



# BENSON TECH ALUMNI TEXT

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The Official Newsletter of the Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association (BPHSAA), April 2020 Edition

## **COVID-19 impacts on BPHSAA activities**

In normal times, the BPHSAA would have published a spring edition of its newsletter simultaneous with the Benson Tech Show. The 2020 coronavirus pandemic has turned this spring into a most non-normal time, with government-mandated closure of businesses and schools, and subsequently, the attendant cancellation of Tech Show as well.

That said, many things have not changed and the BPHSAA feels that keeping Benson Tech alumni and the Benson Tech community informed of relevant information is still important. While we are not printing a paper version of this newsletter, we are making an extra effort to disseminate electronic copies.

As “we go to press,” it is not known when Oregon’s current social distancing rules will be lifted and whether many summer events can be safely held. Portland Public Schools (PPS) plans to resume school as scheduled on Sept. 2, 2020. The BPHSAA, at this time, plans to hold the annual Benson Community Picnic on August 8, which is almost a month before school is scheduled to start.

However, please double check the BPHSAA website—[www.bensontechalumni.org](http://www.bensontechalumni.org)—for any changes in the date the of picnic, the start of the school year, and class reunions mentioned in this newsletter; what we might know about fall athletic events; and changes in the planned Benson Tech campus modernization.



## **Another PPS building improvements bond referral for Benson Tech**

*By Kevin B. Clark, Ph.D. (Class of 1984)*

The Benson Tech community readies for another capital improvements bond referral to be completed by Portland Public Schools (PPS) and filed with city auditor election offices for balloting and voting in November 2020. Three years ago in a spring off-cycle election, Portland voters passed a \$790 million bond to improve aging PPS schools prioritized for poor physical plant conditions, educating high densities of historically underserved students, and distressed student overcrowding. That bond, which included Benson Tech, Lincoln High School, and Madison High School, followed the 2012 bond as the second in a forecasted 30-year series of PPS bonds to modernize infrastructure no longer capable of maximizing student achievement through equitable, safe, healthy, accessible, and effective learning environments. But after public scrutiny and outrage over scarce, seemingly unfair 2017 capital bond-projects appropriations, the district-authorized Benson Tech modernization plan showed an approximate projected \$100 million budget deficit, credited by PPS officials to publicly disputed, uncontrollable local construction-market volatility.

In academic year 2018-2019, the PPS Board of Education (BOE) first pledged through BOE Resolution 5780 (see Benson Tech Alumni Text, March 2019 Edition, Page 1) to subsidize the 2017 bond shortfall by adding Benson Tech to the 2020 capital bond campaign. The resolution also provided a bridge-loan contingency to finance the project and keep construction on

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**Above:** The Class of 1999 held its 20th reunion event in 2019.

## Upcoming alumni events

**IMPORTANT COVID-19 NOTE:** For up-to-date information regarding class reunions and BPHSAA events, please check both [www.bensontechalumni.org](http://www.bensontechalumni.org) and class-specific Facebook pages.

### **POSTPONED: Benson Tech Class of 1980 - 40th Reunion**

The original event schedule for June 13, 2020, has been postponed. Visit the "Benson Class of 1980 40th Reunion" page on Facebook for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/496557787676461/>

### **POSTPONED: Benson Tech Class of 2000 - 20th Reunion**

**What:** Adults-only gathering

For additional information, contact Julie Jorgensen at [BensonHS2000@yahoo.com](mailto:BensonHS2000@yahoo.com) or visit the "Benson Polytechnic H.S. Class of 2000 Reunion" page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/145634978650/>

Is your class planning a reunion? Contact [info@bensontechalumni.org](mailto:info@bensontechalumni.org) with the details and we will post an announcement on our website for your event ([www.bensontechalumni.org](http://www.bensontechalumni.org)).

## Another PPS bond referral, *continued from front cover*

schedule and within budget in case the presumptive bond failed to be balloted or approved in 2020. All subsequent resolutions reflect the same intent.

Since December 2018, the cost of the Benson Tech campus modernization project, which now includes a new Multiple Pathways to Graduation (MPG) program building, has increased by almost \$60 million to \$354 million (see Benson Tech Alumni Text, August 2019 Edition, Page 1). The heavy price of the building project, as well as costs accruing from the 2012 bond-projects overruns of Roosevelt and Grant High Schools and other urgent district-wide pre-K-8 school necessities, such as technology, curriculum, roof, mechanical, seismic, and security improvements, possibly jeopardize the 2020 bond-referral statuses of Jefferson, Wilson, and Cleveland High Schools.

