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# BENSON POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

An in-depth look at...  
Our Culture & Campus

A presentation by the...  
Benson Students of Architecture 3  
2015-2016



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# BENSON TECH: OUR CULTURE AND STUDENT LIFE





## Career & Technical Classes

Benson Polytechnic High School offers the most Career and Technical Education courses within Portland Public Schools. We offer in-depth course work in Architecture, Automotive, Building Construction, Computer Engineering, Dental, Digital Media, Electric, Health Occupations, and Manufacturing.

Students during their Freshman year are exposed to 8 different CTE courses then for their Sophomore year, students narrow their focus to 4 different CTE choices. During the Junior and Senior years, Benson students choose a major where they spend the next two years learning advanced skills and knowledge in one particular area. If their schedules allow it, many opt to double major.



Culture 3



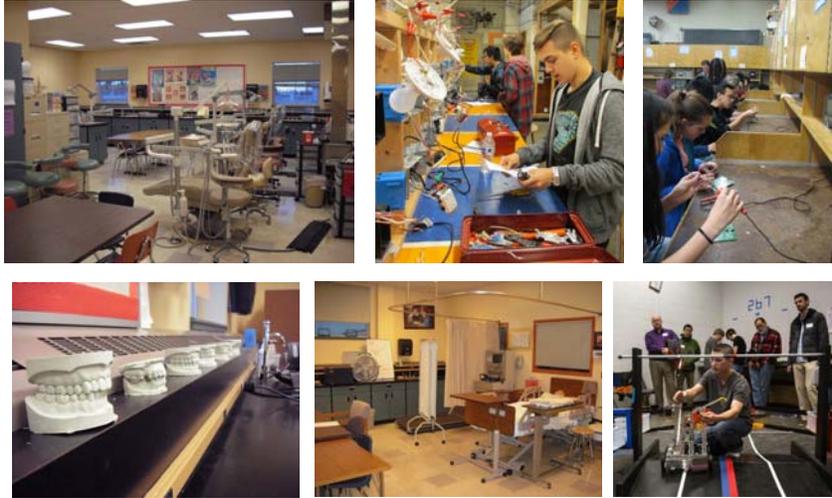
## Career & Technical Classes



Culture 4



## Career & Technical Classes



Culture 5



## Benson House



At Benson, our Construction, Architecture, and Electric majors all play a role in creating the Benson House.



The process starts with the Architecture students designing the home. Then Construction and Electric students begin construction. It takes about 4 years to make the Benson House.

This house was created so that students will have a great real life experience.

Culture 6



## KBPS

Founded in 1923, Benson became one of the first radio stations to be operated by an educational institute.

The station moved into its new building in 1992.



Culture 7



## Construction Geometry & Tech Algebra



In Construction Geometry, students apply geometry principals to the design, presentation and construction of real projects including homes for Dignity Village.



In Tech Algebra, students apply math principals to the running of a printing business.

Culture 8



## School News



Benson's school newspaper, The Tech Pep, had its final edition printed in June 2010. The paper had been part of the school culture since the 1920's.

Beginning in September 2014, the Tech News began reporting weekly highlights and announcements by producing short videos that are posted to YouTube.

Culture 9



## Benson Arts

Benson students are a very creative bunch. Benson offers several different art classes and several students express their talents with projects in their shop classes as well.



Culture 10



## Benson Wall Art



Digital Media



F-Wing

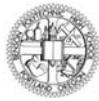


Near Old Gym

Painted murals can be found in several spaces around the school. Some of the murals have been in place for several decades.



Culture 11



## Personalizing Our Space



Everywhere you go in Benson, you can find evidence of how students and staff like to personalize the halls and rooms of Benson.

Culture 12



## It May Be “Old”, But We Love It



When new visitors to Benson walk around the school, they are surprised to see a lot of what they would consider “old equipment” in some areas. What they don’t realize is that our “antique” equipment is still relevant to the industry and can be found in shops around the city.

Culture 13



## Before School



Students begin to arrive at Benson around 7am.

Breakfast is served at 7:30 in two different locations in the halls of the school with the use of mobile carts that are brought up from the cafeteria.



Culture 14



## Lunchtime - Students



The cafeteria serves lunch for several hundred students, but those with cars typically leave campus to find food at Lloyd Center and other nearby fast food locations. Franz and Voodoo Doughnuts are within walking distance to the school. Most students believe the lunch break is too short.

Culture 15



## Lunchtime - Students



When the weather is good, students flock to the outdoors after retrieving their lunches. They can be found on the front lawn, on the playing fields, or in the daylight courtyard.



Culture 16



## Lunchtime – Students

You can find students in every hall of Benson during lunch either talking with their friends or quietly studying.

The gym is a popular place during lunch for many no matter what the weather is like.

Some teachers open their rooms where students engage in a variety of activities.



Culture 17



## Lunchtime – Teachers & Staff

During the lunch break, many teachers retreat to the teacher lounge or other meeting rooms to enjoy their meal and converse with fellow teachers while others spend the time in their rooms preparing for their afternoon classes.

School administrators and security monitor the halls, cafeteria, gym and other areas to ensure a safe and fun break.

