

## History of the Batanes National Science High School

The Provincial Board of Batanes initiated the offering of Secondary Education during the term of Governor Vicente Barsana. Still, it was stopped when the Governor died in a shipwreck on a trip to Itbayat. However, in June 1917, with Lucas Gonzalo as Governor, the Batanes High School was formally opened, having the following teacher Mr. Eligio Llanes, Mr. Elpidio Fadri, and Mr. Francisco Asidao. The subjects taught were Mathematics, Science, English, and military science for boys.

During the first year of establishment, only 1st year level was opened, followed by the other curriculum years so that by 1928, the Batanes High School graduated its first batch of 10 students who finished the course. These were Felix Augusto, Antonio Alcantara, Fernando Baroña, and Jose Baroña, all four from Ivana; and Francisco Elep, Custodio Villalva, Pedro Hontomin, and Cirilo Faberes who were from Sabtang and a lone female student from San Fabian Pangasinan, Concordia Erefe. The school was closed during the war but reopened in June 1945.

In 1958, the 2-2 plan curriculum was offered to its students, followed by the Revised Education Program 1958. Because of financial constraints in running a secondary school, Congressman Jorge Abad sponsored R.A. 4049, converting the school to a National High School, thus, successfully turning over the burden of running the Secondary School to the National Government.

This conversion paved the way for opening a branch school in Itbayat with Mr. Orlando E. Hontomin as Head Teacher, followed by one in Ivana in 1967 with Mrs. Severa J. Adalid as Head, then in Mahatao in 1977 with Bernardo Hornedo as Teacher-in-charge.



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These branch schools eventually became full-fledged high schools. Itbayat became the Itbayat National Agricultural High School with Mr. Bonifacio P. Caan as first principal, the Ivana National High School with Mr. Nicanor Aguto as principal, and the Mahatao National High School with Mr. Reinfredo F. Mirabueno, principal. All of these schools offered the Revised Secondary Education Curriculum graduating its students and managing their finances. Itbayat National High School provides an Agricultural High School Curriculum as mandated in its establishment.

On August 22, 2000, the bill sponsored by Congressman Florencio B. Abad – R.A. 8855 was finally passed by Congress and Approved by President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, formally converting the Batanes National High School into the Batanes National Science High School. It started operation as a special science high school during the school year 2001–2002.

In 2016, the Batanes National Science High School established the offering of the Senior High School, adding grade 11 for the school year 2016-2017 and grade 12 for its succeeding year under the Republic Act 10533, known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013.

From the original 3 Teachers headed by a teacher-in-charge in 1917, the school now has 78 teaching and non-teaching staff led by a Secondary School Principal as of December 2022. It offers Science, Technology, Engineering (STE) Program and Special Program for Journalism (SPJ) in Junior High School. For Senior High School, it provides the following strands: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Accounting, Business, and Management (ABM); and General Academic Strand (GAS). The National Historical Commission of the Philippines granted a historical marker to this institution in 2014.