



BENZIE CENTRAL
SCHOOLS

BENZIE CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
Educating Every Corner Of Our Community
2016-2017

*Benzie County Central Schools
Benzie Middle School
9300 Homestead Road
Benzonia, MI 49616
Phone 231-882-4498 Fax 231-882-7627*

November 21, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for the Benzie Central Middle School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact David Clasen, MS Principal for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.benzieschools.net, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

Students educated at Benzie Central Middle School (BCMS) are improving at or above state levels in core curricular areas. The State of Michigan has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. Our school has been identified as a Focus School.

In the past we have looked at both our MEAP (M-STEP) and NWEA data in the areas of Reading and Math. These are the subject areas where we identified the greatest struggle for incoming students. While we are pleased to have made continuous improvement in all core subject areas we continue to refine our teaching practices and instructional delivery for students based on the prior educational experience. Our staff is dedicated to improving their skills and growing as professionals so current and future students that require remediation and differentiate learning have demonstrated growth or development based on skills entering BCMS. In the school year 2013-2014 BCMS became a focus school. The identification is a cycle that occurs for 3 years and is the results of our school disparity between our top 30% and our bottom 30%. As a result our building has shifted our attention to our tier two interventions increasing the robust support that students need coming from the elementary. Michigan Department of Education in 2014-2015 school year, has shift the state assessment from MEAP to M-STEP which is testing in the spring which will give our staff a better picture of growth while in the middle school. This will help support the high academic level of education provided at Benzie Central Middle School (BCMS).

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Assigning Pupils Students who live within the designated school boundaries are able to attend Benzie Central Middle School. Additionally, parents may complete forms for In-District Schools of Choice if they reside within the Benzie Central Schools boundaries. For families who are not residents of Benzie Central Schools, they may apply for Out of District Schools of Choice. Please contact David Clasen, Principal for assistance.

School Improvement Benzie Central Middle School continues to implement its School Improvement Plan focusing on improving student performance in the areas of Reading, and Math. Professional development and strategy instruction is targeted to improve these areas. The state of Michigan requires each public school building to examine daily operations, procedures, educational practices, and habits that go along with teaching children. Specifically, schools are required to demonstrate a level of proficiency (based on a rating scale) in the major strands of Teaching for Learning, Leadership for Learning, Professional Learning Culture, and School, Family, and Community Relations. These strands represent the Michigan School Systems Review. BCMS staff provide input to assess this improvement framework. Effectiveness of program and practice, compiled data sources to document achievement, and action items for on-going improvement are looked at and discussed. Through this process rubric rating scores are derived. given the opportunity to complete an online survey of relative data.

BCMS Mission Statement:

We challenge all students to Excel, Academically, Artistically, Emotionally, Physically, and Socially in a Safe Supportive Environment.

Specialized Schools: Specialized Schools Benzie Central Middle School provides services to physically, emotionally or cognitively handicapped students locally when possible or through the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District when the student's condition precludes attendance at our school.

Core Curriculum: Curriculum is developed and implemented based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). For a copy of the core curriculum, go to the Benzie Central Schools website at www.benzieschools.net or request a copy from the Middle School office.

Standardized Assessment: Over the past four school years, students at Benzie Central Middle School have taken NWEA assessments. 7th grade scores in both Math and Reading, while at the national average, have increased from last year to our most recent proctoring. 8th grade scores remain above the national average across all years.

Parent Participation

Volunteers are always welcome and accepted as part of the fabric of Benzie Central Middle School. Our group of volunteers includes parents, senior citizens and high school students. Primarily our volunteers served as chaperones on field trips, support in the Advisory Class, working one-to-one or with small groups of students during the school day or after school hours. Every parent is invited to participate in Parent Teacher Conferences (PTC). These events occur once in the fall each school year. Appointments are available anytime however our PTC are located in the gym and are available to everyone. Our system uses years of research developing the most efficient time for parents and teachers to meet. Conferences are scheduled in the afternoon and evening hours so as to offer best opportunities for participation.

