



BENSON TECH

ALUMNI TEXT

Modernization Construction Spotlight

Page 4

Reunion Information

Page 8

In Brief - BPHSAA and Benson Tech news

Page 11

The Official Newsletter of the Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association (BPHSAA), May 2022 Edition

Benson Tech Modernization Status Update for May 2022

By Gerry Ochs (Class of 1977)

The demolition phase, seismic upgrades and new construction elements of the Benson Polytechnic High School Modernization have continued to make significant and positive progress during the nine months since breaking ground on August 30, 2021.

The demolition work is approximately 90% complete — some of the original structural components still in place will be demolished when the new internal shear walls are complete. The new shear wall construction is supported by foundation improvements in place below the main building. The new foundations were installed by supporting the original building structure with steel I-beams and then excavating below the structure. In essence, the structural skeleton of the original Benson Tech building has been prepared to receive new internal shear walls, which will support the structure and installation of the upgrades.

The entire east portion of the school has disappeared, saving the foundry building and radio station building located in the NE and SE corners, respectively. Presently, the historic brick walls along Irving Street and Buckman Field are in place and braced with beam supports until the new shear walls and new building's two-story

(story continues on Page 6)



Above: Hurdle event held during the Benson Tech Invitational Meet held at the former Marshall High School Campus on April 23, 2022. Nine high school teams competed at the meet.

Benson Tech hosts inaugural invitational track and field meet

Benson Tech hosted its first-ever invitational track and field meet on April 23, 2022, at the former Marshall High School campus, the school's interim home during the Benson Modernization project. As Benson Tech moved into Marshall during the fall of 2021, Track and Field Coach Jay Miles (Class of 1990) and Mat Clark, Benson Tech's new athletic director, began planning the event. Jay was a perfect person to take this on after coaching and organizing meets for 15 years at Aloha High School. Janita Jones (Class of 1999), assistant coach for girls, later played a major role in organizing supporting activities that made the event possible in addition to coaching the teams. No other Portland Public Schools (PPS) high school hosts an invitational track and field meet, so this seemed a great way to draw attention to Benson Tech's incredible track and field history in addition to being a team fundraiser.



One of the pluses of the Marshall Campus is that it has its own outdoor athletic facilities, including stadium seating that Benson Tech has never had before. At the 12th Avenue location, Benson Tech uses the adjacent Buckman Field, which is under the purview of Portland's Public Parks and Recreation and has limited seating.

The Benson Tech boys' and girls' track and field teams were joined by teams from six Oregon high schools — Jefferson, Parkrose, Reynolds, De La Salle

(story continues on Page 3)

Update from the Benson Tech Boosters

Greetings Benson Polytechnic Alumni and Sports Fans,

We are excited to wrap up our first full year of Benson Tech sports since 2019.

The Benson Tech Boosters have been working hard to support our teams and build community. This year, we distributed more than \$12,000 from events, concessions, tech gear, and donations to help fund equipment, uniforms and travel fees for Benson Tech sports and athletes. Thanks for joining us in sponsoring 2 x 2 banners for all senior athletes this year. We are excited to continue this special program next year.

Benson Tech alumni played a huge part in the success of last year's Ready, Set, Go Tech Fundraiser. We hope that the alumni will continue to partner with us in our important work to support student athletes. There are many ways you can help, including:

- May 15 kicks off our 2022 Spring Pledge Drive. With a goal of raising \$10,000 in two weeks, we need all the support we can get. Funds raised will

go to purchase JV uniforms and replace broken or lost equipment from the move to the Marshall Campus. We are seeking both one-time and monthly donors.

- Visit bensontechboosters.org to contribute. Be sure to add your graduation year when you donate for a little competition between classes! Everyone who gives will be entered into a raffle to win Benson Tech gear.

Other ways to give:

- Individual donations including linking your Fred Meyer Rewards (search for Benson Tech Boosters either by name or AX717) and Amazon Rewards Account—search for Benson Tech Boosters.

- In-kind support.

Thanks for all your support! We look forward to seeing you at the summer picnic!