Office staff and counselors can be found at their desks in order to assist students with questions. Many eat lunch at their desks.



Culture 18





## Diversity at Benson



Benson has one of the most diverse high school populations in Portland. Although there is no apparent racial issues in the Architecture 3 class, students agree that they tend to hangout outside of class with others they are similar to in race, gender, religion and age.

They believe that there needs to be more places for students to interact socially yet there should be places for some quiet studying and reflection.

**Culture 21**



## Benson Clubs

Benson has a variety of different clubs and organizations for students to choose from. Some clubs require their own space to accommodate their needs such as Robotics and Chef's Club.

Acapella Group	International Students Club
American Red Cross	Key Club
Anime	M.E.Chu de Benson
Asian Club	Muslim Prayer Group
Battle of the Books	National Honor Society
Benson Auditorium Tech Staff	National CTE Honor Society
Black Student Union	Prom Committees
Chef's Club	Science & Ocean Bowl
Chess Club	Sigma
Drama Club	SkillsUSA
Fun & Games Club	Robotics Team
H.O.S.A.	

**Culture 22**



# Benson Clubs



Culture 23



# Benson Clubs



Culture 24



## Benson Support Organizations

There are several groups that consist of parents, teachers and alumni to support the programs and activities of Benson.

- Benson Boosters
  - Provides support and does fundraising for the Benson Athletics department. Consists of parents, alumni and other community members.
- Hall of Fame
  - Recognizes the contributions of former Benson students, teams and coaches to the legacy of the Benson Athletic program.
- Benson Polytechnic H. S. Alumni Association
  - Responsible for engaging and creating events for the Benson alumni. The often provides support during Benson events including Tech Show and athletic events.
- Benson Foundation
  - Supports and does fund raising for the Career and Technical programs at Benson.
- Benson Site Council

Culture 25



## Volunteers

A couple times a year, Benson students, staff, alumni and other community members come together to do some things around the school. Typically most work has to do with landscaping, but there have been events to do painting and repair work.

The school also has several volunteers that work throughout the year doing a variety of tasks including tutoring.



Culture 26



## Fall Sports

Fall for many athletes at Benson Polytechnic High School means competing and playing their favorite sport. Fall includes a variety of sports like boys soccer, girls soccer, football, and cross country.



Culture 27



## Winter Sports

These pictures show our enthusiasm for our sports at Benson. Throughout the Years at Benson, our sports will eventually bring back the joy to the school.



Culture 28



## Spring Sports

At the end of the year when the sun starts to come out again, so do the athletes at Benson. Spring sports include Track, Golf, Baseball, Softball, and Tennis.



Culture 29



## Fit2LiveandLearn (PE)

Fit2LiveandLearn is a unique program that has been created by the PE and Health department at Benson. This program includes Yoga, Zumba, life lessons, fieldtrips. After Students are finished with this program at the end of their freshmen year, they take with them many experiences that will help them later on in life.



Culture 30



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recruitment Events



Since Benson is not a neighborhood school, we rely on marketing, recruitment events, counselor visits to middle schools and word of mouth to entice future students to Benson. Some of these events see up to 500+ visitors. Students then submit their applications through the district website.

Parents come along with their 8<sup>th</sup> graders to an information night held in November. In January, potential applicants can attend a shadow day. Both of these events consists of hundreds of people so they are divided up in smaller groups and rotated through the shops spending about 8-minutes to hear about the programs. Current students serve as tour guides.

Culture 31



## Tech Show

Every year Benson Polytechnic High School has an annual event called Tech Show. During this event students get to showcase what the school is about. This includes showcasing our shop classes, our unique PE/FITNESS program and fund raising for various clubs. In 2016, we will be hosting our 96<sup>th</sup> annual Tech Show.



96<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BENSON  
**TECH SHOW**

Feb. 11th & 12th 6pm - 9pm

@ BENSON POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL



Culture 32



## Tech Show

The Tech Show is also a great time for the alumni to reunite while looking at old yearbooks and enjoying refreshments.

Riding in the classic car and the games in the gym are always a spot of fun during the show.



Culture 33



## Tech Show



Culture 34



## Health Fair & Blood Drives

Health Fair is an event that shows the Benson students what the freshman have been learning. They show how games can be turned into exercising activities. Health fair also shows us that eating right is important for their daily lives.

A few times a year, the Red Cross Club hold a school blood drive which is held in the gym areas.



Culture 35



## Assemblies



Three times a year, Benson holds their Pep Assembly in the gym to honor our school athletes. This is a very loud and exciting time for students with class chants, cheers and games.

Because the current gym sound system doesn't have the ability to easily plug into a computer playlist, a portable sound system is brought in from the auditorium.



Assemblies such as Rose Festival, our talent show, and Diversity Assembly are held in the Auditorium.

Culture 36



## A Stage Presence



Although the auditorium is no longer used by Benson students as often as it used to be, it is still used for several assemblies including Diversity, the yearly Talent Show, and Rose Festival. The space is also used for class meetings, visiting acting troupes, English classes and 8<sup>th</sup> grade recruitment events.