The 2016 - 17 school year saw ?% of our eighth (8th) grade parents and ?% of our seventh (7th) grade parents represented at the Fall Conferences. (2015-16 = 49% 8th and 61% = 7th). In addition to the fall conferences parents came to witness student activity and performance in large numbers for the Open House, winter and spring Band and Choir concerts/Festivals, as well as various BCMS sporting events (Football, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Wrestling and Track & Field). Parents also choose to lead children in some very useful school-based activities. Each year we have parents lead Odyssey of the Mind (OM) teams. These groups meet regularly from November through early March to work toward solving a problem team-style. These groups meet after school hours and on weekends.

~Benzie Central Middle School Annual Report Information~ 2015-2016

• ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- 37 students received CORE awards: A's in Math, Science, English and SS
- 58 7th gr./68 8th gr. students on the Honor Roll: 3.5 gpa and above
- 162 students invited to Academic Awards Night
- 454 awards given out.
- 7th grade Unit I Science- 93% student growth
- 7th grade Unit II Science- 99% student growth

• CLASSROOM ACHIEVEMENTS

Science

- 8th Grade students participated in Literacy for Curriculum Knowledge.
- Successful Crystal Lake Walkabout

Art

- 200 clay bowls for Empty Bowls program
- Art students design artwork for Benzie Bus competition
- Art students made chess sets, robots, and tic-tac-toe sets
- Mr. Bechler's Art students displayed their robots in the library and also participated in a Regional Art show and Spring Art show.
- Students have been able to proudly display their Art work in the hallway



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English

- English classes participated in Newspapers in Education all year.
- English classes engaged in research papers using the "quotation sandwich."
- 7th grade research papers were successful in learned content
- Aimsweb scores reflect growth in corrective reading and writing classes.

Social Studies/World Cultures

- PB&J Days in Advisory, made possible with student and teacher donations.
Mrs. Hahn's Advisory class worked in the recycling trailer and earned \$144.50 to put into their class fund for activities.

• **Choir**

- Top ratings at District and State level festivals
- Multiple community performances
- Rotary Revenue Performance
- Cherry Hut fundraiser-donated all food and facility
- Singing valentine grams
- St. Andrews Church Concert Series
- Crystal Mountain Home Health Care Performance
- Michigan Legacy Art Park
- Benzonia UCC-sing for Maples residents
- National Anthem at basketball games
- Basic Theater Art students performed for their classroom peers & parents

• **Middle School Library**

- Fall & Winter Book Fair at Parent Teacher Conferences

• **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 86% of Middle School students were eligible for the 1st semester Behavior Incentive trip to Great Wolf Lodge or Crystal Mountain.
- 80% of Middle School students were eligible for the 2nd semester Behavior Incentive trip to Michigan Adventure.
- Basic Theater Art performed for their classroom peers and parents.
- 12 students were selected to receive scholarships to NMC upon their graduation from high school. This is part of the Commitment Scholarship Program offered to us through NMC.
- 102 Students with Zero Tardies
- 3 Students received the Citizenship Award
- 2 Students received the Principal's Award
- 2 students received the Presidential Physical Fitness Award
- 34 Students received the National Physical Fitness Award
- 21 students took the ACT in the 7th and 8th grades.
- Successful integration of Arts/Science analysis of primary artifacts and documents in Social Studies.
- An unprecedented 9 students earned a perfect score on their Art History test.
- Students were able to paint artwork on the walls of hallway
- Athletic accolades- Paige Johnston broke the middle school long jump record for Track and Field events.

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- **CELEBRATIONS AND ASSEMBLIES**

- Middle School staff participated in a "Middle School scholarship" providing \$325.00 to a graduating senior.
- First Day of school "Red and White" celebration
- Husky Halftime to introduce new quarters
- Instructional spirit assembly for student section behavior at basketball games
- Vocabulary Word acquisition celebrations; earning tickets, prize drawings, and Husky Den gift certificates in the amount of \$5 and \$10
- Christmas, winter, and spring band and choir concerts
- Unit Carnival Games
- 53rd Edition of the Middle School yearbook
- BTA productions
- Century Resources Kickoff fundraiser-raised \$1659.26
- Celebration on the Arts that encompassed the Band and the Art programs to showcase each group's achievements.