-Benson Tech Boosters

Clean-up for Benson Tech Track and Field Invitational

One happy upside of the temporary move to Marshall High School is that the campus has a dedicated soccer and football field, and a regulation-sized track, neither of which exist at Benson Tech's permanent location on NE 12th Avenue. For the first time in school history, the track and field teams can host home meets. The award-winning track and field program boasts an impressive seven girls' and six boys' state titles; moreover, both Head Coach Jay Miles (Class of 1990) and Assistant Coach Janita Jones (Class of 1999) helped lead their teams to state championships during their respective senior years at Benson Tech.

Unfortunately, when outdoor practices commenced in late February, it became apparent that the stadium and field area were in no condition to host regular season track meets, much less the inaugural Benson Tech Invitational on April 23 (see cover story). While the facilities themselves were adequate, the stadium interior was packed with outdated



Above: Litter on the Marshall Campus prior to efforts by Benson Tech coaches and volunteers (including BPHSAA Board of Director members) to clear up and haul it away in time for the school's inaugural track and field invitational meet.

athletic equipment abandoned by schools previously housed on the campus, and the field perimeter was littered with trash. The refuse was particularly bad on the field's southern border where the fence had been cut. With both limited resources and time to rectify the situation, Coach Miles and Coach Jones reached out to the BPHSAA requesting some assistance.

More than half of the BPHSAA's current Board of Directors convened at the Marshall High School site on Sunday, March 27 to help the coaches, along with a few students and parents, tackle trash collection. Armed with heavy duty bags, rakes, garbage grabbers, and gloves, volunteers picked up and hauled off more than a dozen large bags of refuse, while others weeded, edged the lawn around the track, and raked then tilled the sand in the long jump pits. A few brave souls even masked up and cleaned the stadium's bathrooms! While there's more to be done—and perhaps another work party on the horizon—

the group left the stadium, field, and surrounding areas in a vastly improved state.

Benson Tech hosts inaugural invitational, continued from front cover

North Catholic, Columbia Christian (Portland), J.F. Kennedy (Mt. Angel) — and two Washington high schools, Fort Vancouver (Vancouver) and Kelso. At the end of the day, Kelso took home both the boys' and girls' team trophies after scoring in 16 of the scheduled 17 events, including sweeps in boys' and girls' pole vault and girls' javelin events. The Reynolds boys' team and Fort Vancouver girls' teams took second, and the Jefferson boys' and Jefferson and Reynolds (tied) girls' teams took third.

Several Benson Tech athletes had outstanding performances, including junior Reba Booze who placed 2nd in the 100m and 300m hurdles, as well as sophomore Dylan Douangphracanh, who placed 1st in the boys' 100m, 3rd in the long jump, and 4th in the triple jump. The Benson boys' 4x100 team placed 2nd overall.

An event like this would never have been possible without the support of many people, including former Benson Tech athletes; parents; other volunteers on the day of the event; and, of course, the rest of Benson Tech's track and field staff: Geoff Balke (Class of 2007), Isaiah Clark, Mychal Gann (Class of 2006), Conway McCallister, Scott McCarty, and Jerome Person (Class of 1990).

The Oregon Army National Guard was the meet's title sponsor. Thirteen additional sponsors were found through alumni connections for individual events:

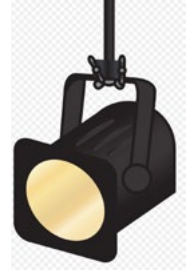
- Paul Green Family (Class of 1988)
- Patrice Woods and Family (Class of 1992)
- Dominique Meriwether and Family (Class of 1993)
- Dr. Larissa Estes White (Class of 1998)
- Demetrius Rhodes and Family (Class of 2012)
- JJT Enterprises
- The Tiny Bubble Room
- Saraveza
- The Tarver Foundation
- Detail Plus
- The Numberz FM
- Dynamic Athlete Solutions
- Eric Spears and Family

With the success of the 2022 Invitational, a date has already been set for 2023 while Benson Tech is still at the Marshall Campus: April 22, 2023.



Top: The Marshall High School field following clean-up (see article on Page 2). **Middle:** Dylan Douangphracanh receives first-place honors in the boys' 100m race. **Bottom:** Benson Tech runners (from left to right) Jamie Lopez Erickstein (#5), Zach Underwood (#8), and Charlie Mease (#7) compete in the school's inaugural invitational meet.

