

December 2025



Principal Message:

Dear Homestead Hills Families,

As we move into December, I want to take a moment to recognize the tremendous effort our students are putting into demonstrating their REPS each day (Responsibility, Empathy, Perseverance, and Self-Discipline). These guiding values show up in our classrooms, hallways, buses, and playgrounds, and it has been inspiring to watch our students grow in character as well as in academics.

There is certainly a sense of excitement building around the holiday season, and it brings a special energy to our school. Through all the anticipation and activity, our students continue to work hard, support one another, and contribute positively to our school community.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to our families. Your partnership, steady communication with teachers, and genuine support for our staff make a meaningful difference every single day. We are truly at our best when we work together, and I am grateful for the strong, positive connection between home and school.

I am incredibly proud of the togetherness that defines Homestead Hills. Our students show up every day ready to learn, our families stand beside us, and our staff care deeply about every child who walks through our doors. Thank you for helping make this a place where students not only learn, but thrive.

Wishing you a warm and joyful holiday season.

Steve Graetz, Principal

DECEMBER CALENDAR

12/4 Early Dismissal @ 11:50

12/8-11 Christmas Shoppe

12/10 PTO Meeting, 4:15 in Room 3

12/19 FULL Day of school

12/22-1/4 Holiday Break

SEE YOU ON JAN 5th!

Teachers will keep you informed of classroom dates and activities.



Winter Health & Safety Update

As we enter the winter months, health and safety become a top priority. Cold weather can trigger respiratory flare-ups especially in students with asthma—so please ensure emergency supplies are available. If you have any concerns about your student's health or need help managing a chronic illness at school, contact Nurse Gray.



Seasonal Illness Alert

Influenza season is upon us, and we are also continuing to see cases of Mononucleosis and Hand, Foot, and Mouth **Disease**, all of which are highly contagious viruses.

Help prevent the spread of germs:

Beyond the Bandla Wash hands frequently – our best defense! **Cover coughs and sneezes**, then wash hands afterward. Do not share water bottles or eating utensils.



When to Keep Students Home

A student should stay home if they have:

Fever 100.4°F or higher Uncontrollable cough Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea



When They Can Return

Symptom-free for **24 hours** (fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea) Without the use of medication



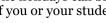
Mental Health Matters

The holidays can bring added stress and overwhelm. Make space for quiet moments and self-care. You matter. If you or your student needs support, contact:

Nurse Grav

School Counselors - Ms Pritchett (HS), Mrs Ruble (MS), Mrs Dodge (HHE) Mental Health Therapists - Kathryn Flannery or Sara Miller

They are here to help connect you with the resources you need.



HOLIDAY MUSIC PROGRAM:

Homestead Hills will have our Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 18, at 6:00 P.M. Participation is not mandatory but is encouraged. Families will arrive between 5:40-5:50 at the BCCS auditorium. If you arrive before 5:40 please wait in your car until the doors are unlocked at 5:40. Students will immediately find their class in the auditorium and sit with them. The concert will be approximately half an hour in length. Students are expected to wear a festive shirt (green, red, Christmas theme) and a nice pair of pants. Students are welcome to wear Santa hats.

Please email roppb@benzieschools.net if you have any

December Birthdays

12/1 Sage Rains

12/4 Orion Atkinson

12/5 Braelyn Schick

12/6 Cash Orman

12/8 Hunter Colon

12/12 Freya Beerens

12/15 Adrian Gray

12/17 Maysen Ballard 12/23 Adelaide Henry

12/24 Tristan Greening

12/26 Lumi Couturier

12/27 Clayton Poynor

12/29 Cooper Sauer

12/29 Jack Smith

THE BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS DISTRICT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, ORIGIN, SEX AGE, OR DISABILITY IN ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. THE FOLLOWING PERSON HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE INQUIRES REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES: MRS. AMIEE ERFOURTH, SUPERINTENDENT, 9300 HOME-STEAD RD., BENZONIA, MI 49616 - (231)882-9653

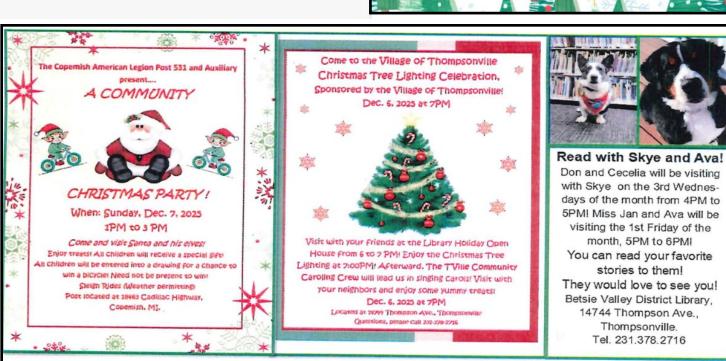




5p-7p Moonlight Madness (participating stores open late

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MORE INFORMATION AT CLCBA.ORG

for shopping, refreshments, sales, and merriment)





HOMESTEAD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026

December 5 Half Day Students/Staff PD. Student Dismissal @ 11:50am

December 8-11 Christmas Shoppe

December 10 PTO Meeting in Mrs. Dameron's Room 3 @ 4:15

December 22-Jan 4 No School Holiday Break

January 5 School Resumes
January 12 Surprise Fundraiser

January 14 PTO Meeting in Mrs. Dameron's Room 3 @ 4:15

January 16 Half Day for Students/Records Day Staff. End of Semester 1, Dismissal @ 11:50 am

January 19 No School

January 29 Movie Night at the Garden Theater

January 30 Half Day for Students/ PD day for Staff. Student Dismissal @ 11:50am

February 11 PTO Meeting in Mrs. Dameron's Room 3 @ 4:15

February 13 Half Day for Students/ PD day for Staff. Student Dismissal @ 11:50am

February 13 Boys Night
February 16 No School
February 27 Preschool Prom

March 11 PTO Meeting in Mrs. Dameron's Room 3 @ 4:15

March 16-20 Reading Month Spirit Week
March 27 End of Third Marking Period

March 27 Half Day for Students and Teachers. Student Dismissal @ 11:50am

March 28-April 6 Spring Break

April 7 School Resumes

April 8 PTO Meeting in Mrs. Dameron's Room 3 @ 4:15

April 24 Half Day for Students/ PD day for Staff. Student Dismissal @ 11:50am

April 24 Girls Night

May 4-8 Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser/Teacher Olympics

May 4-8 Spring Book Fair "tentatively

May 11-15 Teacher Appreciation Week (Volunteers needed to provide meals for staff)

May 22 Half Day for Students/ Full Day Teachers

May 25 No School- Memorial Day May TBD Fifth Grade Camp

June 9 Field Day **tentatively

June 10*** Last Day of School- Half Day for Students. Dismissal @11:50 am

^{***}Last day, tentative as weather/acts of God may extend the school year. Calendar is subject to change.***
All BLUE events are PTO sponsored events. Please direct questions to huskyhelperspto@gmail.com