- **CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

- 18 students along under the direction of Ms. Kalush participated in producing and selling the Middle School Yearbook- a great and profitable year.
- **DRAMA**- 60 students participated in Drama and put on two plays/comedies, *One in a Million* & *Murder at the Goon Show*
- **STUDENT COUNCIL**-20 dedicated students active in Student Council
 - Sucker sales
 - Christmas food drive-Over 60 gifts donated from community members and raffled off to students. "Raffle" ticket price was canned goods. All collected cans were donated to the BACN pantry in Benzonia. There were over 800 food items.
 - 3 parties: fall, spring, and end of year
 - Purchased an IPOD for middle school functions
- **INTERACT CLUB**- 36 Members in the Interact Club
 - Continued operation of Husky Den – selling Husky clothing and additional merchandise.
 - Concessions at home sporting events
 - St. Phillips Church to help with Christmas store
 - Visited BACN and donated their time in the food pantry and helped sort local mailings.
 - Donated funds to help with the Christmas Luncheon.
 - Trunk or Treat
 - Teacher appreciation Week lunches
 - Box Tops Coordinators
 - Financial Workshop with Chemical Bank
 - Adopt-A-Highway Permit Owners
 - Sponsoring a team in their 4th annual Benzie County Relay for Life 5k in August 2016.
 - Purchasing signs for main lobby and Husky Den

- **STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Mr. Bechler was accepted to several very prestigious art fairs throughout Michigan to demonstrate and exhibit his art work.
- Mrs. Clawson earned a 4.0 in ASL 101 and ASL 102 at NMC
- Mrs. Clawson earned Academic Award from NMC
- Both Mrs. Hahn & Mrs. Keber participated in the Northern Michigan Inquiry Project through Michigan State University; enhancing classroom lessons.



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• **STAFF CONFERENCES**

- Staff attending TBA ISD – Local Assessments
- Staff attended a leadership conference on August 24th at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City.

• **ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITHIN TECHNOLOGY**

- Used technology to achieve MLA guidelines for papers. Multiple presentations done with digital photography.
- NWEA Assessment using computer technology.
- Classroom Blog for ELA 7 ; a tool to stay connected and provide information/resources for students and parents; updated daily.
- Google Docs as communication tool

• **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN OUR SCHOOL**

- Choir Fundraisers included: Cherry Hut Fundraiser, Singing Valentine Grams.
- Choral Boosters
- Band Boosters
- Donations of art supplies and old paint to be used for classroom activities
- Empty Soup Bowls project in Art Class generated 250 bowls

Gridiron Club

- BC Athletes read to elementary students
- Promotes Literacy BC Sweet for March National Reading Month

BACN

- Partners with YAC-Supplies undergarments for all middle school students

Rotary

- Rotary career days with the 7th grade
- Rotary CHOICES program 8th grade
- Rotary sponsored the MSU/CMU trip for the 8th grade.
- Recycling trailer
- Rotary sponsored Choir program
- Rotary helps to maintain school store upgrades
- Chemical Bank Supports Interact Club

• **WAYS THE COMMUNITY HELPED OUR SCHOOL**

- Benzie Sunrise Rotary's continued partnership with Middle School and supports Interact Club
- Chemical Bank forms partnership with Interact Club and offers a 6-week financial workshop.
- The Cherry Hut restaurant donated food and space.
- Donations of art supplies and old paint to be used for classroom activities.

We invite you to learn more about Benzie Central Middle School by visiting our website <http://www.benzieschools.net>, Benzie Central Middle School Facebook or contacting the office at 231-882-4498.

Sincerely,

David A. Clasen, Ed.S.
Principal

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