MODERNIZATION CONSTRUCTION SPOTLIGHT



1



2



3

PHOTO CAPTIONS

All photos courtesy of Gerry Ochs, Class of 1977

Photo 1: A crane lowering a prefabricated shear wall reinforcement curtain into the building.

Photo 2: Iron workers installing reinforcement steel for construction of a shear wall for internal support of the original structure of the building.

Photo 3: Ongoing excavation work for new building foundations behind (east of) the original building. Automotive shops and classroom wings have been removed. The radio station is in the background and the remaining Buckman Field wall is on the right.

Photo 4: The original building roof has been tented to allow structural and drainage improvements, as well as installation of a completely new roof without any rain effects on the building interior.



Photo 5: Scaffolding in place on the front face of Benson Tech for restoration work.

Photo 6: Progress on the floor demolition in the “Old Gym.” Note that the running track upstairs will be restored as part of the project.

Photo 7: Progress on the demolition of the auditorium – Level 1 seating has been removed and structural improvements are ongoing.

Photo 8: The east face brick of the original building is now exposed and restored. This was the West Wall, which defined the atrium space behind the main hallway classrooms. The atrium space was viewable from the first- and second-floor classrooms of the main building

Looking forward, looking back



Above: Bound trailer loads of timber salvaged from demolition for Benson Tech modernization. They will be recycled for other uses.

BPHSAA Vice President Rachael Lizio Katzen Kurynny (Class of 1997) came across an independent view of Benson Tech's renovation and posted the article for Board of Directors members. It appeared in the March 31st post at buildingonhistory.blogspot.com, a blog written by Fred Leeson. The article focused on the rarely seen east side of the main Benson Tech building. Fred praised the Classic Revival front facade as a architectural highlight of NE Portland, which has become more impressive now that the entire building can be viewed as an example of this distinctive design. Floyd Naramore was the PPS architect of the early buildings at Benson Tech, as well as 12 grade schools and Franklin High School. All of this work specified modular units constructed of reinforced concrete with brick facing.

The modular feature of his designs has worked out well at Benson Tech. Over the years, the school has experienced multiple add-ons and adjacent stand-alone buildings, some of which have been torn down and replaced. All that remains after the current demolition phase is the main building with the old gym and auditorium, the north and south walls of the shop wings, the foundry building, the new gym, and the KBPS building. Even the library and the HOSA additions of the early 1990s have been taken down. The interiors of the remaining structures are also undergoing significant changes.

As part of the modernization planning, a panel of stakeholders was convened to discuss the preservation of the school's historic features. The stakeholders who frequented the Benson Tech neighborhood were the most concerned about the outer appearance of the buildings. Panel members who had spent time within the buildings wanted assurance that the training programs taught there would have the highest priority of preservation. And it appears that both of these concerns have been addressed. The school's perimeter will be little changed. Even the second stories to be added to the shop wings will be set back to limit their visibility from the street. The most notable difference in the exterior view will be the elimination of the access stairs in the front landscaping. In the shops, blacksmithing is no longer an option for majors, but it is likely that these spaces will continue to be adapted for training in needed trades, which can provide journeymen with a comfortable livelihood.

Benson Tech Modernization, continued from front cover

structures are constructed. All of the building components behind the Irving and Buckman Field brick walls are now gone. There are a multitude of foundations and grade beams required for construction of the new two-story buildings. The foundation work behind the Irving wall is 95% complete and behind the Buckman Field wall is 80% complete.

The lower floors of the main building have been removed and openings were sawcut into the outer foundation walls to allow excavation equipment access below the building to install the new foundations. The new foundations will support the shear walls, which will be installed using shotcrete installation methods behind the existing façade of original brick. Several hundred epoxy bolts have been installed in the brick walls throughout the building; the epoxy bolts will be

cast into the new concrete shear walls to adjoin both sections and to provide seismic support to the brick structure.

