



January 25th 2021

End of Semester This Week: (Please See Attachments)

Parents/Guardians please be sure to read the attached links for information regarding the end of the current semester schedule which ends on Thursday January 28th and the "Soft Start" schedule for the new semester which begins on Monday February 1st. Please note that there is no school on Friday January 29th as this is a Teacher Grading Day for our staff.

Principal Wilson

A Message from Benson's Instructional Specialists

Hello Benson Tech Students, Parents, and Families,
Starting on February 15th, 2021, Benson Tech students will have the opportunity to retrieve credits they are missing in order to fulfill all State, District and Board of Education requirements for graduation. If your student is credit deficient, our Counselors will be reaching out to students, parents and families to discuss this amazing opportunity. This in-house credit retrieval program at Benson Tech will be led by our Instructional Facilitator, Daniel Garcia. Teachers, Mentors, and Counselors will be involved throughout this process in order to guide our students towards successful completion of credits/standards needed. Please contact Daniel Garcia with any additional questions.

Daniel Garcia

Google Voice: (503) 298-5093

Yearbooks On Sale Now: Deadline to order is January 31st.

Don't miss out on this unique yearbook that will reflect this challenging and historic year in a creative and exciting way. Go to the SchoolPay button on our school website to submit your order now!

A Message from Vice Principal Sara Callies Regarding AP Chemistry

I am sharing an update regarding student interest in AP Chemistry for next year. Due to technical difficulties, the info session did not happen this month. Here is a flyer with general information. If you wish to forecast for AP Chemistry next year be sure to read the flyer and pay attention to the instructions regarding the contract completion at the bottom of the flyer. Preference will be given to current juniors after forecasting, but some juniors may be able to take this course along with the required Biology class based on space available. You must respond to the flyer in order to receive your contract, which is due on February 5th (deadline date for AP Chemistry ONLY, all other AP courses are still due January 25th)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nSwC_3GFpW1Nm9V7wwBKtDi6AdOo1bv978JGJx9uBs/edit?usp=sharing

**Please be sure to follow me
on Twitter**

@BensonTechPride

**PPS Website For Up To
Date Information &
Resources for the 2020-21
school year.**

Pps.net/fall2020

**Please be sure to go to the
BHS Website as
www.bensonhs.net for
school information as it
becomes relevant.**

Parents/Guardians

**Please click on the link
below to read about
updated information
regarding the District's
New Attendance Policy**

**[District's New Attendance
Code Policy](#)**

**Benson Tech Weekly
Athletic Update**

[Please Click Here](#)

Parents/Guardians

Please be sure to pass this message onto your students.

Please note that the Advisory Class in StudentVue and ParentVue is a place holder in which you all will begin to receive important announcements and information regarding forecasting for the next school year but please note that this is not an actual attendance/graded course for a students transcripts or schedule.

Please be on the lookout for a new Canvas course to appear in the student's Canvas Dashboard page in January.

Thanks,

Sara Callies (she/her/hers)
Curriculum Vice Principal

A Message from the BHS Math Department

Need help with math? Tutoring is now available M/W/Th/F from 3:15 - 4:15 using the Google Meet code: bhsmathtutoring

We look forward to seeing you and answering your questions!

BHS Math Department

Textbook Distribution

Please note the Librarian Assistant Irma Johnson will be able to pass out Textbooks on Wednesday January 27th in the Horseshoe Parking Lot area from 12:30pm to 3:00pm. Students can also use this time to return textbooks back to the school as well. The Horseshoe Parking Lot area is located off of 15th street in the back of the school. Once you pull into the one-way lot you will see a door that will be open to the DMP room where you can walk up and be handed your textbooks. Please be sure that you have your masks on and remain outside in the horseshoe lot area during the transaction.

Irma Johnson

Librarian Assistant

A Message from Benson's HOSA Advisor (Please See Attached Flyer)

Dear Benson Tech Community,

Benson HOSA - Future Health Professionals is partnering with Bloodworks Northwest to host a 2 week virtual blood drive from January 25th to February 8th, 2021. This blood drive is a fundraising event to raise money for students to attend the 2021 Oregon HOSA State Conference in March. Please support our HOSA students by scheduling an appointment to donate blood and sharing this information with others. See the Benson Virtual Drive Flyer for more information. Below are dates to our 2 week blood drive, locations, and links to schedule your appointment. Note: When you arrive to donate, please let Bloodworks know your donation is for Benson High School and provide our school code 4437. If you have any questions, send your message to ipadua@pps.net