The space is rented several times a year for a variety of events such as concerts, dance performances, speakers, graduations, and festivals.

**Culture 37**



## Benson Music

Although the music program, which included Marching Band, Jazz Band and Orchestra, was cut from the curriculum in 2010, it is a program that the Benson community wishes to have returned to the school in the near future.



**Culture 38**



## School Dances / Prom



School dances are a way for students to relieve stress, socialize with other students and of course DANCE!!

Most of the school dances are held in the Old Gym, but the Prom is typically held at an off-site location

Culture 39



## Grillin' and Chillin'

The one thing that just about every Benson student, staff member and alumni can agree on is FOOD! The Benson community loves their BBQ's and the time it gives us to socialize. There are several times a year the grill is brought out.

- Alumni Community Picnic
- Freshman Welcoming Picnic
- Senior Send-off BBQ
- Any time one of the major teachers has a hankering for a hotdog.



Culture 40



## Graduation & Grad Night



Graduation is the gateway to the next big step in a student's life. It is a sad, but great feeling to walk across the stage with friends and enjoy the moment.

Later that night, many students attend the all-night grad party at an undisclosed location.

Culture 41



## PPS Credit Recovery Options

- Because of Benson's central location in Portland, the campus is also home to Portland Evening School and Summer Scholars which serves students from over 20 local high schools.
  - Due to the large number of students enrolled in Summer Scholars, every classroom and computer lab is used.
- The Virtual Scholars program is available to students who need to recover credit. Many Benson students participate in this on-line option during the normal school day.



Culture 42

## BENSON TECH: ELEMENTS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE



### An Early Benson Tech History

- **1908** – BPHS originally started as the Portland School of Trades which was established. A course study for girls was added in 1909.
- **April 1915** – Simon Benson donates \$100,000 to PPS for the construction of a new campus. The school was renamed in his honor later that year.
- **1916** – Construction begins on the new campus which included the main hall, C-wing, F-wing and the boiler room.
- **Sept 1917** – First classes are held at the newly built Benson Polytechnic School.
- **1918** – Benson serves as an Army Training Center during WWI.
- **1920** – First Tech Show
- **May 1923** – The first radio broadcasts from Benson. The call sign of KBPS was first used in 1930.
- **1925** – Construction begins on the Old Gym.
- **1930** – Construction begins on the Auditorium and Cafeteria.



Historical 44

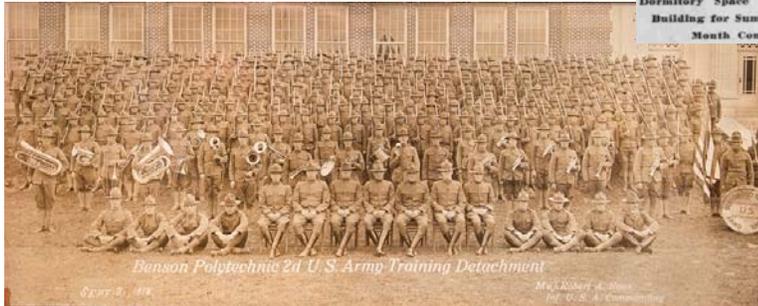


## 1918 –Army Training Center

During the summer of 1918, the U.S. Army, signed an agreement to use Benson as a training center for troops during WWI. “The Benson school is thought to be the best equipped in the West.”

*Article from the Oregonian,  
May 12, 1918.*

**ARMY TO USE BENSON**  
**DRAFTED MEN TO BE TRAINED AT**  
**POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL.**  
 Dormitory Space to Be Provided in Building for Summer Period; Two-Month Contract Made.



**Historical 45**



## Location of Historical Elements



There are many elements of Benson that are obviously historic in nature, but there are also several things that can be considered culturally relevant. Many of those elements are in need of restoration.

**Historical 46**



## Iconic Main Hall



Construction began on the Main Hall, C-wing and F-wing in 1916. The first classes at the new Benson campus started in September 1917.



Historical 47



## Building Exterior



Historical 48



## Building Exterior - Front Lawn



Before even step foot onto the Benson campus, one of the school's most recognizable landmarks greets you with a cool drink of water, The Benson Bubbler which was casted in the foundry in 1975.

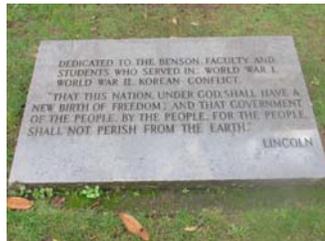


Several other class donated items such as benches, plaques and the sun dial are scattered around the front lawn of the school.

Historical 49



## Building Exterior - Front Lawn



Historical 50



## Building Exterior - Front Lawn



Historical 51



## Building Exterior - Vegetation



There are several Camellias planted in the front and along the south side of the school. These have been there so long that they tower to over 10 feet in height. The rose bushes have been a part of the landscaping for several decades as well.

Historical 52



## Ye Olde Concrete Steps



Hundreds of students walk up and down these simple concrete steps that go from the back of the gym to the playing fields, but most don't realize that they were conceived, designed, and built by Benson students. However, the original metal railing has been replaced with the current rail system.