The project schedule has stayed on track and is presently a bit ahead to meet the Spring 2024 substantial completion date and to start move-in for the Fall 2024 school year. The construction team is keeping on top of long lead items and possible material delays, which have occurred on a national scale and generally related to COVID impacts on production. The team is monitoring supply issues and has the ability to coordinate the work and early procurement to try and minimize possible impacts to the schedule.

My thanks again to Jen Sohm/PPS and Mark Kline/CBRE for continuing project updates and site tours in March and April of 2022.

2021 Benson Tech graduation rate at 93%



Above: Members of the graduating Benson Tech Class of 2021. Photo courtesy of Portland Public Schools, Beth Conyers.

The Benson Tech Class of 2021’s graduation rate was 93% according to the Oregon Department of Education’s “Graduation Report Card” (the latest numbers available). This puts Benson Tech again among the top schools in Oregon, where the average rate was 80.6%. Only Grant High School (95%) and Lincoln High School (95%) had slightly higher numbers than Benson Tech’s among Portland’s public schools where the average was 84% in 2021. Of the Benson Tech students graduating, 71% have begun either a two- or four-year college. (It should be noted the Class of 2021 completed the last of its high school graduation requirements while coping with virtual classes for over a year and separation from their classmates due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.)

The 2021 graduation numbers reflect a gradual improvement since at least 2017, when Benson Tech’s graduation rate was 87%. In 2018, it rose to 89%, 91% in 2019, and 92% in 2020. In all of these years, Benson Tech has been either second or third among the PPS high schools. As shown in the tables to the right, Benson Tech students’ achievement is not only good overall but in all of its demographic subgroups.

Editor’s comment: These noteworthy numbers do not happen by themselves, but are the result of Benson Tech’s application process that attracts good, serious students followed by four years of their diligent effort and encouragement from their families and Benson Tech’s dedicated and skilled teachers and counselors.

PPS 2020-2021 Graduation Rates by School

SCHOOL	GRADUATION RATE
Grant	95%
Lincoln	95%
Benson Tech	93%
Ida B. Wells	92%
Jefferson	91%
Cleveland	88%
Franklin	88%
McDaniel	82%
Roosevelt	77%

2020-2021 Graduation Rates by Subgroup

GROUP	BENSON TECH AVERAGE	PPS AVERAGE
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	100%	73%
Latinx Students	90%	75%
White Students	93%	88%
Multi-Racial (Asian/White)	100%	92%
Multi-Racial (Other Ancestries)	100%	79%
African American	91%	76%
Asian Students	100%	93%
Economically Disadvantaged	90%	78%
Limited English Proficiency	94%	63%
Special Education	92%	69%
TAG	97%	96%



REUNION INFORMATION

CLASS OF 1960 - 60+2 Reunion

WHEN: Tuesday, August 16, 2022

WHAT: BBQ lunch & mini-reunion, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Tik Tok Restaurant
(3330 SE 82nd Avenue, Portland 97266)

COST: \$25 per person, \$50 with guest. Please register before August 8 by sending check to:

Benson Class of 1960
16860 NW Firestone Ct.
Beaverton, Oregon 97006

CONTACT For more information or to request a formal registration form, please contact Dale H. Grimes at (503) 673-1676, or dhgrimes@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1961 - 60+1 Reunion

WHEN: Friday, June 17, 2022

WHAT: Daytime open house & luncheon, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: McMenamins Kennedy School gymnasium
(5736 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97211)

COST: \$25 per person, \$50 with spouse. To purchase, send check to:

John Ellett (write "60th reunion" in memo)
13760 SE 180th
Damascus, Oregon 97009

The gathering will be casual; no need to arrive at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Coffee and snacks to be served in the morning, lunch at 12:00 p.m. A block of rooms has been reserved for those who would like to stay overnight at the Kennedy School.

CLASS OF 1971 - 50+1 Reunion

Due to COVID, the Class of 1971's 50th reunion has been postponed until 2023. For questions, to join the class mailing list, or to help with planning, contact Gene Nelson at Benson.Tech71@gmail.com.

Updates about formal reunion plans and informal gatherings are posted on the [Benson Tech '71 Facebook group](#).

CLASS OF 1982 - 40th Reunion (multiple events)

WHEN: Friday July 15 and Saturday July 16, 2022

WHAT: Friday evening dinner, 6:30 – 11:00 p.m.