Jan 25, 26: Jupiter NEXT Hotel (Portland)

<https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org/DonorPortal/GroupLanding.aspx?s=521b>

Jan 28, 29: Four Points by Sheraton Hotel (Portland)

<https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org/DonorPortal/GroupLanding.aspx?s=604b>

Feb 1, 2, 8: DoubleTree by Hilton (Beaverton)

<https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org/DonorPortal/GroupLanding.aspx?s=670b>

Feb 5, 6: DoubleTree by Hilton (Vancouver)

<https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org/DonorPortal/GroupLanding.aspx?s=732b>

Thank you,

Iryne Padua

Health Science Instructor

Asian Cultural Club Advisor

HOSA Advisor

Benson Polytechnic High School

546 NE 12th Ave

Portland, OR 97232

503-916-5100 x 77179

A Message from Rene Mitchell Regarding Opportunities for Black Youth

As you may have heard, I Am MORE has started a campaign designed to spread Black JOY - <http://www.SpreadingBlackJoy.com!!> We have SEVERAL youth-focused contests and would love your help spreading the word to any Black youth you know.

If you know of poets, we are extending the deadline for our poetry contest to **Jan.**

25. Please see attached poster. One of the poets will also get a chance to deliver their poem at the annual All Hands Raised Gala in February and earn \$250.

We are also challenging youth to create a short TikTok or YouTube video to a song on the website about creating space for Black Joy - <https://www.spreadingblackjoy.com/youthcreativity>

Our Resiliency in Rhythm youth showcase - as part of the annual Fertile Ground festival - will be featured on **Jan. 30, 7 p.m.** Our show is featuring three of the Black youth who have been organizing Black Lives Matter protests, a poet, a rapper, and other talented youth. Streaming will be on FB and YouTube. Learn more at <http://fertilegroundpdx.org/>

We are also organizing more Talk Back/Talk Black online conversations with youth, in partnership with Multnomah County and Children's Community Clinic. We will be training youth to be paid to facilitate the conversations with various groups, including rural youth, foster care, biracial, African immigrants, etc.

We are also starting a new youth-voice project called "**See Me. I Am. HEAR.**" This is a youth storytelling empowerment project that is a mix between TEDTalk and Oprah's Master Class. We will be training youth on how to write the WHY of their personal stories, connecting them with a professional speaking coach, videotaping parts of their life story, and teaching them how to create a money-making branding opportunity with their message, while creating space on community television for Black youth to change the narrative of what our young people's possibilities can be in the world - and the wisdom they already have to inspire and empower others. We are excited about this and hope you have Black youth who see this as a moment to shine.

We also are helping Black students interested in attending an HBCU with an opportunity to get access to scholarships, through a friend of mine at Salesforce who helped start HBCUforce, a nonprofit organization that partners with Historically Black Colleges and Universities to implement programs for Black students to pursue cloud computing careers. *Let me know if any of your students are interested in learning more.*

Lastly, we are partnering with Bodecker Foundation to encourage youth to sign up for FREE online workshops for Portland-area high school students. Led by professional artists, writers, musicians, designers and educators, the multidisciplinary creative workshops meet via Zoom on weekdays from 4-5:30 pm. Workshops include a mix of online group activities and offline individual and/or collaborative project work. **Winter Term begins February 1, 2021.** Online registration is now open. Class size is generally limited to 12 students. So, MAKE SURE you tell your youth to mention I Am MORE on the registration form so they get priority signup on the classes. Register at <http://www.bodeckerfound.org/workshop>

For more information on accessing any of our programs, please reach out at IAmMOREresilient@gmail.com. We are also open to having more community-based partnerships listed on the opening page of our Spreading Black Joy website.

Love to hear from you! Thank you for your support!

Keep raising hope,
Ms. Renee Mitchell

Rose Festival Information Session

If you need more information or have questions, please email Miss Melissa at mbrabham@pps.net

Topic: Rose Festival Court Info Session - Join the Court!