Historical 53



## Main Front Lobby



The Benson Gear, memorial plaques, a time capsule, a portrait of Simon Benson and several display cases are located in the lobby.

The main lobby is one of the most unique, recognizable and memorable spaces at Benson.



Historical 54



## Main Front Lobby



Memorial plaques for Simon Benson and C.E. Cleveland, the first Benson Principal and Time Capsule donated by Class of 1969.

Historical 55



## Display / Trophy Cases



The many wood display cases through-out the main hall, were built by Benson students over several decades.



Many are used by the shops to display the type of work they do while other are still used for trophies.

Historical 56



## Vault in Main Office



Historical 57



## School Key Cabinet



Located in the Main Office, the school's key cabinet has been a part of the morning routine for teachers and other staff for many decades.

Historical 58



## Brick Hall



The "brick" hall is the corridor that connects "C" and "E" wing. Constructed early in the school building's history, it is the only place where the original interior brick has not been painted or the ceiling covered with a suspended ceiling.

The old equipment/tool room was located off this hall. The space has been recently remodeled to become the new student wellness center.

Historical 59



## Aviation - D Wing



The aviation department was added to Benson in 1926. Though it is no longer a major at the school, many hope to bring it back to the school. D-wing was completed in 1954, it is an essential part of Benson history.

Historical 60



## Benson Foundry – F Wing



Several historical and landmark site markers around the State of Oregon were casted at Benson.

The Benson Foundry and F-Wing were part of the first phase of construction in 1916. Through the years hundreds of plaques, memorials, staff name plates and at least one Benson Bubbler have been casted in our foundry including some of those at Benson.

Historical 61



## Benson Foundry – F Wing



Plaque for the Oregon Zoo - 1975



Bubbler at Benson



Staff name plates have been a popular project at Benson for decades.

Historical 62



## Library Art Work



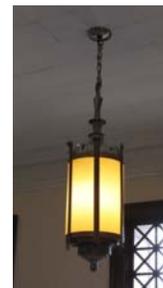
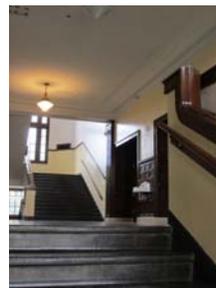
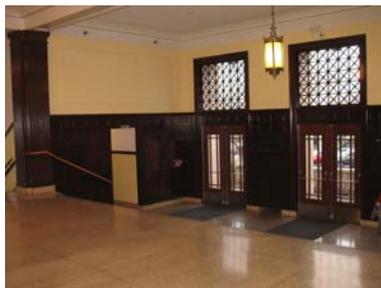
Although it was only installed in 1992, the custom glass art work is something that we do not wish to lose.

Historical 63



## Auditorium Lobby - 1930

The auditorium and lobby area were designed to match the décor of the main entry which we would like to keep if at all possible.



Historical 64



## Auditorium - 1930



Built in 1930, the auditorium is one of the largest auditoriums in PPS and Portland with nearly 1800 seats.



The room has some of the most beautiful architectural elements in the school including art deco light fixtures, wood and cast iron seats, and extensive decorative accents. This is something we would like to maintain in the space and perhaps, spread throughout the whole building.

**Historical 65**



## Auditorium

Several signatures of former Benson Auditorium Technical Staff crew members and other students spanning several decades can be found on the walls above the stage floor.



**Historical 66**



## Science Hall

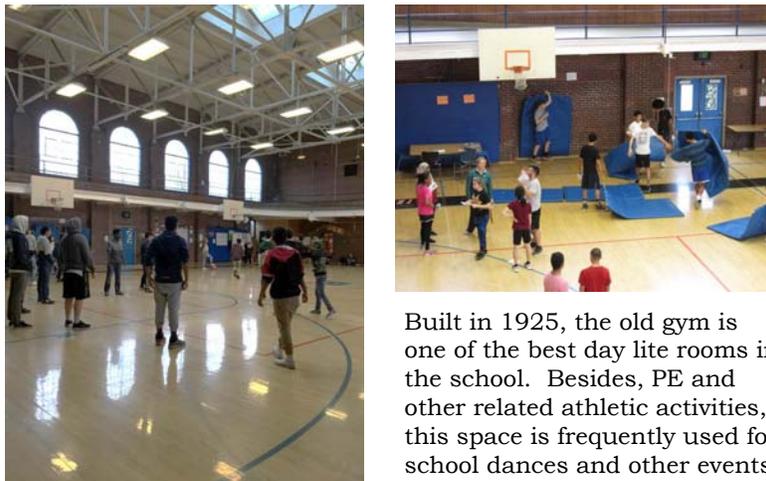


The science hall has the most built-ins in the building. We would like to keep the built-ins and the motif of the wooden built-ins. The gas pressure gauges are still occasionally used by some teachers. Nonetheless they are interesting to look at.

**Historical 67**



## Old Gym 1925



Built in 1925, the old gym is one of the best day lite rooms in the school. Besides, PE and other related athletic activities, this space is frequently used for school dances and other events.

