



***“Home of the Huskies”***

## **Benzie County Central Schools**

### **2009/2010 Annual Education Report (AER)**

August 1, 2010

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2009-2010 educational progress for the Benzie County Central Schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws; however, our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact Dave Micinski, Superintendent or any of our building principals for help if you need assistance.

The report contains the following information:

#### **Student Assessment Data– Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Exam (MME), and Michigan’s Alternative Assessment Program (MI-Access)**

- Presents achievement data for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 (MEAP), for grade 11 (MME) and science for grades 5 and 8 compared to targets for all students as well as subgroups of students
- Provides achievement data for English language arts, mathematics and science for students with significant disabilities (MI-Access) compared to targets for all students with disabilities as well as subgroups of students
- Helps readers understand achievement progress within schools and compare these to district and state achievement

#### **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Detail Data and Status**

Provides information from assessments, graduation and attendance rates and AYP status in relation to four criteria:

- The district must test 95% of students in total and in each required subgroup

- The district must attain achievement goals in English language arts and mathematics or reduce the percentage of students in the non-proficient category of achievement significantly ("safe harbor") annually
- The district must attain achievement goals for each subgroup that has at least 30 students in the group
- The district must meet or exceed the other academic indicators set by the state: graduation rate for high schools and attendance rate for elementary and middle schools

### **Teacher Quality Data**

- Identifies teacher qualifications at district and school levels
- Reports percentage of core academic classes taught by teachers not considered highly qualified to teach such classes

### **NAEP Data (National Assessment of Educational Progress)**

- Provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8
- Cannot be compared with MEAP results for grades 4 and 8 because there are no national standards.

For 2009-2010, the Benzie County Central Schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English language arts and mathematics. All schools in the district also made AYP. None of our schools were identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring.

## **Benzie County Central Schools Demographic**

Benzie County Central Schools is a consolidated K-12 district with a land area of 468 square miles, located in parts of four counties: Benzie, Manistee, Grand Traverse, and Wexford. The 2008-2009 school enrollment was 1830 pupils.

The Benzie faculty currently has 98.1 members. Of these staff members, 13 have BA degrees, 30 have at least 20 hours beyond the BA, 10 have 30 hours beyond the BA, 44 hold MA degrees, 2 have at least 15 hours beyond the MA. The seniority of the Benzie faculty extends 40 years. All Benzie County Central School staff are certified and highly qualified as required by No Child Left Behind.

The four elementary schools are Betsie Valley, which is located on Cadillac Highway between the villages of Copemish and Thompsonville; Crystal Lake, in Benzonia; Platte River, in Honor; and Lake Ann, in Almira Township, on Bronson Lake Road. The middle/senior high school is located on Homestead Road between the villages of Honor and Benzonia. Students are assigned to elementary buildings based upon attendance boundaries developed by the Board of Education.

The school district is located in a beautiful section of northwestern Michigan and includes more than 50 inland lakes; Crystal Lake, the two Platte Lakes, and Lake Ann are the most prominent. Also, approximately ten miles of Lake Michigan shoreline is located on the Northwest boundary

of the school district. The area has some of the best recreational facilities in Michigan for year-round enjoyment. The population of the area triples during the summer months. The economy of Benzie County is mainly resort. The agricultural product is fruit, with cherries and apples the main orchard crops. Some small industries are located in the area, principally south of Benzonia and in Copemish.

### **Student Statistics:**

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Students</u>
Betsie Valley	K-5	1686
Crystal Lake	Y5, K-5	234
Lake Ann	K-5	278
Platte River	Y5, K-6	316
Middle School	7 & 8	272
High School	9 - 12	564
Total	---	1830

During the 2009-2010 school year, the graduation rate was 97.32%. Forty-seven (47%) of Benzie County Central School District students received free lunches and 14% receive reduced lunches.

### **Parental Involvement and Community Support**

Elementary parent-teacher organizations provided funds for assemblies, field trips, and individual classroom activities. Local contractors and several businesses donated time and materials for various projects and rewards.

Parents volunteered to work at book fairs, school carnivals, track & field days, ice cream socials, school bazaars; in the classroom; on the playground; and with school programs. Additionally, they volunteered to chaperone field trips and community businesses invited students to visit on field trips.

Parents and community members saved 'box tops for education' and Campbell's soup labels for additional school funds.

Community members served as storytellers, reading buddies, career speakers, organizers of a district-wide ski program, hosts of water quality walks, and coaches of after-school sports.

Community service organizations sponsored such programs as the Reading is Fundamental program, Kiwanis Terrific Kids program, and Subway certificates.

<b>Fall Parent/Teacher Conference Attendance</b>		
<b>School</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>% Attending</b>
Betsie Valley	166	91%
Crystal Lake	211	94%
Lake Ann	276	93.5%
Platte River	316	89%
Middle School	272	68%
High School	564	61%

#### Curriculum

The Michigan Curriculum Frameworks documents continue to be the guide Benzie County Central Schools uses when creating and modifying the curriculum. We use the curriculum mapping process to write our curriculum which means we are aligned with the Michigan Frameworks.

- Elementary -- All core curricular areas (language arts, math, science, social studies, art, music & physical education) have been mapped. We will continue to meet by grade level to update our maps on a yearly basis.
- Middle School -- most core curricular areas have been mapped, the remainder will be finished next year.
- High School -- some core curriculum areas have been mapped, mostly the primary courses taught by teachers. Others continue to be worked upon.