WHERE: McMenamins Kennedy School gymnasium
(5736 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97211)

WHAT: Saturday afternoon all-ages BBQ, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Argay Park (NE 141st Drive & Failing Street, Portland 97230)

COST: Registration and tickets (\$80/person) at www.Benson82.org.

CONTACT: Janice Choy-Weber, choymozart@gmail.com

Seeking volunteers to help with picnic setup and prep at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. If you are available, please contact Jeffery Simon at (503) 880-4232 or JSimon199@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1992 - 30th Reunion

WHEN: Friday, August 5 and Saturday, August 6, 2022

WHAT: Friday evening adults-only gathering, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: McMenamins Edgefield
(2126 SW Halsey Street, Troutdale, OR 97060)

WHAT: Saturday afternoon all-ages BBQ, 2pm

WHERE: Blue Lake Park
(1224 NE Blue Lake Road, Fairview 97024)

FACEBOOK: More info on the [Class of 1992 Facebook](#) page.

Tickets available via [Eventbrite](#) (search "Benson High School Class of 1992")

CLASS OF 1997 - 25th Reunion

WHEN: Saturday, July 23, 2022

WHAT: Informal, family-friendly gathering, noon-sunset.

WHERE: Benson State Recreation Area
(At I-84 Exit 30. Note: The park is accessible to eastbound traffic only, from Exit #30.)

COST: Event is free; parking is \$5/per car

CONTACT: Jerod Huth, JerodHuth@outlook.com

FACEBOOK: For updates, please join the [Class of 1997 Facebook](#) group.

BYOB, food, picnic chairs and blankets, popup tents, outdoor games, etc. Site has Frisbee golf, and a lake suitable for swimming, fishing, and non-motorized boating.

CLASS OF 2000 - 20+2 Reunion

WHEN: Saturday, August 6, 2022

WHAT: Adults-only gathering, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Punch Bowl Social
(340 SW Morrison Street, #4305, Portland, OR 97204)

CONTACT & TICKET INFO: Contact Julie Jorgensen at Bensonhs2000@yahoo.com.

FACEBOOK: Look for additional details on the [Class of 2000 Facebook](#) page.

CLASS OF 2002 - 20th Reunion

The Class of 2002 has cancelled its reunion.

Rose Festival milk carton races coming in June

By Roger Edwards, Class of 1963

While crossing the Tilikum bridge recently, I noticed a dragon boat crew below practicing their stroke. The sight led me to think that perhaps there really will be a Rose Festival celebration next month. It is fitting that this reminder was nautical because there is a decidedly nautical aspect to the festival. Real sailors flock to town and enjoy numerous events at Waterfront Park, their ships display the might and requirements of navies patrolling the high seas, and amateur sailors have a chance to demonstrate their sea-worthiness racing dragon boats and milk carton crafts of their own design.

The milk carton boat races provides a good introduction to regattas. Held in the casting pond at Westmoreland Park, attendees have an up-close view of the goings-on. The boats are made available for inspection and viewers are asked to state their preference for the one they find most appealing, regardless of how it performs in the competitions. The best vote getter is acknowledged on the coveted People's Choice milk can trophy. There are multiple categories for sailors of different experience levels, and though it is not the America's Cup, there are similarities in the challenges.

The [Royal Rosarian Milk Carton Boat Race](#) festivities get underway at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 26, 2022. Do consider coming to out the action. It is a family fun event with something out of the ordinary for everyone. The BPHSAA will be there hoping you will stop by so we can warn your classmates who they should watch out for. It is a chance to show your appreciation for all that Alpenrose Dairy does for the community. There is a playground nearby, your kids can be introduced to the wonder of duct tape, and perhaps launch their own nautical career.

