



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Benson Polytechnic celebrates its Grand Opening after an extensive three-year modernization**

**Sept. 11, 2024 (PORTLAND, ORE.)** - PPS is welcoming the public to a [Grand Opening Celebration](#) of the newly modernized Benson Polytechnic campus on **Saturday, September 14th, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the front of the school, 546 NE 12th Ave.** The event will include a special Ribbon Cutting Ceremony followed by self-guided tours of the new campus. Several Benson Tech Alumni and Reunion groups will also be meeting throughout the day.

This historic modernization preserves more than one hundred years of history while modernizing the campus into the state-of-the-art facility that Benson Tech students and staff deserve.

"This space embodies our commitment to creativity and environmental stewardship," said PPS Superintendent Kimberlee Armstrong. "It will inspire our students and community to build a future where innovation and responsibility thrive together."

"We here at Benson Tech which includes our students, staff, alumni and community are extremely excited to be in our new state of the art 21st century facility, and we look forward to utilizing all the new and updated tools and equipment that this remodeled Benson Tech has to offer," said Benson Polytechnic Principal Curtis Wilson Jr.

After three years of construction students and staff returned to the modernized school when school reopened in late August. The remodel includes a seismic retrofit of the four historic buildings with complete health & safety upgrades. The large gym's structure was upgraded to provide a temporary emergency shelter, in partnership with Oregon's Seismic Retrofit Grant Program (SRGP).

The entire Benson Polytechnic campus is designed with sustainability in mind. The building is earth friendly. Natural daylight and increased energy efficiency significantly lowers the school's carbon footprint. Its large solar array will provide about 314 MWh of renewable energy. Additionally, more than 40 new trees have been planted to capture carbon and increase shade.

To enhance the school's commitment to career and technical education programs, five new buildings

have been added totaling 385,000 square feet. The house state of the art learning spaces for programs in construction, manufacturing, electrical, engineering, health occupations, digital media, computer science, automotive, and broadcasting.

Benson is the sixth PPS high school to be modernized or rebuilt through the School Building Improvement Bond program. The remaining three high schools are in the design phase and Jefferson is slated to begin construction in the summer of 2025. PPS thanks the voters for their support as we continue to upgrade our schools.

Additional Resources:

<http://BensonBond.pps.net>

[View the Benson Teach Project Update Flyer](#)

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### **About Portland Public Schools**

*Portland Public Schools, founded in 1851, is Oregon's largest PK-12 school district, with more than 43,000 students in 81 schools. PPS aspires to graduate compassionate, critical thinkers who are able to collaborate to solve problems, and lead a more socially-just world. Central to this goal is affirming and operationalizing our deeply held community value of racial equity, social justice and inclusion. Learn more at [pps.net](http://pps.net).*

**Media is invited to the Grand Opening. Photo, video, and interview opportunities available onsite. Details below:**

**WHERE:** Benson Polytechnic campus, 546 NE 12th Ave Portland, OR 97232

**WHEN:** Saturday, Sept 14th at 10a.m.

**WHO:**

- Dr. Kimberlee Armstrong, Portland Public Schools Superintendent
- Curtis Wilson, Benson Polytechnic Principal
- Earl Blumenauer Congressional Representative
- Suzanne Bonamici Congressional Representative
- Eddie Wang PPS Board of Education Chair
- Gary Hollands PPS Board of Education Member & Alumni

**Free parking is available at Concorde Career College Portland, 1425 NE Irving Street.**

**To RSVP to this event: Call or email Valerie Feder at [vfeder@pps.net](mailto:vfeder@pps.net) or 917-923-3638**