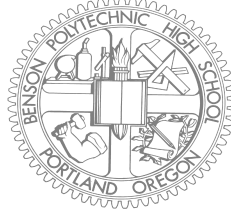


Benson Polytechnic High School

“The School that Works”

2017-2018 School Profile



Mission: The Benson Polytechnic High School community believes that strong technical skills and a solid academic foundation best go hand in hand. We provide all students with an integrated curriculum of academic and career/technical experiences. Through these experiences Benson graduates are expected to be flexible thinkers with a highly developed work ethic and problem solving skills.

Admission: Benson accepted 300 freshmen applicants this year. Benson’s focused-option program is open to all students in the Portland Public School District and has limited room for students outside the district. Students rarely enter Benson after the freshman year because of the rigors of the four-year technical program requirements.

General Information: Benson is a public, co-educational high school founded in 1919, accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. We are located in the center of Portland’s Eastside commercial area on a nine-acre campus. The faculty of 65 holds a combination of Master’s Degrees, Bachelor’s Degrees, and Technical licenses for teachers with a background in industry.

Student Profile: For the 2017-2018 school year, we have 1,037 students (292 freshmen, 282 sophomores, 249 juniors, 214 seniors). This group is made up of 41.27% females and 58.73% males. Our very diverse student body is 9.45% Asian American, 15.43% African American, 39.05% Caucasian, 24.88% Hispanic, 0.68% Pacific Islander, 10.03% Multiethnic, and 0.48% Native American. Less than 50% of our students receive federal free or reduced price lunch status.

Post-graduation plans: 94% of our 2017 graduates planned to further their education at a college, university, or technical school; 54% accepted at a community college, 48% accepted at a 4-year college, and 5% accepted at a technical school.

Courses and grades: Benson students receive a complete academic education that may include an honors program in English, mathematics, and science (indicated on the transcript). In addition, we offer Advanced Placement (AP) in Language and Composition, US History, Government, Calculus, Chemistry, and Biology. The school’s elective program focuses on career/technical education and college-readiness. All students receive instruction in basic technology during their freshmen and sophomore years. Juniors and seniors choose an area specialize; a major in one of three career pathways: Health Sciences, Industry & Engineering, or Arts and Communication Technology. Additionally, students have an opportunity to participate in our Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) college-readiness program.

Benson’s grading system is a standard A to F unweighted system. Grades earn the following points: A-4 points; B-3 pts; C-2 pts; D-1 pt.; F-0 pts. If a student receives a pass (P), a unit of credit will be granted, but is not used to calculate the grade point average. Advanced Placement courses are graded on a weighted 5 point scale.

Graduation requirements: The class of 2018 must complete 24 Carnegie units: 4 English, 3 math, 3 science, 1 health, 1 physical education, 3 social studies, 2 world language, and 7-8 career/technical courses. All students attending Benson must be enrolled in career/technical courses all four years of high school. Additionally, the class of 2018 must also meet Oregon career related learning standards and specific essential skill requirements in reading, writing, and math.

Major areas of concentration: Radio Broadcasting, Digital Media Production, Medical Professions, Nursing, Dental, Manufacturing Technology, Automotive/ Aviation Technology, Building Construction Technology, Electrical Technology, Architectural Design, Computer Engineering, Industrial Arts, Engineering. Students earn community college credit for senior level technical classes.

Student services and programs: National Honor Society, Outdoor School Counselor (credit), Beyond Benson, English for Language Learners, Special Education, Guidance Counseling, College & Career Consultations for job placement, college, and scholarship information.

Athletics: Member of the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA), interscholastic sports include: baseball, softball, basketball, wrestling, track, tennis, golf, cross country, soccer, football, volleyball, cheerleading, and various intramurals.

Examples of Extracurricular Activities: Portland H.S. Mathematics League Inter-Scholastic Math team, First Robotics team, Skills USA Chapter, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Chapter, MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement), Student Government, Science Club, National Honor Society, and various other student clubs.

Contact:

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Curtis Wilson, Principal; Barry Phillips, Vice Principal; Tonya Mjelde, Vice Principal

We have spoken of its past, and its present. We feel that its future is certain to be greater. Its good work and influence will continue. It is hoped and believed that every officer, patron, teacher, student and employee now or to be connected to Benson Polytechnic School, may feel the responsibility of duty, the glory of position, the honor of the institution, and loyalty to country.

Benson Tech Pocket Manual, 1923