. Thank you to all that made it. The students have worked hard all year and Fine Arts Night is their time to shine. Each art student, kindergarteners through seniors, had at least two different pieces of artwork in the show. There were many different types of projects and mediums. A few examples are, stained glass, x-ray painting, glitch art, abstract sculptures, 3D rainbows out of fruit loops, water color, yarn painting, pixel art, and so much more. The students were so proud to show everyone their pieces of art. We will finish off the year with some free time creativity. Hope everyone has a great summer and keep on creating.





Ms. Callan

Band/Music

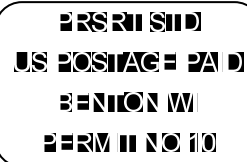
We had a really great year for music and band students! I have seen a lot of growth in all of these kids, especially in the bands. Even though they were pushed with music beyond their level, they all rose to the occasion, put in the work, and made sure everyone saw their progress.

For middle school especially, their spring concert and performing at graduation proved this to everyone. Those who saw them play for Veterans Day way back in November were already shocked at how they sounded compared to last year. Now, at graduation playing our National Anthem again, they left many people floored with their large and strong sound. Who knew 21 kids could sound like 40?!

As we wind down for the year, I see their excitement trickling down to our 4th grade students. There are many who are seeing their older peers succeed and are ready to join our elementary band next year! I am just as excited as they are to see what comes this summer and next school year!



**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BENTON
41 ALMA STREET
PO BOX 7
BENTON, WI 53803**



**CURRENT RESIDENT
BENTON, WI 53803**



**Have a safe and
happy summer!**

BENTON SCHOOL BOARD

Angela Davis, President
Ryan Kern, Vice-President
Amanda Williams, Clerk
Paul Klang, Treasurer
Jordan Kieler, Member
Jeff Richardson, Member
Megan Flatley, Member

Regular monthly meetings are held the
2nd Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:00
p.m. in the high school library.