

BENZIE CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL



COURSE CATALOG 2026-2027

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR BENZIE CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

MISSION

The mission of Benzie Central is to provide a high-quality education in a safe and inclusive environment that empowers every learner to reach their fullest potential.

VISION

Benzie Inspires Greatness
Connects Community
Cultivates Learning
Shapes Tomorrow

BELIEFS

Beliefs About Students

- We believe that each child can thrive in a positive, safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment that nurtures their growth and curiosity.
- We believe each student has the right to learn, achieve their personal greatness, and become responsible citizens.

Beliefs About Staff

- We believe our staff area dedicated professionals who build strong relationships through effective communication, collaboration, and care.
- We believe that our commitment to collective responsibility fosters a culture where everyone feels valued, supported, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Beliefs About Community

- We believe effective communication and collaboration with families and the community build trust and strengthen our schools.
We believe a strong Benzie Central School Community supports student success thro

Guiding Principles

We believe Benzie Central Middle School is a learning organization, built upon PRIDE, and to this end:

P Perseverance (do hard things)

R Responsibility for words and actions (use good manners and model safety)

I Integrity (act with honor)

D Dependability (prepared and controlled)

E Empathy (take care of yourself and others)

Middle School Plan

BCMS 2026-2027 Courses

6th Grade Required:	7th Grade Required:	8th Grade Required:
English 6	English 7	English 8
Math 6	☐ Math 7 ☐ Accelerated Math 7 (must have teacher permission)	☐ Math 8 ☐ *Algebra 1 (<i>must have teacher permission</i>)
Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8
<i>Enrichment Rotation:</i> (careers and society, math for life, intro to art, & intro music in motion)	<i>Enrichment Rotation:</i> (culinary arts, Health, Particular Topics in Biology, Intro to Robotics)	*Digital Literacy
MS Seminar	MS Seminar	MS Seminar
Physical Education elective (can be replaced with Literacy Lab class)		8th Grade Electives: Choose two
6th Grade Electives: Choose two	7th Grade Electives: Choose two	☐ *Spanish 1: <i>must have teacher permission</i>
☐ Physical Education	☐ Physical Education	☐ Physical Education
☐ Band 1	☐ Visual and Performing Arts (<i>can only take once</i>)	☐ Visual and Performing Arts (<i>can only take once</i>)
☐ Visual and Performing Arts (<i>can only take once</i>)	☐ MS Band II	☐ MS Band II
	☐ MS Choir	☐ MS Choir
	☐ MS Art	☐ MS Art
☐ Publications (Accelerated ELA Enrichment): <i>must have teacher permission</i>	☐ Publications (Accelerated ELA Enrichment): <i>must have teacher permission</i>	☐ Publications (Accelerated ELA Enrichment): <i>must have teacher permission</i>
☐ Literacy Lab (Decoding Intervention): <i>must</i>	☐ Literacy Lab (Decoding Intervention): <i>must have teacher</i>	☐ Literacy Lab (Decoding Intervention): <i>must have teacher</i>

<i>have teacher permission</i>	<i>permission</i>	<i>permission</i>
☐ Math Lab (supplemental math intervention): <i>must have teacher permission</i>	☐ Math Lab (supplemental math intervention): <i>must have teacher permission</i>	☐ Math Lab (supplemental math intervention): <i>must have teacher permission</i>
	☐ Body Mechanics 1: <i>must have teacher permission</i>	☐ Body Mechanics 1: <i>must have teacher permission</i>
	☐ Future Tech Robotics: <i>must have teacher permission</i>	☐ Future Tech Robotics: <i>must have teacher permission</i>
<i>*Indicates a course that is a high school credit-bearing class. These classes may take place with high school students.</i>		

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ENGLISH

Academic Support English

Full Year (Tier III-IEP placement GL specifics)

This course is designed to meet the needs of students' goals as determined by their individualized education program and will integrate with the common core standards of grade-level programs. Work will be done with a special education teacher in a room with fewer students to give as much individual attention as possible while striving to align to each grade level's curriculum and essential elements.

