



BENZIE CENTRAL
SCHOOLS

Benzie Central Elementary Course Catalog

Kindergarten

Language Arts

This Kindergarten Language Arts course will teach students to identify and write all letters, produce letter sounds and also frequently used phonograms. Students will also master weekly sight words and reading and comprehension strategies to grow as readers.

Math

Students will learn foundational math facts. They will learn to count to 20, how to compare sizes, ordinal numbers, putting items in order, what a number line is and its uses, basic measurements such as inches and feet, and how to tell time on digital and analog clocks. Students will have many opportunities to practice these new concepts. A special emphasis is for students to have fun with numbers. In the second half of the year students will work with comparing objects using the terms tall, longer, and shorter as well as comparing two objects using the terms lighter and heavier. They will continue their exploration of basic geometric shapes such as cones and spheres. They will work with the concept of first, middle, and last.

Science

In Kindergarten Science, students in this course will spend their time on 3 major modules. Earth Science where they learn about weather and climate. Life science where animals,

plants, and their environment will be the emphasis and last Physical science where they will discuss force exploring questions to determine cause and effect relationships.

Social Studies

This course introduces students to their place in the community and the responsibilities of being a member of society. Great figures of U.S. history such as Pocahontas, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are a focus of learning. Students will also learn about maps and begin formulating understanding of what maps are and their use.

First Grade

Language Arts

This First Grade Language Arts course will teach students to identify and write all letters, produce letter sounds and also frequently used phonograms. Students will also master weekly sight words and reading and comprehension strategies to grow as readers.

Math

Students will build fluency with basic math facts. They will learn to count to 100, basic addition and subtraction facts, and how to add double-digit numbers. Students will be introduced to such new concepts as word problems, Venn diagrams, and basic geometric concepts. During the second semester students will begin counting by twos, fives, and tens. They will learn both vertical addition and subtraction. Students are introduced to multiplication and division and the signs used in those operations. They will also study even and odd numbers. There is an emphasis on learning practical skills such as reading thermometers, looking at maps, and understanding the value of coins. Students will have multiple opportunities to practice new skills and knowledge.

Science

Students will make observations about light, sound, matter, plants, animals, and the sky to thoroughly think about problems and ask questions. Students will discover and explore patterns to understand the relationships between objects, animals, and the environment. Students will work individually and collaboratively to conduct scientific investigations.

Social Studies

Students will be introduced to concepts in economics and good citizenship. Students will be introduced to simple geographic models, such as maps, globes, and graphs, to identify cultural and environmental characteristics of places. They will learn about the many uses of maps. Teachers will also make use of read-aloud narratives to explain explorers and leaders.

Second Grade

Language Arts

Students will increase the complexity of foundational phonics, high-frequency words, sentence creation, and other daily activities. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are intertwined so that students learn them organically and with purpose. Students will read a variety of trade books, shorter texts, excerpts, articles, and leveled readers across genres to keep engagement high and to promote interested learners.

Math

Students will continue developing a strong number sense as well as mental math and problem-solving skills using research based methods. Students will also focus on three-digit numbers, addition and subtraction to 1000, data collection, money, time, and shapes. Engaging, project-based units promote critical-thinking skills and include activities such as designing a sneaker and organizing a fundraising event.

Science

Students in grade 2 will use project-based learning to observe and construct different science experiments. Students will be required to gather information, analyze data, and utilize different scientific tools. Students will use many different sources to gather and analyze findings.

Social Studies

Students study the early history of the United States. They will focus on geography and the cultures that inhabited it. They will focus on the Native Americans to the colonists. Students will also learn about U.S. government, and how the economy works.

Third Grade

Language Arts

Students will apply critical thinking skills in their reading and learn the skills to become independent readers and writers. In this course, students will complete the foundations of reading independently and take more ownership of their learning. Students will read multiple genres of both literary and informational texts and use these texts as models for their own writing. Teachers will emphasize the importance of close reading and how to use the strategy to make meaning from text.

Math

students will focus on developing understanding of multiplication and division and strategies for multiplication and division within 100 They will develop their understanding of fractions, learn about the structure of rectangular arrays, and analyze two-dimensional shapes.

Science

Students will learn about plant and animal reproduction, and life cycles. Teachers will utilize many different resources for students to gather information and will incorporate hands on activity when appropriate>

Social Studies

Students will study force and motion, cause and effect relationships, the life cycles of living organisms, and weather patterns.

Fourth Grade

Language Arts

Students will develop reading and writing skills with a growing focus on nonfiction and opinion writing. Emphasis will be put on nonfiction fiction texts. Students will increase their autonomy as readers and sharpen claims supported by evidence. Students will learn how to conduct research, integrate information, make connections across sources, and organize information.

Math

The focus in fourth grade math will be addition, subtraction, multiplication, division of whole numbers, fraction, data, graphing, measuring angles, and calculating perimeter and area of squares and rectangles. Teachers will take opportunities to explore these concepts in real world applicable situations to make math come alive.

Science

Students will focus on the transfer of energy, and the impact of weather on living things. students will explore and investigate to predict reasonable outcomes based on their observations

Social Studies

The emphasis in this course will be on the geography and history of early North America from the Age of Exploration and colonial America to the American Revolution, and westward expansion up until the Civil War. Students will explore and investigate to to deepen their thinking around these major concepts in our history.

Fifth Grade

Language Arts

Students will read both fiction and nonfiction texts, and are able to write opinion pieces with strong evidential support. Students should have a good understanding of how to navigate through a multitude of texts using previously taught concepts to develop comprehension.

Math

Students will focus on multiplying two-digit numbers, long division with and without remainders; manipulating fractions, and working with decimals. Students will also practice graphing on a coordinate plane and calculating the volume of solid figures.

Science

Students will gain a deeper understanding of the transformation of energy and its impact on the environment and living things. Students will learn about gravity, systems in space, matter cycles, and the impact humans have on the environment. Students will conduct scientific experiments on these topics.

Social Studies

Students will learn about the growth of the United States after the Civil War—through World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and into the modern era. Students will engage in historical thinking skills, dialogues, and activities.

Physical Education K-5

Physical Education involves the learning of skills, the acquisition of knowledge and the development of attitudes through movement. The goal of physical education is to develop physically educated individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity.

ART K-5

Elementary art has students apply skills and knowledge to perform and create in the arts. They will analyze, and evaluate works of art.

Music K-5

Students in elementary music will learn many skills in the elementary school music program. These skills include how to perform, listen, describe, sing, create, read and write music.