SPLASH INTO SUMMER AT THE
The Royal Rosarian
Milk Carton Boat Race
JUNE 26 2022
WESTMORELAND PARK CASTING POND
PRESENTED BY **alpenrose**
Join us Sunday, June 26th for a day of family-friendly entertainment and spirited competition as children and adults race creatively crafted boats made out of recycled milk cartons and jugs.
Participants will compete in age category races for the coveted People's Choice Award! **Secure your spot and register online by June 19th at www.royalrosarians.com.**

Race Categories
• Children Ages 7-12
• Adults Ages 13+
• Family/Multi-Rider: Ages 7+
• Corporate

Need help finding cartons?
Alpenrose will provide up to 50 free jugs or cartons to all participants. Containers available for pickup through June 17th, while supplies last at:
• Westside: Alpenrose Dairy, M-F, 9a-3p
• Southeast: Moreland Presbyterian Church, Tu-Th, 9a-1p
• Eastside: Backwood Boys & Girls Club, M-F, 10a-1p (Club will be closed from 5/30-6/1)

Scan to Register

RULES & REGISTRATION: ROYALROSARIANS.COM
PORTLAND ROSE FESTIVAL: ROSEFESTIVAL.ORG

Save the Date! Community Picnic scheduled for August 6

Following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BPHSAA is excited to announce the return of the annual Community Picnic. This year's picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 6, from noon-4:00 p.m. at the school's temporary location on the Marshall Campus at 3905 SE 91st Ave. This family-friendly event provides an opportunity for alumni, present and former staff, current and incoming students, and school supporters to gather together in celebration of Benson Tech. As in the past, some classes have specifically planned reunion



and incoming students, and school supporters to gather together in celebration of Benson Tech. As in the past, some classes have specifically planned reunion

weekends to align with the picnic, while others are using the event in place of a class-specific gathering.

The Community Picnic will be held in the semi-enclosed outdoor courtyard, and—pending PPS approval—will include limited tours (led by Benson Tech administration and members of the BPHSAA Board) of the school's temporary facilities. Grilled food will be available for purchase for \$5, and attendees are welcome to bring their own picnic lunches and non-alcoholic beverages as well as lawn games, concert chairs, picnic blankets, and pop-up tents.

For additional details and updates please visit the [BPHSAA website](#), and to volunteer for this or any other Alumni Association event or outreach effort, email info@BensonTechAlumni.org.

Thank you, Carl — well done.

The BPHSAA extends a salute to Carl George, a January 1947 Benson Tech graduate who passed away last Christmas at the age of 92.

We became aware of Carl when a 1977 Oregonian article was found in a yearbook given to the BPHSAA when Benson Tech shelves were being cleared before the renovation got underway. The article was featured in the February 2022 edition of the newsletter and described how Carl, Tom Daklos (Class of 1949, 1930-1990), and Arthur McLean (1899-1987) established an earlier alumni association in 1975, which gave scholarships to seniors and helped others in the graduating classes making the transition from student to bread winner. These are objec-

POLY TECH Jan 1947



Carl L. George
Technical Aviation
Fire Squad, Aviation

tives that still draw our attention today and so these predecessors deserve our tribute.

Carl put his aviation training to use in the Oregon National Guard during the Korean War. He later became the third-generation proprietor of George & Son Cutlery, which was established in downtown Portland in 1870. His commitment to Benson Tech and his belief that society values reflect the quality of education given to their youths complemented one another, and together, had a role in building the Benson Tech alumni community. The BPHSAA would like to offer our condolences to Carl's sons, Richard (Class of 1980) and Kevin (Class of 1982.)

THANK YOU!



Recent Scholarship Fund Supporters

A special thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Scholarship Fund in the latter half of 2021:

- Alan L. Batts
- Neal Dofelmier
- Roger Douglas
- Glenn Eades
- Dennis Gould
- Julia L. Harris, in memory of Donald Hartung
- Harlan Jencks
- Myrna Jensen
- Robert Johns, in memory of Lawrence Johns
- Steven H. Johnson
- Andrew Kern
- Lin Kong
- Rachael Lizio Katzen Kuryunny
- Robert Malone, in memory of Ron Besflug
- David W Osgood, in memory of Dick Pugh
- Jane Wong, in honor of the Class of 2000

KBPS seeks interviews of Benson Tech graduate recollections

By Roger Edwards, Class of 1963

To establish a record of impressions/observations about a Benson Tech education, KBPS is building an audio archive of people's memories of the school. Organizing my thoughts proved to be an amusing exercise and my example here might provide the encouragement needed for you to contact the "Voice of the Portland Public Schools" about an interview.