- * Thursday, January 28, 6:30pm
- * Saturday, January 30, 1pm
- * Tuesday, February 2, 6:30pm

Parent/Student Court Program Overview - Q&A about judging, and the benefits of the program

- * Tuesday, February 9, 7pm
- * Thursday, February 18, 7pm
- * Saturday, February 20, 1pm

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84089401010?pwd=VTJhL1VoUGxubzEwYlZNTkhFZEZsZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 8940 1010

Passcode: 186284

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,84089401010#,,,,*186284# US (Houston)

Melissa Brabham

VP Secretary

Benson Tech Rose Festival Coordinator

A Message from our College Counselor/AVID Coordinator Kathleen Reid

College Counselor and AVID Coordinator, Kathleen Reid, can be reached at kreid@pps.net or 971-238-8322. You can also visit our college webpage for detailed information about college planning: [Benson College Webpage](#)

AVID:

AVID is an elective option for next year's sophomores and juniors. AVID is for motivated students who are underrepresented at 4-year universities and want support to achieve their dream of going to college. Students stay with AVID for three years, and it helps prepare them for challenging high school courses such as honors, dual credit and Advanced Placement, which open doors to college. Students benefit from field trips to colleges, learning study skills, and college research. During junior and senior year, students prepare college, scholarship, and financial aid applications with the support of the AVID teacher. AVID is a supportive environment with a family vibe.

See the Benson AVID video [HERE](#)

Current freshmen and sophomores interested in being in AVID next year, please complete an application [HERE](#)

College Applications:

For information on completing college applications, please refer to our [College Website](#) and the [Applying to College](#).

PCC:

If you are interested in attending Portland Community College after graduation, there will be an upcoming PCC Preview Day on February 17th from 10:30 am - Noon. Sign up below.

Links here:

Preview Day Registration: [Preview Day Registration](#)

Apply to PCC: pcc.edu/admissions

PCC interest form: [PCC Interest form](#)

Seniors applying to PCC, don't forget to apply for the [Oregon Promise](#) scholarship and [Future Connect](#) is a really great scholarship/mentoring program at PCC too.

A Message from our College Counselor/AVID Coordinator Kathleen Reid

FINANCIAL AID:

· If you will be applying to colleges (4-year colleges or community colleges), complete the [FAFSA](#) financial aid application or [ORSAA](#) (non-US citizen students) so that you can receive financial aid if you qualify. Be sure **all** your schools are listed. You will not receive financial aid from a school that is not listed on your FAFSA/ORSAA.

DISTRICT FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT:

The District will be holding FAFSA Completion Nights on **February 24th**. There will be one-on-one help available in breakout rooms. Please sign up [Here](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Find a more extensive list of scholarships on the Benson College Website on the [Scholarship tab](#).

January 29 Priority, March 1 Final [Portland State U Diversity Support Program](#)

January 31 [HMC Latino Scholarship](#) (Hispanic ancestry, permanently residing in Oregon or Clark County, Washington) See above for signing up for an info session on 1/19 or 1/21

February 1 [Portland State University Scholarship Application](#) (PSU scholarships which require application)

February 1 [OSU Scholar Dollars](#) (Oregon State University scholarships which require application)

February 1 [Al Forthan Memorial Scholarship](#) (Student has been affected by addiction or family member's addiction)

February 1 [Renaissance Scholarship](#) (1st in family to attend college, and no siblings have or are attending)

February 18 [Amazon Future Engineer](#) (For Computer Science majors)

March 1 [The Multnomah Athletic Club Loprinzi Scholarship](#) (must be good student, participate in community service, athlete & have financial need)

March 1 [Portland Scholarship Fund](#) (Black/African American students)

March 1 [OSAC](#) (Application to many scholarships for Oregon residents)

March 1 [Ford Family Scholarship](#) (Must be Pell Grant Eligible. Must attend college in Oregon)

March 8 [Links Scholarship](#) (Black/African American students)

March 12 [Greenfield Peace Scholarship](#) (This year's scholarship is for students who identify as BIPOC - Black, Indigenous, People of Color)

March 31 [Hearthstone Housing Scholarship](#) (Must live in Multnomah County and be from a low-income household)

June 1 [Oregon Promise](#) (Free tuition at any Oregon Community College. Must have a 2.5 GPA)

Messages from Benson's Youth Career/Transition Coordinator Kia Swain

iUrban Teen, a non-profit STEM + Arts program for under-represented youth, is offering Free online FAFSA Labs for Students and Parents. Please check out www.mindstream.online

* **Tuesday, Jan 26, 5:00-6:00 pm FAFSA Lab for Students**

Mindstream also offers a host of engaging content and programming for students, all free due to generous sponsors such as Microsoft, Boeing, Bonneville Power, Multnomah Co, T-Mobile, ATT, Nike & many others.