English 6: Savvas myPerspectives Grade 6

Full Year

This course develops three main skill areas of language arts: reading, writing, and grammar. The class examines a variety of genres including short stories, novels, drama, and poetry. Students learn higher-level reading skills focused on the understanding theme, interpreting meaning, and identifying the author's craft. Writing skills focus on organizing ideas and crafting language purposefully. Grammar usage and mechanics are studied throughout the year and are reinforced in subsequent writing assignments. In all areas of study, active and independent learning, and logical and critical thinking are promoted.

English 7: Savvas myPerspectives Grade 7

Full Year

A major focus of this class is on writing effectively for different audiences. Students will develop their independent reading skills by participating in student-centered book clubs. They will explore different genres of literature, including informational text, and participate in multiple whole-class novel studies. Students will develop their oral and auditory communication skills and deepen their understanding of grammar and parts of speech.

English 8: Savvas myPerspectives Grade 8

Full Year

Areas of concentration will be grammar, ACT/SAT vocabulary, short stories/drama/poetry/myths, at least three novels of fiction, at least one novel of non-fiction, and informal essay/formal essay/research-based writing. Added emphasis will be placed on independent reading projects (three total projects that include reading at least four novels) and public speaking.

MATHEMATICS

Academic Support Math

Full Year (Tier III-IEP placement GL specific)

This course is designed to meet the needs of students' goals as determined by their individualized education program and will integrate with the common core standards of grade-level programs. Work will be done with a special education teacher in a room with fewer students to give as much individual attention as possible while striving to align to each grade level's curriculum and essential elements.

Math 6

Full Year

6th Grade Students in *CPM Core Connections 1* will work with data and find measures of central tendencies, they will also represent data in a multitude of ways. Students will also work with integers, fractions, decimals and percents and perform operations on them. Students will work with ratios and recognize them on tables and within data sets. Students will begin to manipulate algebraic expressions, solve distance rate and time problems and percent problems. Students will compute area, surface area and volume of regular solids.

Math Lab 6

9 Week Enrichment or Full Year (depending on student progress/need)

Math Lab 6 is a full-year elective designed for students who benefit from additional time and support in building foundational math skills. The course focuses on strengthening number sense, computation, and problem-solving while improving overall math fluency. Instruction is aligned with the Math 6 curriculum, with targeted practice and reteaching to help students better access grade-level content. This class is intended to build confidence and close skill gaps in a supportive, small-group environment. Enrollment is by teacher recommendation.

Math 7

Full Year

Math 7 -*CPM Core Connections, Course 2* is the second of a three-year sequence of courses designed to prepare students for a rigorous college preparatory high school mathematics course. On a daily basis, students in *Core Connections, Course 2* use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Under teacher guidance, students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. The lessons in the course meet all of the content standards and embed the “Mathematical Practices” of the Common Core State Standards released in June 2010.

Math Lab 7

9 Week Enrichment or Full Year (depending on student progress/need)

Math Lab 7 is a full-year elective that provides additional support for students working to strengthen core math skills and fluency. The course emphasizes key concepts from the Math 7 curriculum, offering guided practice, reteaching, and skill reinforcement to support success in the general education classroom. Students will focus on accuracy, efficiency, and problem-solving strategies to deepen understanding and improve performance. This class is designed to build confidence and independence in math. Enrollment is by teacher recommendation.

Accelerated Math 7

Full Year

Honors Math 7 - This is an accelerated class to prepare students for high school and Algebra I in the 8th grade. *CPM Core Connections, Course 2 and 3*, combines year two and three of a three-year sequence of courses designed to prepare students for a rigorous college preparatory high school mathematics course. On a daily basis, students in *CPM Core Connections, Course 3* use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Under teacher guidance, students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. The lessons in the course meet all of the content standards and embed the “Mathematical Practices” of the Common Core State Standards released in June 2010. This class is very fast-paced, so students must have a strong understanding of 6th-grade math concepts, maintain a

B+ or better average, perform well on tests, be an independent learner, and have a written recommendation from their teacher. Excellent attendance and work ethic are a must.