Communities from Jefferson, Wilson, and Cleveland High Schools started their school modernization master planning earlier this academic year with expectations of being slated for the 2020 bond measure, as originally planned by the district. Yet, the final details of the bond referral remain undetermined. PPS leaders, including BOE directors and administrative staff, continue to refine project-cost estimates, confer with the advisory Bond Accountability Committee about bond package feasibility, and engage community groups about their educational demands.

If the district commits to addressing all its stated goals for the 2020 bond referral, Portland voters may be asked to approve a massive \$1.4 billion building improvements bond measure, the largest in PPS history. Although the proposed bond will not increase property-tax burden, the district may decide to lessen the package scope, making the bond quantity more appealing to voters and thus boosting chances for a bond measure passage in a presidential election cycle with probable high voter turnout and competing bond measures from additional local school districts and higher education systems. Benson Tech's position on the 2020 bond referral will likely remain unchanged. The Benson Tech community should nonetheless stay vigilant about bond-referral status and mobilize for bond campaigning over coming months to help better our odds for modernization success.

To obtain more information about PPS building improvements bond referral, please follow given links:

February 2020 PPS BOE bond update working session - <https://www.pps.net/Page/1791> (scroll down page to Feb. 18, 2020 Work Session and Regular Meeting entry).

Benson Tech Modernization overview - <https://www.pps.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1838>.

## Benson Tech Wellness Center update

*By Rob Johns (Class of 1977)*

The Wellness Center at Benson Tech started about four years ago. This effort originated from discussions within the Counseling Center and concerned Benson supporters. There was a growing demand for mental health services, along with a recognized lack of basic care as Multnomah County offered minimal resources with a part-time nurse allocation. Concerned Benson supporters, with a lead effort by Counselor Amy Henry and architect/designer, Doreen Roozee, sought to overcome objections from then PPS Superintendent Carole Smith. Superintendent Smith's position was that Benson would be rebuilt and to wait until then.

If the Benson Tech supporters had taken that advice, there would be no clinic today, and with the current timeline for the renovation, it would be a decade of missed opportunities to serve the kids. Together with the advocacy of the Benson Tech supporters both inside and outside of the school, Superintendent Smith's objection was overcome and the old tool crib room became a cool modernized health center setting that serves kids nearly year round, as that includes summer school and the four other alternative educational programs: Reconnection Center; Alliance at Benson; DART and PISA Schools that share the Benson Tech Campus.

Services in the Benson Wellness Center include primary care (OHSU Family Medicine at Richmond); nursing (Multnomah County ESD); Social Work (PPS) and school-based mental health services (Multnomah County School Mental Health Services). OHSU is the medical sponsor and Benson Tech is the only high school in Portland that OHSU sponsors, Doctors are on site half days Monday through Thursday. Multnomah County School Mental Health provides mental health services 32 hours a week, including support for substance abuse. Substance-abuse treatment services are not offered in the Wellness Center; Benson does have a certified alcohol and drug counselor two days/week via DePaul Treatment



Centers. Outpatient Child Mental Health Care services around the city are over capacity right now. Providing this service at the school is vital. Well exams and athletic exams are provided presently. The number of services provided are below

Measurements of students seen in the Health Center at Benson Tech are compiled by the State Program Office of the Oregon Health Authority. We don't have numbers for 2019-2020, but the center saw a 40% increase in "total clients served" from 2017-8 to 2018-19, and a 26% increase in total medical visits. These numbers are expected to continue to increasing.

The author interviewed Caroline Bleckman, social worker and services coordinator and Amy Henry, school counselor for this article.

Speaking with Caroline several years ago while sitting in the center gave this alum a great respect for the thought and kindness that occurs every day at the Wellness Center. There is an emphasis on equity in the delivery of healthcare. OHSU can take insurance for its services, which helps to sustain a source of income to keep the program running. According to Amy Henry, school-based clinics from around the country have called to ask how Benson Tech came up with this model.

In the plan for Benson Tech's renovation, a separate room for dental services is planned and OHSU can be a great partner there too.