Plug into Portland program, are providing **free** desktop computers to K-12 students who meet their eligibility requirements. Plug into Portland are also prioritizing **houseless students, students with accessibility needs, and low-income students**. Here is the application to fill out in order to **apply for a computer**: [Plug into Portland application](#).

An adult and/or not a K-12 student and they're in need of a computer, we might be able to grant them a desktop computer through our Adoption program. Previously individuals (16 and older) could volunteer at Free Geek for 24 hours and earn a computer, but since COVID-19, Free Geek has been closed for volunteering so instead we've changed our **eligibility criteria to prioritize low-income individuals, houseless individuals, and individuals with accessibility needs**. Fill out our [Gift a Geek Box application](#) in order to **apply for a computer** through our adoption program.

Bear in mind that these programs are seeing wait times of up to eight weeks due to the high volume of applications.

Messages from Benson's Youth Career/Transition Coordinator Kia Swain

Social Service Fair Flyer

Please see the attached flyer for specific details regarding this event.

Future Skills Day with Intel- Saturday, February 6, 2021, 9am- 1pm

Below is the registration link.

FREE!

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/future-skills-day-with-intel-tickets-137541836335?ref=enivte001&invite=MjAyMDcyNTcva3N3YWluQHBwcy5uZXQvMA%3D%3D%0A&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=invitemodernv2&ref=enivte001&utm_term=attend

Open a new ABLEnow® account by January 31, 2021, have a balance of at least \$50 on February 28, 2021, and you'll receive a \$50 match to help jumpstart your savings. See [official terms and conditions \(pdf\)](#) for details.

ABLEnow accounts are available to eligible individuals in all 50 states. Remember, an [eligible individual](#) may only have one ABLE account at any time.

[Register for a free webinar](#) or reach out directly to Mrs. Kia Swain to schedule a one to one meeting with an Oregon ABLE representative to learn how ABLE accounts can be an essential tool for individuals with disabilities save money, without being taxed on the earnings — and in most cases, without losing eligibility for certain means-tested benefits (SSI).

Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship (Please See Attached Flyer)

This is a training opportunity open to High School Seniors. This program supports youth with varying disabilities and learning styles. Hands on learning and licensing will take place during the summer of 2012. If students are interested they can reach out directly to Mrs. Kia Swain (kswain@pps.net) to schedule a meet or greet with the program coordinator for further questions.

A Message from Benson's Youth Career/Transition Coordinator Kia Swain

PPS students, we want to know what you think...

What does race have to do with the design of place and space?

What could racial equity and social justice look like if halls and walls could talk?

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

JOIN US FOR A CRITICAL RACE SPATIAL DISCUSSION.

As part of the development of a [long range facilities plan](#), PPS is hosting a series of [critical race spatial dialogues](#) with students to learn about your experiences and perceptions of PPS space.

We have sessions dedicated to BIPOC students only and sessions that are open to all students. To participate in a dialogue session, please use one of the links below to register.

Event: BIPOC Student Groups

Please select the time that works best for you.

Time zone: Pacific Time - US & Canada [Change](#)

WED	THU	SAT	THU
Jan 20	Jan 21	Jan 23	Jan 28
4:00pm	4:00pm	1:00pm	4:00pm

Event: All Student Group

Please select the time that works best for you.

Time zone: Pacific Time - US & Canada [Change](#)

TUE	SAT
Jan 26	Jan 30
4:00pm	1:00pm

A Message from our Wellness Center Coordinator & Social Worker
Caroline Bleckmann

Hello, Benson Tech Community:

Here are some links for people to search for additional help and resources. Please contact me any time and I'll do whatever I can to help people navigate!

www.findhelp.org

www.oregonuniteus.com

as well as 211info.org

[Drivers' Licenses for All](#), regardless of immigration status

[Oregon Renter's Rights](#)

[Eviction Moratorium Information](#)

[Rental declaration document](#)

Sincerely,

[Caroline Bleckmann, LCSW](#), She/her

School Social worker, Benson Polytechnic High School

[Benson Wellness Center](#)

Cell/Non-urgent texting: 503-729-3486

Monday-Friday, 8-4:00

[How can the School Social Worker help me?](#)

Outside of office hours, if you or your loved one is experiencing a mental health crisis, please call the Multnomah County Crisis line at 503-988-4888.

A Message from our Career Coordinator Miranda Ryan

Bank of America Student Leader Program- Summer 2021

8-week paid internship + All-Expense Paid trip to Washington DC*

The 2021 Bank of America Student Leaders applications are open for community-minded juniors and seniors until 1/29/21! This is a fabulous paid internship opportunity with an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC.