High school was a common topic among my classmates in our final year at Sabin Grade School. Boys had the option to go to Benson Tech, considered to be Portland's best high school, and I recall thinking that if it was the best high school, why not go there? There were only four or five lads in our class to take this option and just two of us were still there at graduation.

Benson Tech's emphasis on shops is why it was held in high esteem. Sabin boys had shop classes in 7th and 8th grades and those had impressed me with the clarity that orthographic and isometric drawings gave to objects, entertained me with the ease of reducing lumber to shavings on a wood lathe, and thrilled me when my 8th grade sailboat actually won a race. I had no idea what Benson shop classes would be like. Memories of my first Tech Show are limited to the neon tube that lit

up when held near the 1,000,000 volt Tesla coil, and the cast aluminum "B's" that were made in the foundry.

I started at Benson Tech in September 1959. Our freshman shop rotation was Electric, Machine, and Automotive, and I went through Foundry, Pattern, and Welding in my sophomore year. I chose General Engineering for a major, and in the worst decision of my life, I switched shops from Electric to Machine. I learned a lot about machine tools but I would have benefited far more from knowledge of electrical wiring and circuitry.

My two years in Journalism had me researching and writing articles for the Tech Pep, and editing galley proofs. It was a good experience for the 10 years I produced a quarterly newsletter for the Oregon Lakes Association, and later helped as well with the newsletters of the BPHSAA

While my education at Benson may not have been typical, it was and still is highly appreciated. When wire nuts became available, I chuckled about all the wire splices I had been taught. I still think a torque wrench is a nifty tool. And I learned that a series of small tasks, performed well, can lead to a fine achievement. This practical knowledge has served me well.

BPHSAA directors elected

Bob Walker (Class of 1977) was elected as a BPHSAA by paid alumni members voting at the November 2021 Annual Meeting. Dave Hutchins (Class of 1978) was re-elected for a second term as a director by the Board of Directors at its January 2022 meeting per by-law rules.

2021 Scholarship Fund donations

The BPHSAA Scholarship Fund received over \$13,000 in donations in 2021. Those donations have been invested in the fund managed by the Oregon Community Foundation. Fund earnings will allow over \$5,000 in scholarships to be awarded to Benson Tech seniors at the May 19 Awards Assembly.

Benson athletes advance to recent state tournaments

The Benson Tech girls' basketball team had another good year in local play and placed fourth in the state tournament. Though the boys' team lost in the first round, it also made it to this year's state tournament. Plus, several Benson Tech wrestlers made it to their state tournaments: Bryan Yanaase, Eamon Falkerth, Simon Shulevitz, Jacob Dennis, and Angel Werner. Congratulations!!

Benson Tech graduation ceremony - June 8

About 220 Benson seniors will graduate on June 8 in Providence Park. Their last year and a half has not only involved all the usual school requirements, but coping with virtual learning, periods of separation from teachers and classmates, and disruption of athletic and other extracurricular activities. Congratulations!

Benson Tech students to attend HOSA conference

Jackelyn Mercado, Violet Meyers, and Clio Tzetos will be competing for titles at this year's HOSA International Leadership Conference (Health Occupation Students of America). They will be not only representing Benson Tech, but the state of Oregon. They, with Benson Tech Health Science Teacher Irynne Paua, will travel to Nashville TN for the June 21-5 HOSA Conference. Good luck!

Freshman applications to Benson Tech

About 240 students have applied to attend Benson Tech this fall and completed additional "paperwork." Benson Tech's incoming freshmen class remains limited by PPS to 300, but in reality, any eligible eighth grader who applies "gets in." Total enrollment is expected to be about 950 students. Enrollment was 930 last year when Benson Tech first moved to its interim home at the Marshall Campus.

CTE Annex at Marshall to be ready for 2022-23 school year

A new special purpose building for some of Benson Tech's CTE programs will be fully available this fall. The completions of the CTE Annex for Automotive, Construction and Geo-Tech was originally planned for September 2021, but construction was delayed by the pandemic and other reasons. With some ingenuity and resourcefulness, CTE teachers were able to conduct their programs this past school year within Marshall's existing limitations. Good going!