## **Benson Tech Foundation update**

The Benson Tech Foundation is a qualified 501(c)3, EIN 45-5601961. We have been operating now for about 6 years. Our donors have been Alums who have wanted to support specific programs and needs. We have worked with a wide range of programs in the school to support materials or equipment needs. Construction, a new metal storage container after tools were stolen. Algebra Tech and Geo Tech for materials for their program. Machine Shop equipment maintenance. Black Student Union on Career Education College Tours. Industrial arts

Benson insignia. Support for the 100th Benson Tech Oregon Historical Society Dinner. Working with a lawyer to advocate for Benson Tech's Renovation by PPS as part of the 2017 Bond Vote. These are examples of the advocacy and promotion work of the Foundation. We are continuously involved with the school to provide support where needed. Contact Rob Johns, president, at robjohns@comcast.net if you are interested in donating funds to the Benson Tech Foundation.

## Changes for Benson Tech's neighborhood

*By Kevin B. Clark, Ph.D. (Class of 1984)*

Portland is Benson Tech's neighborhood. It has been, since our century-old alma mater opened as a magnet vocational school under a 1915 philanthropic agreement between industrialist Simon Benson and PPS. Regular PPS comprehensive high schools serve students living in district-defined small geographic zones, called neighborhood catchments or clusters within city boundaries. In contrast, Benson Tech, one of America's oldest and most successful comprehensive Career and Technical Education (CTE) focus option high schools, serves students living throughout Portland, providing important scholastic advantages to demographically diverse students often underserved by their neighborhood high schools. Changes to the Portland metro area and to PPS predictably affect Benson Tech and those current and future students the school educates. Two such changes – PPS high school CTE modernization and district-wide student enrollment

and educational program balancing (or assignment) – are now being planned. Both PPS initiatives intend to use an equity lens to enhance academic offerings for a wider cross-section of students in a growing urban population with growing disparities and needs for differentiated learning opportunities. For the Benson Tech campus complex, composed of Benson Tech and MPG programs, each of these endeavors coincide with the campus' anticipated taxpayer-funded \$354 million infrastructural and curricular revitalization starting in summer 2021 (see Benson Tech Alumni Text, August 2019 Edition, Page 1).

PPS began its bold large-scale high school CTE modernization master planning and implementation process during Academic Year 2018-2019. This work, tasked to PPS Departments of College and Career Readiness (CCR) and CTE/Career Pathways, Bay Area-based educational services contractor ConnectED, PPS high school representatives, and the PPS CCR-CTE/Career Pathways Advisory Council, adopts the district's stakeholder-shaped "PPS reImagined" educational vision and strategy. "PPS reImagined" elaborates the new graduate portrait, educator essentials, educational systems shifts, and core values believed necessary to achieve first-rate modern personalized instruction and learning for lasting student and societal benefits. To that end, a main goal of the 10-year master plan seeks to increase blending of CTE and Academic Core curricula to form immersive vertical pathways involving grouped educational themes rendered from the district's more than 60 current CTE programs. Themes will conform to standard national and state categories for CTE, such as Art, Humanities, Communication, and Design; Healthcare and Emergency Professions; Business and Entrepreneurship; Construction, Manufacturing, and Transportation; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; and Public Service, Education, and Social Sciences. They will improve seamless student cohort promotion from Grades 10 through 12, access to work-oriented experiences and dual-credit high-school/college coursework, occupational certification and (pre) apprenticeship credentials, and transition to postsecondary job and academic pursuits.

This emerging PPS approach to district-wide CTE programming shares many aspects of the major-based trade and college preparatory track options originated and refined at Benson Tech many decades ago. But, as proven by smaller skills centers and hyper-focused CTE high schools located in or outside the United States, such as

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Oregon's Salem-Keizer School District Career Technical Education Center, greater discipline integration endows students with even deeper technical knowledge and fluency in inter- and intrapersonal skills, including, among other competencies, effective communication, resilient life-long learning, empathetic leadership, and confident self-awareness. Benson Tech joins Wilson and Franklin High Schools as the only pilot campuses selected for ongoing PPS CTE pathways design and development. That honor recognizes Benson Tech for its national reputation as a high school CTE leader with dedicated qualified administrators, teachers, and staff wanting to push further the limits of education to unprecedented excellence. The pilot work permits Benson Tech to continue innovating CTE instructional objectives and results by molding themes around existing CTE majors, all the while being physically remodeled until 2025 under the multi-decade PPS capital building-improvements plan. Once returned to the modernized campus after temporary residence at the former Marshall High School, Benson Tech students will experience the best CTE facilities and comprehensive focus option curricula available to secondary school students living anywhere in the world.