**Historical 68**



## Old Gym 1925



Nearly every Benson student has run laps on the upper track in the old gym. 22 Laps = 1 Mile



Between the skylights and tall windows, the old gym has lots of natural light.



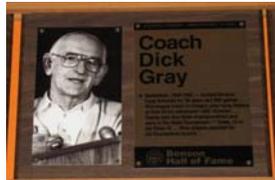
The old bleachers are frequently used by students.

Historical 69



## Gym Hallway

### Benson Hall of Fame and Record Holders



Historical 70



# New Gym



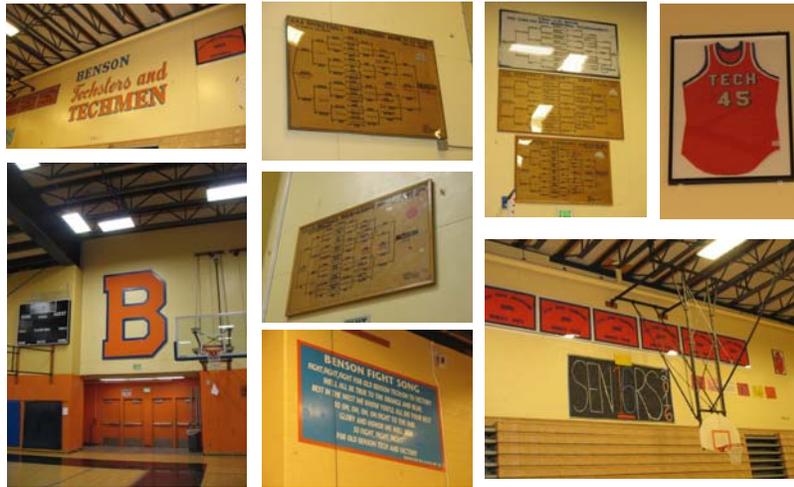
Benson has a lot of pride in our current and former athletes. You can find evidence of this pride on every wall of the new gym and the floor.



Historical 71



# New Gym



Historical 72



## Benson Memorials



There are two memorial benches outside of Counseling that honor former Principal and Counselor John Vinglen.



Located near the Health Occupation department is a memorial to Benson student, Alisha Marie Davis.

Historical 73

## BENSON TECH: A LOOK AT THE BUILDING





## Map of Potential Issues



Building 75



## Interior Finishes: Ceilings



Building 76



## Interior Finishes: Walls

Most of the obvious problems with the wall is chipped, peeling, or scratched paint, but some issues have bigger underlining causes such as lack of weatherization and disrespect by students for the school.



**Building 77**



## Interior Finishes: Flooring



There are a lot of flooring issues throughout the school. There are several broken tiles in some areas and the carpet in other spaces is over 30+ years old.



The stage's wood floor is in very bad shape partially from age and partially from occasional flooding from the heating system.

**Building 78**



## Water & Weather Damage



The volume of water that perforates through our building can cause a kings ransom of water damage.

During periods of heavy rain buckets are placed into hallways in order to catch the falling water which sometimes is coming from light fixtures. All of this water can encourage mold growth and fungus which can have a negative impact on student health.

**Building 79**



## Water & Weather Damage



**Building 80**



## Water & Weather Damage



Damage includes rotting wood window frames or rusting metal frames, peeling paint, and excessive moss growth.

**Building 81**



## Water & Weather Damage



Water ponding on the roof area between the main hall and gyms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.



Known as "F-wing Pond" this sewer opening frequently clogs causing a deep puddle.



Frequently water can be seen shooting out from what are supposed to be overflow drains.

**Building 82**



## Heating & Air Systems



The heating system at Benson is very dysfunctional. In some rooms, the temperatures frequently go below 60 degrees while in others it can reach over 80 in the winter. During the fall and late spring temperatures become a deterrent to student productivity. Some of the smaller offices have installed air conditioners to keep the space comfortable.



**Building 83**



## Heating & Air Systems



Due to the age of the current vent system, air quality is unhealthy and black smudges can be found on ceiling or on walls at vent sites in many classrooms and office areas.

**Building 84**



## Heating & Air Systems



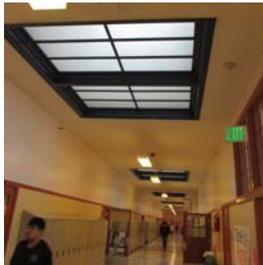
One of the biggest challenges for Benson's current heating system is the building ability to keep the cold out during the winter. Because most of the school exterior walls were built out of brick between 85 and 100 years ago, there is no insulation to resist exterior conditions; hot or cold.

Most of the window systems are wood with only a single layer of glass which provides little to no resistance. Many of the windows do open which allows for natural ventilation during the summer, but others are nailed shut.

**Building 85**



## Daylight



The availability of daylight varies depending on where you are within the school.

In the main hall, many classrooms have access to windows or skylights including the second floor hallway.