Apply here: www.bankofamerica.com/studentleaders

Saturday Academy's ASE Program offers 9-11th grade students the opportunity to work with scientists and engineers for eight-weeks, full time during the summer

Spend Your Summer with ASE:

- Learn about scientific & engineering careers
- Enhance your college application
- Gain hands-on, professional experience
- Meet other students who love science & engineering
- Receive a \$1,000 stipend

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 5TH!

Contact ASE for more information: Call 503.200.5861 Email ase@saturdayacademy.org

How do I apply?

To apply, add internships to your locker at www.saturdayacademy.org/internships - from here you can start your application and create an ASE internship account. This allows you to save your progress.

A Message from our Career Coordinator Miranda Ryan

Professional Skills Development Workshop Series Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/EZU4xHB5c1x6FuaY8>

2/4/21 How to land a Job 1:00-2:30

Learn about how to search, apply and prepare for a job. These tips and tricks will help you safely look for a position.

2/11/21 LinkedIn/ Build your Brand 1:00-2:30

This workshop is all about building an online brand and presenting yourself in a professional manner. Your online brand will help to build a network of professional connections

3/4/21 Resume Building 1:00-2:30

Get the latest information on how to effectively write and format job search documents, such as what information to include, how to create a targeted resume, and to illustrate how your qualifications "fit" with a position.

3/18/21 Interview Tips 1:00-2:30

Come learn the basics of interviewing and strategies to develop and improve your interview skills. We will discuss how to prepare for an interview, what employers expect, and how to handle the most common interview questions.

April 2021 Mock Interviews 1:00-3:00

Practice your interview skills with a professional. Get valuable advice to improve your chances of getting the job. Interview slots are limited. Interview times will occur between 1:00 and 3:00. Please register for a time as soon as possible.

Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/2021interviews>

A Message from the BHS Attendance Office

We encourage students to attend on a regular basis. Studies show that missing more than one day per month can actually lead to poorer grades and contributes to dropping out of school.

Naturally, we understand that there are occasions that a student must miss a school day. When this happens it is important for you to contact the school to let us know the reason for the absence. Please remember to communicate directly with the attendance office if your student will be absent for any period of time during the school day. The best ways to let us know are, in order of school preference:

Send an email to the attendance office at benson-attendance@pps.net

Call the attendance line directly at 503-916-5109

Call the school main office number at 503-916-5100 - Select option 3

Send a note via your student excusing the absence

Always remember, we need the STUDENT NAME, ID# (if known) and REASON FOR THE ABSENCE. (Saying it is an excused absence does not give us the reason, please be specific) The Attendance Office will check messages and emails at 7:30am and throughout the school day.. The attendance phone line is continuously busy throughout the school day. An email provides a written message directly to the attendance office. The attendance office can excuse previous absences up to three days after the absence occurs. After the three days, corrections cannot be made.

You can monitor your child's attendance through ParentVUE. Contact the school if you do not know how to access ParentVUE.

Please continue on the next page.....

A Message from the BHS Attendance Office

If you do not communicate with the school, we cannot properly record your child's absence. If you have any questions regarding your child's attendance do not hesitate to email or call the attendance office. Please help us, help your student have a successful year here at Benson Tech.

With the advent of distance learning, there are some questions that have arisen. I am finding that the majority of questions regarding attendance are addressing asynchronous classes. The following is an explanation of how this and other attendance calls could be avoided.

Asynchronous days are not live sessions with the instructor. There are various ways your student can contact the teacher for attendance purposes.

They log on and just check in with the teacher.

They contact the teacher by emailing if they have any questions or need assistance with the assignment.

They complete the posted assignment and turn it in. The assignment cannot be turned in late to count toward attendance. While they may receive credit for turning it in late they would still be counted as absent if they don't contact the teacher in another way.

Their parent may email the attendance email at benson-attendance@pps.net to leave a valid reason for the absence (illness, appointment, etc.)

If you get a call saying your student has missed a period, I would correspond with the classroom teacher directly. I will always need authorization from the classroom teacher to correct an absence. By contacting the teacher directly, they can send me an email for a quick correction. This is also important because the State of Oregon mandates that I may not make corrections to attendance more than three school days prior to the current school date.

Norma L. Lawson

School/Attendance Secretary

Benson Polytechnic High School