Despite encouraging changes to PPS high school CTE philosophies and practices, proposed merits of district-wide student enrollment and educational program balancing raise some doubts among PPS stakeholders, particularly public testifiers from historically marginalized and understandably distrustful communities, such as the ACCESS program and Roosevelt High School communities still waiting for mandated educational resources and services. Enrollment and program balancing may also significantly influence the Benson Tech community in its modernization mission to escalate enrollment to the district-promised capacity of 1700 students and to sustain, expand, and launch curricular and extracurricular

programs. The PPS BOE revised and ratified the scope of balancing in March 2020 with PPS BOE Resolution 6059, which guides rationale, core values, outcome goals, and approach and sequence of work charged to Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero and his staff. In accordance with "PPS reImagined," balancing efforts aim to reduce district educational inequities accumulating over decades and worsened by recent Portland population trends leading to lower PPS facilities and program optimization. All staff proposals and recommendations will be determined from district, neighborhood, and school assessments and must be approved annually by the BOE. The first phase of the three-year project will soon initiate in spring 2020 for southeast schools, later followed by north/northeast schools and by west/southwest schools in successive years. Guiding community coalitions assembled by the district will assist PPS decision makers in finding solutions to sensitive problems involving rezoning neighborhood boundaries, designing middle school and high school feeder patterns, decreasing co-localized educational programs, improving lottery admissions methods for focus option and alternative schools, managing school over- and under-crowding, reconfiguring K-8 to K-5 elementary schools, and opening new middle schools. Benson Tech alumni and additional community members should consider submitting applications to serve with guiding coalitions to ensure Benson Tech's interests remain well represented.

For more information about these topics, please follow given links for PPS reImagined at <https://www.pps.net/Page/12780>, PPS CTE and college and career readiness at <https://www.pps.net/ccr> and <https://www.pps.net/domain/190>, and PPS student enrollment and educational program balancing at <https://www.pps.net/Page/13615>.

# Perfecting educational success at Benson Tech

By Kevin B. Clark, Ph.D. (Class of 1984)

Whether calculated with vintage slide rules or modern high-performance cloud computing infrastructure, new PPS findings from Academic Year 2018-2019 again confirmed a Benson Tech education enables comparably more students to earn high school diplomas within four years, a valid, if imprecise, predictor of later post-secondary scholastic, career, and life attainment. Abysmal high school graduation rates troubled public school districts in recent decades across Oregon, where the average rate jumped an impressive 8 percentage points during 2018-2019 to a record statewide high of 80%. PPS, Oregon's biggest pre-K-12 public school district, also continued to increase its numbers by nearly 18 percentage points since 2011-2012, with 81% of district seniors receiving their diplomas in 2018-2019. The three top-performing PPS high schools in lower to higher rank order – Benson Tech, Lincoln and Grant – well exceeded that mark for the same academic year with graduation rates tightly clustered within the 92% to 94% interval.

Benson Tech, however, serves a student body very different from the typically affluent students of European descent attending rival Lincoln and Grant High Schools. With one of the state's most diverse underserved student populations, Benson Tech confers diplomas at much higher rates than state and district averages in all major student demographic categories for race, ethnicity, gender, sex, economic status, and educational support needs (see table at right). These figures help validate the effectiveness of Benson Tech's innovative comprehensive CTE focus option educational model and illustrate why Benson Tech remains a popular enrollment choice for Portland-area students wanting to better ready themselves to compete in a tech-dominated world.

Benson Tech administrators, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders perfect educational success with their commitment to our school's standards-setting immersive CTE-pathways instruction and learning. At Benson Tech, 92% of freshman track toward graduation and 77% of all students attend school at least 90% of the academic year, as revealed by the district's published 2018-2019 statistics. Such uncommon levels of student participation result from access to both highest quality career-oriented project-based education and transformative community engagement aided with superior school climate and wrap-around services, such as that offered by Benson Tech's exemplary OHSU-partnered Wellness Center. Recent data collated for the BPHSAA by Benson Tech Counselor Amy Henry and Counseling Intern Julia Carr of Lewis & Clark College highlight these themes in pedagogical best practices, which drive long-term positive student

outcomes. Of six Benson Tech CTE programs sampled – health sciences, electric, computer engineering, digital media, construction, and radio broadcasting – teachers, some of whom are Benson Tech alumni, crafted forward-thinking curricula and extracurricula that empower students with technical job experiences and civic stewardship to become more capable workforce members as well as industry and societal leaders. This sort of advanced training blending hard and soft workplace skills, now master-planned for sweeping improvements in all PPS high school CTE programs, exposes and prepares students for the future complex challenges that their generations must overcome.