The Benzie County Central Schools offers the following curriculum K-6: Language Arts, Math, Science, Health, Physical Education, Social Studies, Art, Music, and Computer Literacy. Band is offered to all 6th grade students. The 7th and 8th grade curriculum includes the following: Language Arts, Math, Science, Health, Physical Education, Social Studies, Band, and Art. The 9-12 grade curriculums includes the following: Language Arts, Math, Science, Health, Physical Education, Social Studies, French, Spanish, Music, Band, Art, Computer Science, Vocational Education and Occupational Education.

Benzie County Central Schools has a District Curriculum Council that reviews, revises, and proposes curriculum to the Board of Education. The Curriculum Council is

composed of teachers, parents, and administrators representing a cross section of the district.

#### Status of School Improvement Plans

Benzie County Central Schools takes seriously the school improvement planning process. A district School Improvement Committee meets regularly and collaborates with the staff and Board of Education to use existing performance data to plan annual improvement goals, strategies and supports. For 2010-11, the improvement goals include:

**Goal 1: Improvement in Reading**

**Goal 2: Improvement in Writing**

**Goal 3: Improvement in Math**

Copies of the district's School Improvement Plan that has been approved by the Michigan Department of Education are available for review in the district offices and posted on-line at [www.benzieschools.net](http://www.benzieschools.net).

#### Special Programs

##### At the Elementary Level

- The Young 5's program is offered as a kindergarten readiness option. Children who attend this program enter kindergarten the following year.
- Title 1, a federally funded program, offered assistance to students in grades 1-6.
- All fifth grade students are taught about puberty in the fall.
- A Latch-Key Program was available before and after school at Lake Ann, after school at Platte River and Crystal Lake.

##### At the Middle School Level

- Bridges program created a home-school connection for students in grades 4-8.
- Instead Club, sponsored by the MSU Extension Office, provides after-school activities for students in grades 5-8.
- Northwestern Michigan College offered 'commitment scholarships' to two 7th grade students who met certain criteria throughout their high school career.
- Extra-curricular sports offerings included football, boys' & girls' basketball, cross-country, soccer, cheerleading, track, wrestling, skiing, baseball and volleyball.
- The At-Risk program continued in grades 7-12.

##### At the High School Level.

- Advanced Placement courses, which can result in college credit based on test performance, are offered to high school students who meet specific criteria.
- CLOSE-UP, a national government workshop in Washington, DC, is offered to 11th grade students.
- Advance Placement Enrollment participation:

Dual Enrollment	6
AP Chemistry	39
AP Calculus	17
AP Biology	22

- At-Risk programs provide teachers, paraprofessionals, and high school mentors to offer assistance in reading and math during school, after school, and during the summer.

#### At All Schools . . .

- Special education services are available.
- The counseling department teaches career awareness and makes available to parents brochures on social and drug awareness issues.
- Programs offered for high ability and high potential students include: Odyssey of the Mind (grades 4-8), Science Olympiad (grades 9-12).
- An Accelerated Reader program is used to encourage recreational reading

#### Special Schools

Through the services of the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, Benzie County Central Schools is able to offer many specialized programs for students with special needs. Some of the more specialized programs include the following:

1. The Adult Work Center trains students to live independently.
2. Cherry Knoll Annex provides programs for severely impaired children and New Campus serves students, ages 5 to 25, which have severe emotional impairments.
3. The Early On Program provides home training and other family services for children ages 3 and under with special needs.
4. Early Childhood Program, conducted in a district elementary school, stresses appropriate learning experiences and activities consistent with a cognitive developmental model. .
5. TBA Career Tech Center and Michigan Technical Education Center (MTEC), provide learning experiences in the application of academics to technology.
6. TBAISD provides a virtual high school program. This is an on-line program of high school courses that provides many options to traditional and nontraditional students.

### **BCCS Education Foundation**

The Benzie County Central Schools Educational Foundation's purpose is to operate as a charitable and educational organization whose sole objective is to receive funds, and real and personal property, and thereafter manage, administer, and disperse monies for the benefit of students and the general public within Benzie County Central Schools. Incorporated in 1990 as a nonprofit tax-exempt organization, the Benzie County Central Schools Educational Foundation is independent of the school. A board of directors serving without pay governs the foundation. This board coordinates talent and funds in the form of grants and scholarships to carry out the foundation's purposes. The Foundation generates additional funds for various programs and scholarships through their annual golf outing.

### **Concluding Remarks**

The Benzie County Central Schools has a reputation for being an outstanding school system with dedicated students, a high quality staff, and a Board of Education and community committed to providing an excellent program. The district works hard to achieve academic success and be the kind of school district that the community expects and deserves. In this Annual Report, we hope that you have been able to see that our tradition of excellence continues.

The administration and Board of Education commend the staff and students for their high standards, demonstrated success and culture of accomplishments. We are proud of our district's "success for all students commitment", the highly qualified and successful staff and the variety of opportunities available to all students.

Benzie County Central Schools is a community of high expectations and excellence in teaching and learning. We are involved and connected to families and dedicated to providing opportunities for all learners. Please plan to visit us.

Sincerely,

Dave Micinski, Superintendent

For specific District-wide Academic results, click here:

<http://aer.data4ss.org/StudentAssessmentData/TabularResults.aspx?IsdId=115&Isd=Traverse+Bay+Area+ISD&DistrictId=933&District=Benzie+County+Central+Schools&SchoolId=-1&School=All+Schools&SchoolYear=&GradeLevel=&Subject=&ReportCategory=>