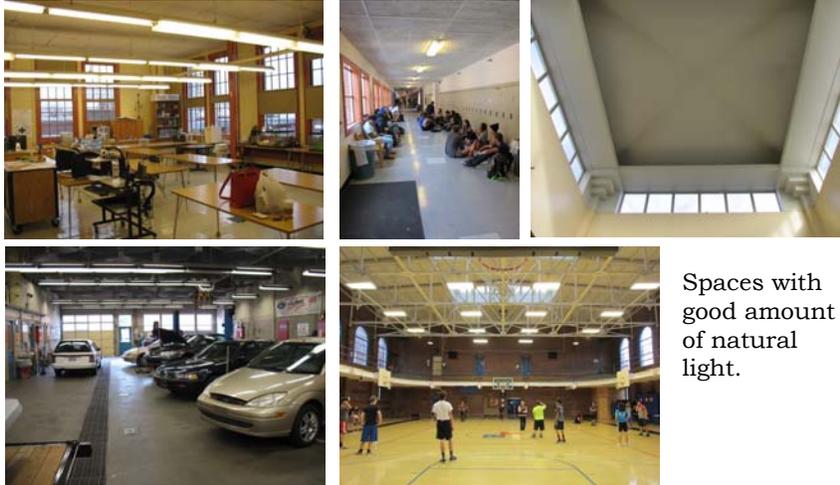
However, others have limited or no access to natural daylight. In most of the CTE labs, there are only high windows which allows for some daylight, but little visual connection to outside. In most of the hallways, there is absolutely no connection to daylight except the windows in the exterior doors at the end of corridor.



**Building 86**



## Daylight



Spaces with good amount of natural light.

**Building 87**



## Lighting Systems - Hallways



Throughout the school you will find several different types of fluorescent light fixtures. Some areas are well lite while others are not. In some cases, you can find evidence of where water from leaks has settled in the fixture.

Some lights are on motion detectors, but very few.

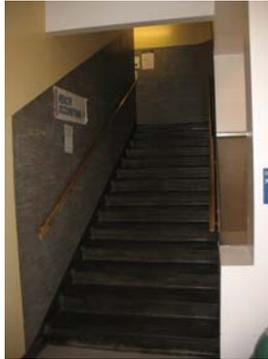
**Building 88**



## Lighting Systems - Stairways



Stairways with windows have ample light during daytime.



There are a few stairs that do not have access to daylight and only have 1-light at the landing. The stairways can very dark when the bulbs burn out.



**Building 89**



## Lighting Systems



Light systems in classrooms and shops vary depending on when they were installed which in some rooms has been decades ago.

None of them are on motion or light detection sensors.

**Building 90**



## Electrical and Data Systems



It is not uncommon to find exposed electrical conduit and old data tracks running along walls to provide the necessary power and data in many spaces.

Of course, when you ask students what they would like to see more of... a very popular response is more electrical outlets in the halls and classrooms.

**Building 91**



## Accessibility



Although the school does have a couple of elevators and a chair lift, there are still many areas of the school that are inaccessible to wheelchairs or take traveling a significant distance to reach their final destination. For students, this means that trips between classes can be more than doubled in length. Navigating the school and using basic services can be increased by a magnitude of difficulty if you are bound to a wheel chair or crutches.

Frequently our chair lift near the auditorium is used more for moving equipment than people.

**Building 92**



## Accessibility

Many areas within the school are not compliant to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Several areas of the school are inaccessible to students, staff and visitors in wheelchairs or other mobility issues.

To access locker rooms underneath the gyms, a person is required to go outside and down a ramp with a slope greater than allowable and there are some rooms like the weight room that are completely inaccessible.



**Building 93**



## Accessibility



Almost all of our bathroom facility's and water fountains are not ADA compliant. Many water fountains protrude into the hallways.



**Building 94**



## Building Evacuations



During Fire Drills students evacuate the building and gather on the football field at Buckman Field. Access to the field is not easily accessible by wheel chair. One access point at the back of the school is a steeply sloped dirt ramp which can be hazardous when wet or for anyone not watching their step.



If someone is unable to use the stairway or dirt paths they are required to exit to the back parking lot.

At the end of the drill, there is a mad rush to be the first through the gates and up the stairs.

**Building 95**



## Building Evacuations



**Building 96**



## New Wellness Center



Benson's new Wellness Center located in the Brick Hall was officially opened in February 2016. It is the new home for our school nurse and psychologist.



**Building 97**



## Academic Classrooms



Many of the academic classrooms at Benson are between 500 and 700 square feet. This space is not able to accommodate the 30 or more students that may be enrolled in a class.



**Building 98**



## Science Rooms



The condition of the Science Labs varies, but all are need of upgrading. There number of lab stations is insufficient for the number of students typically scheduled in the class. Not all stations come equipped with air, gas, or water.

**Building 99**



## Science Prep Rooms



The Science Prep rooms are fairly large in size and the storage is significant in some. However, there is little space to prepare for lessons and clean equipment.

**Building 100**



## Meeting Rooms



In the administrative office area, there is currently not a common meeting space. The only meeting space is located in the principal's office.



In the counseling and administrative areas, spaces that formally served as meeting rooms have been converted to offices.

**Building 101**



## Large Meeting Space

An available and large meeting space that accommodates 75 to 100 people is a rare item within Portland Public Schools. Several district meetings are held outside of PPS facilities.