**GRADUATION RATES FOR BENSON TECH STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS\***

	BENSON TECH	DISTRICT	STATE
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>			
All Students of Color Combined†	92%	72%	unreported
Asian	100%	91%	92%
Black/African American	89%	73%	70%
Latino/Hispanic	87%	72%	76%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	100%	68%	78%
Multi-Racial (Asian/European)	100%	90%	unreported
Multi-Racial (Other Ancestries)	100%	72%	unreported
White/European American	93%	84%	81%
<b>SEX/GENDER</b>			
Females/Feminine	97%	83%	83%
Males/Masculine	90%	79%	77%
Non-Binary	100%	57%	unreported
<b>EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP</b>			
Economically Disadvantaged‡	90%	73%	74%
Limited English Proficiency**	100%	55%	60%
Special Education	90%	64%	63%
Talented and Gifted (TAG)	91%	93%	95%

\*Graduation rates for Academic Year 2018-2019, as reported by PPS (<https://www.pps.net/Page/1835> for more details) and Oregon Department of Education (<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Pages/Cohort-Graduation-Rate.aspx> for more details). All values were rounded up or down to nearest whole number.

†57% of students attending Benson Tech are students of color.

‡49% of students attending Benson Tech belong to the free or reduced lunch program.

\*\*30 different first languages are spoken by Benson Tech students.

Benson Tech CTE programs, for instance, often address sustainable human development through hands-on projects shaped by newsworthy industry, academia, and community partners and enriching student internships, (pre)apprenticeships, and additional interactions. Examples include, but are not limited to, building and installing temporary tiny houses for Multnomah County's homeless, improving livability of Northeast Portland's Lloyd business district and neighborhood with beautified refuse cans, and promoting scientific understanding, clinical practice, and public awareness for child alcohol and

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*Dear Benson Tech Alumni,*

Thank you for your commitment to Benson Polytechnic High School. I've had the opportunity to attend BPHSAA meetings this year and been impressed by the leadership and support you provide. Your continued investment in Benson Tech and its students helps build strong future leaders in our community. Like many of you, I've been thinking a lot about the importance and power of community in good times and in times of crisis. The Benson Tech community has always been a shining example of what that power can accomplish.

My family is proud to be part of the Benson community. My son is a freshman this year at Benson Tech and he joined one of the fall sports teams. He was drawn to Benson for its strong CTE programming, wonderful teachers and leadership, and diverse and welcoming student body. Our family was immediately impressed by the dedicated teachers and coaches, many who are alumni, who work tirelessly to build confidence and instill core values like collaboration, empathy and resiliency in these students. We greatly appreciate so many things about the Benson experience, but most of all, it is that this school is about opportunity.

In particular, all students at Benson have an opportunity to participate in and benefit from a high school sports program. This is not always the case at all high schools. Benson Tech has more than 415 student athletes competing on 35 teams in 21 sports. Benson gives all students regardless of income an opportunity to be a part of a team. With more than 40% of our student athletes receiving some level of scholarship to enable participation, financial support for school athletics is critical to ensure that all students have an opportunity to play.

#### **How you can help!**

I joined the newly formed Benson Tech Boosters to help support school athletics and the Benson community. The Benson Tech Boosters is a parent-led 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting spirit and support for Benson Tech athletics and assisting the athletic department and teams with fundraising to support student athletes and enhance the athletic program.

This last school year, the Benson Tech Boosters has raised and distributed more than \$7,000 for the school athletic

program, paying for essential team equipment, attire and transport. Funds were raised through our Fall Fundraiser, Spirit Gear sales, concessions and individual and business donations. We had hoped to celebrate and raise additional funds at our Spring Fundraiser in May. Those plans have been postponed, but there are still ways you can support our efforts for a strong return:

1. Donate directly to Benson Tech Boosters — it's tax deductible.
2. Donate an item, gift certificate or service for our next fundraiser.
3. Show your Benson Tech pride with the purchase of our spirit gear.

