

Benzie County Central Schools

9300 Homestead Rd. | Benzonia, MI. 49616 | 231-882-9653

December 1, 2021

Dear Families -

Our thoughts and prayers are with the students, staff, and families in Oxford, Michigan today as their community faced a school shooting yesterday. Violence in school has been a National issue for the past few decades. I want you to know that safety and security is a priority at Benzie Central Schools. We take a number of proactive measures to ensure all students and staff are as safe as possible each day.

We require all students and staff to follow all security procedures at school at all times; use designated doors to enter the school, do not open doors for others, even for people you may know and do not prop open doors. We continue to conduct practice drills, in conjunction with our local law enforcement officers, to ensure everyone understands how to respond during a crisis.

In addition to practicing procedures, we also encourage students to do the following:

We need students to speak up and say something if they see a concern. Their voice is an important resource we use to foster school safety and know about potential situations.

Students can always report a concern to ANY school staff through a face-to-face meeting, email, or a phone call. Our adults are all here to support and we take all reports seriously.

Reports can be made confidentially through OK2SAY (text 652729 or call 8-555-OK2SAY). These reports do come to us and we investigate each one thoroughly.

Students should not make jokes (in person or online) about school violence. Making references to school shootings, mimicking, copycats, and such comments (in person or online) are not tolerated and will face potential disciplinary consequences.

We work closely with our local law enforcement both to ensure our campus is secure and when investigating any potential threats to our community.

We are all living in challenging times. Please know that we are here to support your students' academic, social, and emotional needs. If your child would like to speak to a counselor, please contact your child's school office so they can reach out to your child.

Sincerely

Amiee Erfourth

Superintendent