Picture from all PPS CTE staff meeting at the Sheet Metal Institute. 68-people in attendance. With the addition of new CTE staff in 2016-2017, a new meeting location will need to be determined.



At Benson, staff and other large groups meetings are held in the band room. Our library is frequently used by Evening and Summer Scholars so meetings outside of normal school hours in the library are difficult to schedule.

**Building 102**



## Counseling / Career Center



Students find the reception and career center area open and welcoming, however when it comes time to walk back to the counselors, a sense of dread sits in as you travel down a narrow hall to a very crowded area. If students are waiting it can feel confining.

There is no visual connection between the counselors and reception.



**Building 103**



## Office Spaces



Our campus officer's office is currently a small room located near the counseling center in the middle of the campus. There is no visual connection to any other space but right outside his door.



The school bookkeeper's office is another space located near the counseling center. The space also serves as the Student Store and package delivery for UPS and FedEx.

**Building 104**



## Old Gym



In the old gym there are storage places that were built in the corners of the room that weren't originally there. There are things that are old and outdated like the water fountain and electrical sockets. This space is used for a variety of activities including school dances.



**Building 105**



## Locker Rooms - Girls



The girls locker room area is significantly smaller than the boys since they were built during a time when the female population was much smaller than what it is today. There are also no showers in this space.

**Building 106**



## Locker Rooms - Boys



**Building 107**



## Locker Rooms – Team Area



The some of the athletic rooms downstairs are used for extra storage. The girls athletics doesn't have all the things the boys do like the boys have 4 locker rooms also they have 3 shower rooms. The boys also have a team film room that isn't big enough for the teams. And basket ball / football have a shoe / cleat room.



**Building 108**



## Athletic Laundry

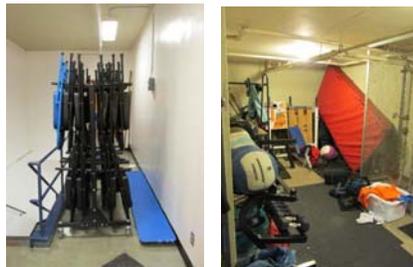


Yep, this is the extent of our laundry facilities for the Benson athletic department.

**Building 109**



## Athletic Storage



There are several small storage rooms scattered in the basement level of the gym area for all of the athletic gear our teams and PE programs use. For larger equipment, items are placed where space permits.



**Building 110**



## Training Room & Concessions



Our Concession stand is located off of the hallway between our two gyms. It is used frequently during Basketball season.

The training room is located under the gyms between the team rooms and boys locker room.



**Building 111**



## Auditorium Equipment



In the auditorium, the lighting and sound systems are more than 35 years old. They are inefficient and subject to failure.

In order to raise and lower stage curtains, students and teachers must climb a up a ladder to the rope loft.



**Building 112**



## Auditorium Backstage



Backstage, Benson has both a Men's and Women's dressing room with a toilet, however, these spaces are small and often used for storage.

The backstage area and loading dock are often used for storage of furniture, props, extra lights and equipment.



**Building 113**



## Cafeteria



Students line up each day to receive their lunches. Cafeteria tables keep students from jumping lines too much. The system is inefficient and take more than half of the lunch break to get food.

Our cafeteria is outdated both mechanically and technologically. There are very few electrical outlets for plugging in equipment. The space has been used for large meetings. However, due to the type of furniture, outdated tech, bad acoustics, and large columns that obstruct views, this space is not a popular choice for meetings.

**Building 114**



# Library



The library is where a lot of students go to complete homework or meet friends. Most of the time, they just come to use the computers because it is the only computer lab that students have access to outside of class.

There are many spaces in the library that the librarians cannot see from their desk.



**Building 115**



# Library



**Building 116**



## Library Classroom

The library classroom is occasionally used by the librarian for classes, but the room's primary use is as a storage room for technology carts and group meetings such as Site Council and the Alumni Association.

The oversized tables make it difficult to arrange the furniture as needed.



**Building 117**



## Library Workroom



The library workroom is a multipurpose room used by staff and students.

Although there is a lot of storage in this room, the current arrangement does not accommodate new equipment.

The librarian allows students to use the space for working on projects such as poster making.

**Building 118**



## Textbook Room



The textbook room is over crowded. Not only does the room store books for Benson students, but also Summer Scholars, Evening School. To accommodate the large number of books, extra shelf units were brought in.

**Building 119**



## Copier Room

This room is filled with supplies that should be in designated storage areas rather than being strewn across the room. This give the room of feeling cramped and unorganized.

The school's primary copier is notoriously breaking down which forces teachers to find other machines within the school.



**Building 120**



## Admin Storage



In order to accommodate the extensive collection of office supplies necessary to keep the school running, they are stored in three different areas along the main hall since there is not a single room large enough close to the office. Small storage rooms are common at Benson.