Math 8

Full Year

CPM Core Connections, Course 3 is the third of a three-year sequence of courses designed to prepare students for a rigorous college preparatory high school mathematics course. On a daily basis, students will use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Under teacher guidance, students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. The lessons in the course meet all of the content standards and embed the “Mathematical Practices” of the Common Core State Standards released in June 2010.

Math Lab 8

Full Year

Math Lab 8 is a full-year elective designed for students who benefit from additional time and support in building foundational math skills. The course focuses on strengthening number sense, computation, and problem-solving while improving overall math fluency. Instruction is aligned with the Math 8 curriculum, with targeted practice and reteaching to help students better access grade-level content. This class is intended to build confidence and close skill gaps in a supportive, small-group environment. Enrollment is by teacher recommendation.

Algebra I

Recommended for Grade 8

Full Year

1 Credit

Algebra I is the study of linear, absolute value, quadratic and exponential functions, and inequalities. For each family of functions, there will be a study of graphs and equations as well as a connection between the different representations and their connection to real-world situations. The study of linear and exponential functions will also be connected to arithmetic and geometric sequences. The class also looks at systems of all types of these equations.

SCIENCE

Science 6

Full Year

This course is the study of Earth science. Students will be engaged in the analysis of data and examples of how the spheres (Biosphere, Geosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere) interact. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through observations, projects, writing, and labs.

Science 7

Full Year

This course is focused on Life Sciences; Ecology, Heredity, and Biology. Students will engage in NGSS cross-cutting concepts like patterns, cause and effect, systems, energy, and stability and change. Students will show their understanding by keeping a Science Notebook and participating in labs, assigned readings, raising Salmon in the Classroom, canoeing the Platte River, and other projects.

Science 8

Full Year

An integrated curriculum consisting of the study of matter, energy, chemistry, motion, and forces, while making connections to the physical world. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through labs, observations, projects, and writing.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6

Full Year

The course is about the study of the world, with an emphasis on the geography and cultures of various regions and humanity. Students are also taught to identify regions and use mapping skills.

Social Studies 7

Full Year

Seventh-grade Social Studies is a full-year course that covers a range of topics related to world history and geography. Students will study ancient, classical, and medieval civilizations through close reading, slideshow-style mini lectures, note-taking, and activities. Elements of the course include geography, government, history, and economics.

Social Studies 8

Full Year

Eighth-grade Social Studies is a full-year course that spans the first part of U.S. history from the colonial era up through the American Civil War. Students explore the history of the United States through reading, lectures, projects, and activities. The study includes geography, government, history, and economics.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Middle School Art

Recommended for Grades: 7-8

Full Year

Art is a year-long course giving students a basic understanding of art history, the elements and principles of art, as well as giving students many opportunities to create many advanced art projects using a variety of mediums and techniques such as clay, sculpture, painting, drawing, paper mache, oil pastels and more.

Choir

Recommended for Grades: 6, 7 & 8

Full Year

Choir is designed for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to teach singing skills through individual and group practice of vocal warm-ups; techniques, music theory, and performance. These skills are reinforced on a daily basis throughout the school year. In performance classes, students learn most of the content and skills by experiencing them directly through the performance of the music (learn by doing).

Band I

Recommended Grade 6

Full Year

This course provides the opportunity for students to select and learn to play a brass (trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba), woodwind (flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon), or percussion instrument. Students will develop rehearsal skills, technical/rhythmic skills, proper tone/intonation, and learn to play together as a balanced ensemble. All students enrolled in the course are encouraged to rent or own an instrument (with the exception of large wind instruments). Students will be required to perform at three concerts throughout the school year.

