

# **BENZIE CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL**



## **COURSE CATALOG 2025-2026**

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR BENZIE CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Vision:** All learners achieve individual potential.

**District Mission Statement:** The mission of the Benzie County Central Schools community is to provide a safe learning environment that motivates all students to reach their highest potential by providing the necessary skills to become lifelong learners and leaders in a changing society.

**BCMS Mission Statement:** In partnership with our community, we believe the responsibility of Benzie Central Middle School is to provide a well-rounded curriculum in a safe, positive learning environment so that all students can become productive, functioning members of society.

### **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**      Respect (use good manners and model safety)
- I**      Integrity (act with honor)
- D**      Discipline (prepared and controlled)
- E**      Empathy (take care of yourself and others)

## Middle School Plan

### BCMS 2025-2026 Courses

6th Grade Required:	7th Grade Required:	8th Grade Required:
English 6	English 7 Accelerated English 7	English 8 Accelerated English 8
Math 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Math 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Accelerated Math 7 (must have teacher permission)	<input type="checkbox"/> Math 8 <input type="checkbox"/> *Algebra 1 (must have teacher permission)
Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8
<i>Enrichment Rotation:</i> intro to agriculture, intro to careers and society, intro to art, & intro to stem	<i>Enrichment Rotation:</i> (culinary arts, Health, Spanish, robotics)	*Digital Literacy
Seminar	Seminar	Seminar
Sixth-Grade Literacy	Seventh-Grade Literacy	<b>8th Grade Electives:</b> Choose two
<b>6th Grade Electives:</b> Choose one	<b>7th Grade Electives:</b> Choose one	<input type="checkbox"/> *Spanish 1 (must have teacher permission)
<input type="checkbox"/> Choir 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Band 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Theater Arts (can only take once)	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Theater Arts (can only take once)
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Theater Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> MS Band II	<input type="checkbox"/> MS Band II
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education	<input type="checkbox"/> MS Choir II	<input type="checkbox"/> MS Choir
	<input type="checkbox"/> MS Art	<input type="checkbox"/> MS Art
	<input type="checkbox"/> Body Mechanics 1: must have teacher permission	<input type="checkbox"/> Body Mechanics 1: must have teacher permission
*Indicates a course that is a high school credit-bearing class. These classes may take place with high school students.		

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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.

## **Accelerated English 7: Savvas myPerspectives Grade 7**

### **Full Year**

This is an advanced English 7 course. In this class, students will be expected to complete several independent novel studies in addition to their standard English 7 course work. Students will also complete a performance-driven unit on formal academic writing. The prerequisites for this class include teacher recommendation.

## **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.

## **Accelerated English 8: Savvas myPerspectives Grade 8**

### **Full Year**

Areas of concentration will be advanced grammar, extensive ACT/SAT vocabulary, short stories/drama/poetry/myths, at least five novels of fiction, at least two novels of non-fiction, various selections of classical literature, informal essay/formal essay/research-based writing. Added emphasis will be placed on independent reading projects (three total projects that include reading at least seven

novels), public speaking, and one community service assignment. Prerequisites include a place in the top 28 via one take-home exam, one in-class exam, M-STEP and /or NWEA test results (ELA portions), AIMS test results, and 7th-grade performance (all four marking periods).

# 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 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.

## 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.

## **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 I**

### **Recommended for Grades: 6**

### **Full Year**

Middle school choir is designed to teach beginning 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).

## **Choir II**

### **Recommended for Grades: 7 & 8**

### **Full Year**

Choir II is designed for 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**

### **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**

### **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. *BTA can only be taken one time during the middle school years.*

## **Middle School Body Mechanics**

### **Required 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**

### **Required 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**

### **Required 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**

### **Required 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.

### **Robotics**

**Required Grade: 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.

## **ENRICHMENT COURSES | 9 weeks**

### **Sixth and Seventh Grades**

#### **Intro to Art**

**Grades: 6**

**9 weeks**

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.

#### **Intro to Agriculture**

**Grades: 6**

**9 weeks**

This course is a 9-week introduction to careers in agriculture, food production and natural resources where students explore improving the quality and safety of food production, cultivating and preserving our natural resources, and caring for animals. The course takes a holistic approach to all three and explores how they interact to benefit each other

#### **Intro to Careers & Society**

**Grade 6**

**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 Visual and Performing Arts**

**Grade 6**

### **Enrichment**

This engaging exploratory course introduces sixth grade students to the fundamentals of visual and performing arts, with an emphasis on creative expression and confidence-building. Students will explore the art of performing in front of an audience through activities such as drama games, short skits, music, movement, and public speaking. They will also learn basic techniques for stage presence, vocal projection, and body language while gaining an appreciation for the creative process across multiple art forms. This course is perfect for students looking to discover their voice, build self-confidence, and express themselves in new and exciting ways.

### **Intro to Spanish**

#### **Grades 7**

#### **Enrichment**

This nine-week class provides students with an introduction to the fundamentals of pronunciation and grammar. Students will learn useful phrases and work to understand the reading, writing, and speaking of Spanish.

### **Intro to Health/MI Model**

#### **Grade 7**

#### **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**

#### **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**

#### **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**

This class supports academic success and is intended to provide consistent adult guidance at school. All middle school students will be assigned an Advisor and will meet with them each day. Seminar

builds relationships between teachers and students to promote academic achievement and character education.

**Academic Acceleration**

**Grades: 6-7**

**Full Year**

This class is designed to provide tiered supports for students. These supports are determined based on the ability of the student and allow for the student to work independently on their pathway, as well as receive personalized instruction with their teacher.