



January 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2018-2019 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, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [www.benzieschools.net](http://www.benzieschools.net) , or you may review a copy in the main office.

Students educated at Benzie Central Middle School (BCMS) are improving at or above state levels in core curricular areas.

In the past we have looked at both our MEAP and NWEA data in the areas of Writing and Math. These are the subject areas where we identified the greatest struggle for incoming student. While we are pleased to have made continues 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. 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. Families with students who are not residents of Benzie Central Schools 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.

**Specialized Schools:** Benzie Central Middle School provides services to physically, emotionally or cognitively handicapped students locally, when possible, and through the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District (TBAISD) when the student's needs preclude attendance at BCMS.

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

**Standardized Assessment:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at BCMS participate in NWEA MAP assessments in both Math and Reading in Fall, Winter, and Spring and achievement summaries are available to families at Parent-Teacher conference in the Fall and upon request at any time throughout the school year.

**Parent Participation:** Approved parent volunteers are welcome and accepted as part of the fabric of Benzie Central Middle School. Our group of volunteers includes parents, senior citizens, extended family members, high school students, amongst others. Our volunteers primarily serve as chaperones on field trips, support in the Advisory classroom setting, and/or work 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. Conference meeting time windows are in the afternoon and evening hours so as to offer best opportunities for participation. The 2018-2019 school year saw 49% of our eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade parents and 61% of our seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) grade parents, and our 6th grade (6<sup>th</sup>) represented (50%) at the Fall Conferences. In addition to the fall conferences, familial attendance at student activities including band and choir concerts, festivals, performances, the Open House, 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 our Robotics teams. These groups meet regularly from November through early March to work toward building a robot used by students working cooperatively to compete in a challenge.



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 231-882-4497.

Sincerely,

David A. Clasen, Ed.S.  
Principal  
Benzie Central Middle School