Band II

Recommended Grade 7 & 8

Full Year

This course provides continuing instrumental musicians with additional opportunities, such as Solo and Ensemble Festival, and Middle School Honors Band. Students will participate in the MSBOA Band Festival, while continuing to develop rehearsal skills, technical/rhythmic skills, proper tone/intonation, and musical interpretation throughout the year. **Required performances include three school concerts throughout the year, in addition to the Band Festival.**

Visual and Performing Arts

Recommended for Grades: 6-8

Full Year

Visual and Performing Arts class is designed to teach students public speaking skills so that they can become more confident individuals. It is also designed to give students a basic idea of all the elements of theater. At the end of the year, we will put all the elements together for an end-of-the-year performance project. *This class can only be taken one time during the middle school years.*

Middle School Body Mechanics

Recommended Grade: 7-8

Full Year

This course is designed to give its participants the opportunity to learn fundamental training concepts and techniques used for obtaining and maintaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from anaerobic-based activities and an introduction to performance-based training. Students must have the physical education teacher's permission to enroll in this course.

Physical Education

Recommended Grade: 6-8

Full Year

A co-ed class where health and hygiene are emphasized by earning grades for dressing out and participating in daily exercises and sports activities to increase physical fitness.

***Spanish I**

Recommended Grade: 8

Full Year

Students will be introduced to the Spanish language and culture. In a variety of classroom activities, students will acquire vocabulary and grammar in order to speak Spanish. While the focus of the course will be on speaking, students will also learn to listen to, read, and write Spanish. Student success in the course is dependent upon the completion of daily homework, weekly vocabulary quizzes, tests, and projects. A strong understanding of English grammar is also stressed.

***Digital Literacy**

Recommended Grade: 8

Full Year

This course will build on necessary typing/keyboarding skills needed to use Web 2.0 tools and a variety of applications to produce quality projects which can be integrated into all subject areas throughout the high school experience. EDP's (Educational Development Plans) will continue to be developed using XELLO (digital). Learning how to use the Internet and online databases for the purpose of academic research. Students will learn how to use Google Suite software effectively to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. Emphasis on creating a digital portfolio, on-line learning experiences, and career exploration will be included in this year-long course.

Future Tech Robotics

Recommended Grade: 7 & 8

Full Year

This year-long Robotics course builds on the foundational skills introduced in the 7th grade *Intro to Robotics* rotation. Using the VEX Robotics platform, students will work in small teams to design, build, and program their own robots to solve increasingly complex challenges. Through hands-on projects and competitions, students will deepen their understanding of mechanical engineering, computer programming, and the engineering design process. Along the way, they will also explore the history and real-world applications of robotics across industries. Collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity are at the heart of this course as students take their robotics skills to the next level.

Publications

Recommended Grade: 7-8

Full Year

In this hands-on course, students create school publications such as a yearbook or newsletter. They learn the basics of journalism, including writing, interviewing, photography, and design. Students work as a team to plan content, meet deadlines, and produce engaging materials that reflect the school community while building skills in creativity, communication, and responsibility. This is the applied, accelerated extension of English 6, English 7, and English 8.

ENRICHMENT COURSES | 9 weeks

Sixth and Seventh Grades

Intro to Art

Grades: 6

9-week enrichment

Welcome to the Art Room! It is our goal to show 6th Grade students as many cool projects as possible in this 9-week Art Class. We will be doing several drawing projects, some design projects, a couple of clay projects, and even doing some painting projects.

Math for Life

Grades: 6

9-week enrichment

Math for Life is a hands-on, real-world mathematics course designed to help students see the value and relevance of math in their everyday lives. Through engaging activities, projects, and practical applications, students will explore how math is used in areas such as personal finance, shopping, cooking, travel, sports, construction, technology, and decision-making. Students will apply mathematical concepts to authentic situations, strengthening their problem-solving abilities while building confidence and fluency with essential math skills. This course emphasizes the transfer and generalization of mathematics beyond the classroom, helping students connect what they learn in math class to real-life

experiences. By making math meaningful, accessible, and engaging, Math for Life aims to increase student interest in mathematics while developing skills that will support success in school, future careers, and daily life. As a 9-week elective rotation, the course provides a consistent and enriching experience that can be repeated throughout the school year for all students.