BPHSAA meetings now back in person

With Oregon's COVID-19 restrictions eased, the BPHSAA Board of Directors is again meeting monthly in person. Beginning in September with the start of school, the Board will meet the second Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Marshall Campus. For this summer's meetings, when schools are closed, visit the BPHSAA website for times and locations.



A shout-out for the BPHSAA's secretary

Ever wonder what happens at BPHSAA's monthly Board of Directors meetings ?

The next best thing to attending one of these open meetings (second Monday of each month) is reading the extraordinary minutes from those meetings. These minutes can be found on the BPHSAA website under "About Us" and "Newsletters."

BPHSAA Secretary Max Baker (Class of 1990) writes some of the best, detailed accounts of a meeting that you will ever read. She covers the topics discussed, who said what, the actions taken, current financial status, etc., thus supporting the BPHSAA's desire to be transparent and accountable to its members and the Benson Tech Community.

Thanks, Max !

ALUMNI TEXT CREDITS

We'd like to thank Rachael Lizio Katzen Kuryunny, Gerry Ochs, Amber Johnson, Josh Piper, Dan Malone, and Curtis Wilson for their articles, background facts, and/or photos for this edition of the newsletter, as well as the detailed information from Jay Miles and Mat Clark for the Benson Tech Track and Field Invitational Meet article. And a very special thank you to Connie Mar, our newsletter designer.

- Dale Bajema and Roger Edwards, Co-editors



TECH YOUTH UNITED MULTI-SPORT CAMP

Hosted by the Benson Tech High School Athletic Department
June 13-16, 2022 and June 27-30, 2022

Camp Director:

Mat Clark — BTHS Athletic Director

Camp Sports Leaders/

Benson Tech Coaching Staff

Antoinette Olivias—Head Girls Soccer

Kemal Vejo—Head Boys Soccer

Michaela McNairy—Head Volleyball

Isiah Clark—Head Cross Country

Earl Clark—Head Boys Basketball

Eric Knox—Head Girls Basketball

Rusty Marchello—Head Wrestling

Vasheeta Charles—Head Cheerleading

Jay Miles—Head Track

Dan Harrison—Head Baseball

Beejay Wade—Head Softball

Andreas Dominguez—Head Boys Tennis

About Tech Youth Project

- To get youth exposed and actively involved in athletics
- To get youth to be a part of athletics regardless of abilities or experience
- To get youth to participate in an encouraging environment that will get them excited about athletics, have fun participating, and encourage to stay engaged for years to come
- To encourage the multi-sport athlete
- To help athletics grow in PPS and The PIL

CAMP AT A GLANCE

SESSION #1

DATEs: Monday through Thursday June 13-16

TIME: 9:00AM to 12:00PM (Lunch 12:00-12:45)

SPORTs: Basketball (Boys and Girls)

Soccer (Boys and Girls)

Wrestling (Boys and Girls)

Tennis (Boys and Girls)

Baseball (Boys)

SESSION #2

DATEs: Monday through Thursday June 13-16

TIME: 1:00PM to 4:00PM (Lunch 12:00-12:45)

SPORTs: Basketball (Boys and Girls)

Soccer (Boys and Girls)

Cheerleading (Boys and Girls)

Tennis (Boys and Girls)

SESSION #3

DATEs: Monday through Thursday June 27-30

TIME: 5:00PM to 8:00PM (Snack/Check In 4:40)

SPORTs: Track and Field/Running (Boys and Girls)

Volleyball (Girls)

Softball (Girls)

COST: 1 session=10.00\$ per camper
2 sessions=20.00\$ per camper
3 sessions=25.00\$ per camper



Easy and Fast to Register!



ALL REGISTRATION
DONE
ONLINE AT
bensonathletics.net



CAMP LOCATION
MARSHALL CAMPUS
3905 SE 91ST AVENUE
PORTLAND, OR.



HAVE QUESTIONS?
Contact Mat Clark
At
maclark@pps.net

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CAMP AND BENSON ATHLETICS PLEASE GO TO bensonathletics.net
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PORTLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE PLEASE GO TO pilathletics.com