

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Portland, OR - AM 1450 KBPS, the oldest educational radio station in the United States and the second oldest radio station in Portland, is celebrating 100 years on air. The Voice of the Portland Public Schools was first licensed to broadcast on March 23, 1923, and is operated by students at Benson Polytechnic High School. The student body of Benson purchased the radio transmitter and other equipment from Stubbs Electric in Portland for \$1,800. Money for the purchase of the station came from student body funds. The original first call letters of the station were KFIF. The station made its formal debut on the air and was officially dedicated on May 4th 1923, on the opening night of the 5th annual Benson Tech Show.

In spring of 1930, the call letters changed from KFIF to KBPS, for Benson Polytechnic High School. In 1941 KBPS stopped sharing its frequency with other stations and moved to 1450 AM on the dial where it remains today. The KBPS studios, transmitter and 200 foot self-supporting steel tower are located at the rear of the Benson campus. The AM 1450 signal reaches about 35 miles out from the tower at Benson. Thanks to amplitude modulation and skywaves, AM 1450 has been heard and recorded all around the world, including in the Netherlands. We have the emails and audio to prove it, and we're not talking about our free internet stream on the KBPS website, KBPS.am.

Today, KBPS is a vital part of the Portland media landscape. Its student-run programming covers news, sports, music, and more. The station's commitment to education and community engagement is reflected in its partnerships with local schools, nonprofits, and cultural organizations.

To mark this milestone, KBPS has planned a series of special events and broadcasts including archival broadcasts, interviews with former staff and students, and a gala event.

Current KBPS Instructor (and KBPS alum) Jacob Patterson is available for interviews. Jacob is available most days before 8a, from 10:15a to 11:30a, and after 3:45p. KBPS is currently located at the Marshall Campus (3905 SE 91st AVE PDX, OR 97266) during the Benson campus remodel. The KBPS website is kpbs.am

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