Intro to Careers & Society

Grade 6

9-week enrichment

This course allows students to explore various careers through self-assessments and technology. These help match student interests to potential opportunities after high school, including, but not limited to, trade programs, internships, and college. After exploring many options, students choose one career to research and create a presentation of their findings to share with the class. Students also work on their keyboarding skills each day.

Intro to Music in Motion

Grade 6

9-week enrichment

This class will serve to help students develop an appreciation for music in various aspects that affect their lives and others. Various topics will include: the meaning of music, the science of sound of music, instruments, genres, history, and music in film.

Particular Topics in Biology

Grades 7

9-week enrichment

This course provides students with hands-on opportunities to develop foundational scientific inquiry and experimental design skills. Students will learn how to create testable questions, identify independent and dependent variables, design and conduct experiments, collect and analyze data, and draw evidence-based conclusions. Through investigations and projects, students will strengthen their critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills while building a deeper understanding of the scientific process. In addition to science content, the course reinforces important mathematical skills as students organize data, create and interpret graphs, and analyze results. Designed as a 9-week exploratory rotation, the course offers a consistent and equitable learning experience for all students through a repeatable curriculum that can be delivered successfully throughout the school year.

Intro to Health/MI Model

Grade 7

9-week enrichment

This course explores the development of the individual from a physical, psychological, and emotional perspective. The content will include an overview of types of pathogens, how they spread, and preventive methods used to control the spread of communicable diseases. The discussion will center on the consequences of the use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs. Furthermore, a focus on effective, proven prevention strategies will be looked at with the developing adolescent in mind. Finally, an introduction to the study of mental health will examine what it is, how to effectively manage stress, and identify certain common disorders and their effects on self, family, and society.

Intro to Culinary Arts

Grades 7

9-week enrichment

This course is part of the 7th grade 9-week enrichment series which places an emphasis on nutrition and personal health. Throughout this engaging culinary class, students will learn the fundamental

techniques and principles of cooking and baking, as well as the importance of kitchen safety and sanitation.

Intro to Robotics

Grades 7

9-week enrichment

Introduction to robotics through the VEX platform enrichment class for 7th grade. Students will build and program their own robots in small groups to participate in a variety of challenges while learning about the engineering design process and the history of robotics.

Intensive Student Support Network

Seminar

Grades: 6-8

Full Year

Seminar is a daily course designed to support students' academic success, personal growth, and overall well-being through consistent adult guidance and mentorship. Every middle school student is assigned an advisor and meets with that advisor each day to build strong relationships that promote academic achievement, character development, and a positive school experience.

The course provides tiered levels of support based on individual student needs and abilities. Students have opportunities to work independently on personalized learning pathways while also receiving targeted instruction, coaching, and support from their advisor. Seminar focuses on developing essential skills for middle school success, including organization, time management, goal setting, and self-advocacy. Students may use this time to complete homework, make up missing assignments, receive academic support, engage in Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) activities, and work on individualized i-Ready learning pathways. Through a combination of academic and personal support, Seminar helps students build the skills, habits, and relationships necessary for success in school and beyond.

Literacy Lab

Grades: 6-8

Full Year

Literacy Lab is a full-year elective course designed to provide targeted reading intervention for students who would benefit from additional support in foundational literacy skills. Instruction is individualized to meet students at their current reading level and focuses on developing strong decoding, encoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

Students participate in research-based intervention programs that are aligned with the Science of Reading and designed to accelerate reading growth. Through explicit, systematic instruction and ongoing progress monitoring, students build the foundational skills necessary to become more confident, accurate, and independent readers. Literacy Lab provides a supportive learning environment where students receive personalized instruction, practice essential literacy skills, and develop the tools needed for success across all academic subjects.