



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Benson Polytechnic High School



Let your skills soar at Benson. Benson Polytechnic High School is Portland's premier four-year Career-Technical Education (CTE) focus high school, founded in 1917. Benson offers the academic rigor and the practical training that prepares students for college and the highly skilled, highly paid 21st-century work force.

Qualified instructors combine professional technical knowledge with the academic foundation essential for mastery. Students start out exploring their interests and by graduation will have the skills necessary to move directly into an industry specialty and/or have earned college credits. Benson also offers students a number of supports to assist them in achieving their personal and professional goals, including the AVID college and career-prep program and the Benson Wellness Center.

The 9-acre campus is situated in Portland's inner east side commercial area. Full modernization of the campus is expected to begin in the summer of 2021 with completion expected in 2024. The modernization project will completely reconfigure learning spaces while focusing on historic preservation. Learn more about Benson's design and planning at, www.pps.net/Page/1838.

College and Career Readiness

Benson's academies offer a rigorous course of study, skill building and internships or apprenticeships in three high-demand careers areas, each with a range of majors.

Communications Technology Academy

- Photography/Video Technology
- Web Design/Video for the Web
- Radio Broadcasting KBPS (student-run public radio station)

Health Science Academy

- Medical Assistant/Professions
- Nursing/Certified Nursing Assistant
- Dental Assistant

Industrial and Engineering Academy

- Automotive Technology
- Building Construction Technology (includes The Homebuilding program)
- Electrical Technology
- Manufacturing Technology
- Architectural/Engineering Technology
- Tech Geometry/Tech Algebra
- Computer Science Engineering
- Pre Engineering Courses



“Benson Polytechnic students are students that are prepared for real world situations in the workforce. A Benson High School diploma opens the door for students to begin their lifelong journey as they embark on a path for their future.”

—Curtis Wilson Jr.,
Principal



Well-paid future

Average Portland area yearly salaries in Benson specialty fields*:

- Medical/Dental Assistant: \$40,000 - \$45,000
- Construction Laborers: \$44,000
- Graphic Designers: \$60,000
- Auto Mechanic: \$52,000
- Electrician: \$75,000

*WorkSource Oregon

Our goals

The Benson staff believes that students should:

- Apply academic concepts to real-world situations.
- Integrate technical and academic content in their studies.
- Explore career and technical fields, then choose a major.
- Experience learning in the classroom and in the workplace.
- Graduate with advanced career and college skills.
- Serve as volunteers, using their career and technical skills

Our students

Benson students are:

- **Diverse** – Benson is among the most diverse high schools in the Northwest, with equal numbers of white, Latino, African-American, and Asian American students. Benson fosters an environment of mutual respect and understanding that prepares students to excel in a global society. The annual Diversity Assembly and Talent Show is a showcase of student talent and a highlight of the school year.
- **Involved** – Benson offers a wide variety of co-curricular activities including athletics: Football, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Soccer, Dance Team, Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Track and Field, and Golf. Leadership organizations: National Honor Society, Skills USA, and Health Occupations Students of America or HOSA. Student clubs: Robotics, Diversity, Key, Mecha, Black Student Union, competitive vocational clubs and more. The Homebuilding program, where students build a single-family home, is Benson's commitment to the community.
- **College-and career-focused** – Students can earn college credit in 34 Dual-credit classes through PCC and MHCC. More than two-thirds of Benson students enter a two-year or four-year college or university immediately upon graduating. Another 15 percent attend career/technical trade schools, while some enter the work force or pursue other options.

“Majoring in Architecture at Benson helped to solidify my choice to pursue a career in architectural design. I learned what it takes to get the job done right and how to be a team player. Now that I am back teaching at Benson, after working for architectural firms, I am passing that knowledge on to the next generation.”

— **Tammy Hite,**

Architecture and Drafting teacher and Benson alumna

“Benson has opened my mind up to more careers than I expected. I used to always want to be just in the health care profession, but Benson has helped me discover other talents that I didn't know I had. Benson is a school full of opportunities.”

— **Kim Le,**
Class of 2017



Benson High School

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