



BENZIE CENTRAL

SCHOOLS

2026-2027

Elementary Course Catalog

Betsie Valley Elementary, Homestead Hills Elementary, Lake Ann Elementary

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

- **Math-**In grades K-5, the published curriculum is “Math Expressions.” The early grades emphasize understanding the base-ten place value system, number and operations, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students explore a variety of problem types in order to build the flexibility and independence necessary to negotiate the more complex mathematical situations they will encounter in middle and high school. During math lessons, students engage in “Math Talk,” discussing solutions and strategies with peers in order to explain and justify their thinking. Elementary classrooms also utilize student leaders and a helping community in order to build autonomy and confidence. These structures enable students to learn mathematics with understanding, fluency, and confidence.
- **English Language Arts** -The elementary language arts curriculum follows a balanced literacy approach with time spent on several components of reading and writing. These include: reading aloud, shared reading, close reading, guided reading, independent reading, writing ‘mini-lessons,’ writing and conferencing, and sharing. Reading standards provide grade level benchmarks on attitude, meaning construction, independent reading, book knowledge, word study and fluency. Writing standards are interrelated and address attitude, writing process, traits and genre
- **Science-** The elementary science curriculum is an inquiry-based science curriculum. There are activities and/or experiments for life science, physical science and earth science in all grades, kindergarten through fifth grade.
- **Social Studies-** The elementary social studies is the integrated study of the social sciences to prepare young people to become responsible citizens. The purpose of social studies is to develop social understanding and civic efficacy. The social studies curriculum builds four capacities in young people: disciplinary knowledge, thinking skills, commitment to democratic values, and citizen participation.
- **Physical Education-**The K-5 elementary curriculum incorporates thirty-five objectives in the areas of locomotor skills, object control skills, fitness, cognitive concepts, and personal/social skills. Each objective is broken down further into grade-appropriate benchmarks. These benchmarks help us assess the expected levels of achievement as identified by the Michigan Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum. The elementary curriculum is based on a program that provides kindergarten through 2nd grade

students three, thirty-minute sessions and 3rd through 5th grade students two, thirty-minute sessions per week.

- **Art**
- **Music**

Kindergarten

- **Math-** In Kindergarten, instructional time focuses on two critical areas: (1) representing, relating, and operating on whole numbers, initially with sets of objects; (2) describing shapes and space. More learning time in Kindergarten should be devoted to number than to other topics.
- **English Language Arts** – In Kindergarten, instructional time focuses on print concepts, phonological Awareness, Phonics and Word Recognition, Fluency.
- **Science-** Forces and Interactions: Pushes and Pulls, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment, Weather and Climate, Engineering Design.
- **Social Studies** - In Kindergarten, instructional time focuses on social studies disciplines (history, geography, civics and government, and economics) through the lens of “Myself and Others.”
- **Physical Education-**
- **Art**
- **Music**

1st Grade

- **Math-** In Grade 1, instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of addition, subtraction, and strategies for addition and subtraction within 20; (2) developing understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones; (3) developing understanding of linear measurement and measuring lengths as iterating length units; and (4) reasoning about attributes of, and composing and decomposing geometric shapes.
- **English Language Arts- In Grade 1, instructional time focuses on**
- **Writing**
- **Science-** Waves: Light and Sound, Structure, Function, and Information Processing, Space Systems: Patterns and Cycles, Engineering Design.
- **Social Studies-** In Grade 1, instructional time focuses on exploring the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, and economics through an integrated approach using the context of school and families. This is the students’ first introduction to social institutions
- **Reading**
- **Physical Education**
- **Art**
- **Music**

2nd Grade

- **Math-** In Grade 2, instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) extending understanding of base-ten notation; (2) building fluency with addition and subtraction; (3) using standard units of measure; and (4) describing and analyzing shapes.
- **English Language Arts**
- **Writing**
- **Science-** Structure and Properties of Matter, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, Earth’s Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth, Engineering Design.
- **Social Studies** – In Grade 2, instructional time focuses on the integrative approach to social studies through the context of the local community. Students are introduced to a social environment larger than their immediate surroundings.
- **Reading**
- *Physical Education*
- *Art*
- *Music*

3rd Grade

- **Math-** In Grade 3, instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of multiplication and division and strategies for multiplication and division within 100; (2) developing understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions (fractions with numerator 1); (3) developing understanding of the structure of rectangular arrays and of area; and (4) describing and analyzing two-dimensional shapes.
- **English Language Arts**
- **Writing**
- **Science-** Forces and Interactions, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits, Weather and Climate, Engineering Design.
- **Social Studies** – In grade 3, instructional time focuses on exploring the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, and economics through the context of Michigan studies.
- **Reading**
- *Physical Education*
- *Art*
- *Music*

4th Grade

- **Math-** In Grade 4, instructional time focuses on three critical areas: (1) developing understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends; (2) developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers; (3) understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry.
- **English Language Arts**
- **Writing**
- **Science-** Energy, Waves: Waves and Information, Structure, Function, and Information Processing, Earth’s Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth, Engineering Design.

- **Social Studies-** In Grade 4, instructional time focuses on the context of the state of Michigan post statehood and the United States, 4th grade students learn significant social studies concepts within an increasingly complex social environment. They examine fundamental concepts in geography, civics and government, and economics organized by topic, region, or issue.
- **Reading**
- ***Physical Education***
- ***Art***
- ***Music***

5th Grade

- **Math-** In Grade 5, instructional time focuses on three critical areas: (1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); (2) extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) developing understanding of volume.
- **English Language Arts**
- **Writing**
- **Science-** Structure and Properties of Matter, Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, Earth’s Systems, Space Systems: Stars and the Solar System, Engineering Design.
- **Social Studies-** In Grade 5, instructional time focuses on Building upon the geography, civics and government, and economics concepts of the United States mastered in 4th grade and historical inquiry from earlier grades, the 5th grade expectations begin a more discipline-centered approach concentrating on the early history of the United States. Students begin their study of American history with Indigenous Peoples before the arrival of European explorers and conclude with the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791. Although the content expectations are organized by historical era, they build upon students’ understanding of the other social studies disciplines from earlier grades and require students to apply these concepts within the context of American history.
- **Reading**
- ***Physical Education***
- ***Art***
- ***Music***

CORE NON-CORE

CURRICULUM

WHAT IS TAUGHT AT THE BENZIE CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IS IMPORTANT AND IS CONTINUALLY MODIFIED. THE TEACHERS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT MEET REGULARLY TO UPDATE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION OFFERED TO YOUR CHILD(REN). OUR K – 12 CURRICULUM IS ALIGNED WITH THE ADOPTED STATE STANDARDS OF MICHIGAN. BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS UTILIZES THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ACADEMIC STANDARDS TO OUTLINE THE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS FOR OUR STUDENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MICHIGAN ACADEMIC STANDARDS, PLEASE DIRECT YOURSELF [HERE](#)