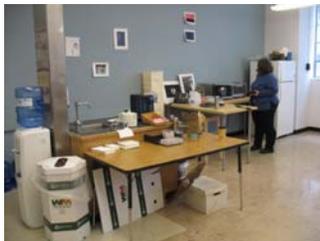
**Building 121**



## Teacher Lounge



This former science classroom off one of the main halls was transformed by teachers a few years ago to become one of their favorite places to hangout. Although the room could be equipped with better amenities, the teachers love the large windows looking into the daylight courtyard and variety of sitting areas.



Old teacher lunchroom behind kitchen which is only used by Chef's Club



**Building 122**



## F-Wing Courtyard

Located between the east end of C-wing and F-wing, there is an open air area between the buildings that potentially could be turned into a welcoming outdoor space for building occupants. Much of the rainwater that falls on C and F wing is diverted to this area.

Currently it is used for some deliveries to the foundry and temporary parking for district vans.



**Building 123**



## Service Yard



Known as the "Horseshoe" or "U-shape" lot, this space is nestled in the middle of the campus and is used for numerous things including:

- Student and staff circulation between classes.
- Staff and Maintenance Truck Parking
- Handicap Parking
- Trash and Recycle Collection
- Deliveries and
- Fire Truck Access

It is one of the few wheelchair accessible areas.



**Building 124**



## Service Yard



**Building 125**



## Parking at Benson



Although it may seem that Benson has a lot of parking, we share nearly all of it with non-Benson folks. Our lot at 15<sup>th</sup> and Glisan is used by visitors to Buckman Field during all hours of the day. On street parking appears abundant, but it is typically completely full by 7am by people who work north of I-84 or by surrounding neighbors.

**Building 126**



## Parking at Benson

Although signs are clearly posted along the Glisan Street Alley that “No Parking” is allowed except in designated parking spaces, they are frequently ignored when there is a game happening at Buckman Field.



**Building 127**



## Sustainability



At Benson, there is a paper recycling program, but there is not system for recycling other materials or composting.

In some areas motion sensors are connected to hallway lights, but classrooms and office areas are on manual switches.

**Building 128**



## Sustainability – Wish List



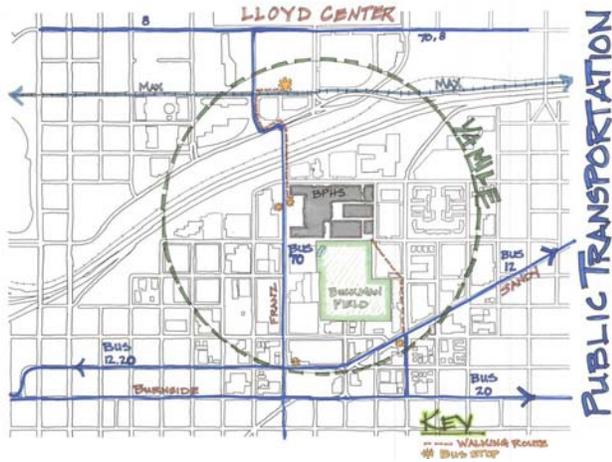
Building 129

## BENSON TECH: THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD





## Public Transportation at Benson



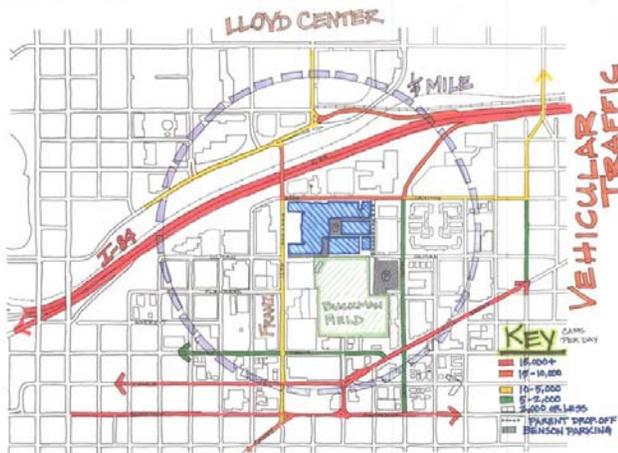
The majority of Benson students ride Tri-Met buses and Max to go to and from school. Some travel over 45 to 60 minutes one-way every day.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Neighborhood 131



## Traffic Patterns Around Benson



Due to its central location in Portland and proximity to Lloyd district which includes several large event venues, traffic around Benson is very high compared to other PPS high schools. Over 10,000 vehicles cross the 12<sup>th</sup> Ave bridge and travel along NE Irving to access I-84 East every weekday.

VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Neighborhood 132



## Benson Neighbors



Within a ¼ mile radius of the Benson campus, there a wide variety of building occupants. There is everything from industrial facilities like Franz Bakery to state government offices to Lloyd Center. The number of residential apartment buildings has increased significantly in the past few years.

Neighborhood 133



## Benson from the Air



Neighborhood 134



## 2015-2016 Architecture 3 Class

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Erin Carrillo-Bautista  
Edgar Agaton Mejia  
Emilio Najera Torres  
Robert Patterson  
Manuel Andres-Ramirez  
Maxwell Lenius  
Matilda Klopfenstein  
Francisco Morales-Martinez  
Erwin Jacob  
Xzavier Jones  
Melissa Garcia-Gonzalez

Instructor: Tammy Hite