Visit our website at [www.bensontechboosters.org](http://www.bensontechboosters.org) or email us directly at [bensontechboosters@gmail.com](mailto:bensontechboosters@gmail.com) for sponsorship and donation opportunities.

You can now help Benson Tech Boosters when you shop with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card. You will still earn your rewards points, fuel points and rebates as usual, but Fred Meyer will make a donation to the Benson Tech Boosters as well. Visit <https://www.fredmeyer.com>. Once logged into your Fred Meyer account, you can search for Benson Tech Boosters either by name or AX717 and then click "Enroll." New users will need to create an account, which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card. If you do not have a rewards card, they are available at the customer service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

You can also support the Boosters when you shop online at Amazon through the Amazon Smiles program.

On behalf of Benson Tech Boosters and student athletics, thank you in advance for your generous support. A strong school with a well-rounded athletics department provides a level of quality which in turn allows our student athletes and community to thrive.

Here's to better and brighter days ahead. Go Benson Tech!

Kindest Regards,

- Amber Johnson (Benson Tech parent and Tech Boosters volunteer)

substance abuse. Good works and other activities with program-specific partners keep Benson Tech students on the cutting-edge of industry and community trends. They instill Benson Tech students with life purpose and skills that favor meritorious accomplishments in prestigious national scholastic competitions, such as SkillsUSA and HOSA, outstanding rates for high school graduation, and strong placements in post-secondary school and job preferences. And they give opportunities for students to create and enjoy meaningful identity affirmation, equity, and social justice in

their lives and the lives of others. As the Benson Tech community labors over the next half-decade to modernize our historic school campus to meet 21st-century scholastic needs and wants, alumni may be reassured that perfecting educational success at Benson Tech will continue to involve nurturing future graduates into thoughtful adaptive influencers of constructive local to global impact.

For more information about Benson Tech CTE program offerings and success, please email BPHSAA leadership at [info@bensontechalumni.org](mailto:info@bensontechalumni.org).



## New BPHSAA directors and officers elected

At the BPHSAA's annual meeting on Nov. 18, 2019, Andy Payne and Paul Rossi were elected as new directors to begin three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2020. Rachael Lizio Katzen Kuryunny and Bob Trimble were elected to three-year terms, and Roger Edwards was elected to a two-year term.

At its December 9 meeting, pursuant to the association bylaws, the BPHSAA Board of Directors elected for the coming two years Rob Johns as chairperson, Rachael Lizio Katzen Kuryunny as vice chairperson, and Bob Trimble as treasurer. And, at the January 2020 meeting, Max Baker was elected to serve as secretary.

### ***Be part of the BPHSAA!***

The Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association (BPHSAA) was formed in 2008 and has two major purposes: to provide social activities for friends, faculty and alumni of Benson Tech, and to promote and support the school.

The BPHSAA has hosted alumni events; facilitated reunions of specific classes; funded a variety of student activities; and repeatedly petitioned the Portland Public Schools District (PPS) on Benson Tech's behalf.

The BPHSAA publicizes activities on its website, [www.bensontechalumni.org](http://www.bensontechalumni.org), and in newsletters each year. There are many opportunities to participate in the BPHSAA and help support the school. Come join us!

## Annual BPHSAA Benson Tech Community Picnic

**When:** August 8, 2020, Noon - 3:30 pm

**Where:** The courtyard in front of Benson Tech

**What:** This family-friendly event for all Benson Tech alumni, staff, students, families, and supporter is a wonderful way to (re)connect and catch up with other members of the Benson community!

Bring your own food or let the BPHSAA do the cooking. BBQ lunches—including a burger or hot dog, chips, and a drink—will be available for purchase for just \$5 (cash/card).

We hope to be able to offer tours of the school during the event, and will have representatives from various Benson athletic teams, clubs, and programs on hand to discuss what's new at, and in store for, the school.

Though there will be some seating available, we encourage you to bring chairs, picnic blankets, pop-up tents, lawn games, and whatever else you might need to comfortably enjoy the August afternoon.

We would like to encourage classes with upcoming reunions to consider integrating the annual August community picnic into your festivities. For information about collaborating with the BPHSAA on this or other events, please contact [info@www.bensontechalumni.org](mailto:info@www.bensontechalumni.org).

