



**Timberwolves**  
Teamwork. Responsibility. Ambition, Integrity. Leadership

**Banks Trail Middle School**  
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## Banks Trail Middle School

*Together, Building a Tradition of Excellence.*



**With a motto of, “Together, Building a Tradition of Excellence,”** Banks Trail Middle School believes diversity is our strength. We've brought together many different backgrounds, talents, and ways of thinking to create one of the finest middle school environments imaginable.

Located in the Piedmont in Fort Mill, South Carolina, Banks Trail Middle School opened its classrooms to students in the fall of 2011. The school contains 126,000 square feet of space that accommodates our current enrollment of approximately 900 students. There are 30 classrooms (100% of which are equipped with state-of-the-art Smart Boards), nine science labs, classrooms for fine arts and vocational education, and a gymnasium for special performances and assemblies. Our physical education and sports facilities include a gymnasium, a turf football/soccer stadium, a baseball field and batting cage, and four paved basketball courts.

It is our desire to create a school environment that will be enriched with academic, extracurricular, and community-based opportunities that equip

all Banks Trail students for their journey into high school and beyond. It is our responsibility to ensure that students have the knowledge, skills, and understanding to compete locally, nationally, and globally in all aspects of their lives. We sincerely believe middle school is a time when students are establishing the foundation for their successes in life through academic and social development and individual and societal awareness. We firmly believe these variables are cultivated by: classroom lessons that are rigorous, relevant, and engaging; extracurricular activities that enhance student learning and self-development; and community involvement, interaction, and service that make relevant connections to practical and educational experiences

In striving for that vision, our school has

realized many accomplishments (see page 5). BTMS students' academic achievements have been well documented by an Excellent rating every year in both absolute and growth ratings on the State School Report Card. Students participate and excel in local, regional, and state competitions that represent all aspects of school life including academics, the arts, and athletics.

Though always proud to discuss our successes; the faculty, parents and students of Banks Trail Middle School realize that excellence is the *vision* and not the *destination*.

Working together, we continue to identify and set goals that must be attained in order to continue providing the best possible educational community.





## Banks Trail Middle School

*Teamwork, Responsibility, Ambition, Integrity, Leadership*

### Report to Parents 2019-2020

Dear Parents,

Our focus at Banks Trail Middle School is to provide all students with the highest quality instruction and to develop the skills and career characteristics needed to be successful in the 21st Century. Our school's reputation of excellence and the Timberwolf traditions have been a part of the Fort Mill community for nine years. Our goal is to raise the academic achievement of all of our students through STEAM inquiry-based learning, literacy strategies that span across content areas, and in connecting curriculum to real-world applications.

We continue to implement new instructional strategies to impact each student's individual learning styles and needs. Banks Trail teachers participate in professional learning opportunities throughout the school year. These sessions are developed based on student test data, observational data, student needs, and the goals of our school. We continue to include research-based instructional practices, parent communication, data analysis, and technology integration. Through funding provided by our district, we will continue to offer one-to-one technology for our students and fully integrate technology into our curriculum and instructional programming.

Banks Trail Middle School strives for excellence in the arts, athletics, and academics. We offer students the opportunity to take band, art, chorus, and drama. We offer Gateway to Engineering courses and computer science classes that helps prepare students for possible STEAM based majors and career paths. Athletic opportunities at the middle school level include football, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, soccer, track and field, and baseball. Other athletic options for 7th and 8th grade students are offered through our local high schools. We take great pride in delivering world class instruction through high quality teaching, a wealth of academic resources, and the positive student and teacher connections that the Fort Mill School District is known for.

Banks Trail follows a model of high expectations and continuous improvement as we strive to be on the cutting edge of student engagement and achievement. We make every effort to provide an educational environment in which all students have the opportunity to inspire, motivate, and live the "TRAIL" (Teamwork, Responsibility, Ambition, Integrity and Leadership) during the middle school years and beyond. We strive for our students to be globally prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century and for them to be caring people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding, cooperation, and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Pyrc".

Marc Pyrc  
Principal

**Banks Trail Middle School**



***Addison Frausto, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
BTMS Student Council President 2019-20***

“BTMS has made middle school a lot more fun for me than I thought it would be. Our school does so much to make sure that students can have fun. They host purple outs for game nights and have spirit weeks so that students can enjoy themselves. Being a student at BTMS has made me realize that middle school can be fun and teach me life skills that I will need for the future.”

— ***Tyson Gardin  
BTMS Teacher of the Year 2020-21***

“It is truly an honor to represent BTMS as teacher of the year for 2020-21. I have the pleasure of teaching every single student at BTMS. I could not do this without the unwavering support and encouragement of my colleagues and for seeing the potential in me. I really enjoy watching our student’s growth throughout their journey here at BTMS. It is a blessing to serve with colleagues that have an exemplary approach to ensure student success.”



***Vicki Ellowitch  
PTO President***

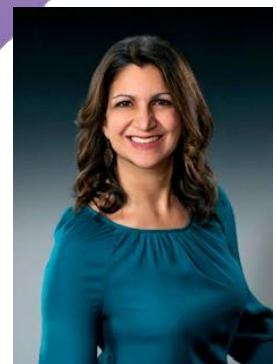


“As PTO President at Banks Trail, it has been wonderful getting to work with the teachers and staff. They go above and beyond to help out the students and give them the tools they need to succeed as they take their next step into the future. I look forward to seeing what the next year will bring!”

***Amy Merrigan  
BTMS SIC Chair***

“After already serving one year on the Banks Trail SIC, I was pleased by seeing the important role our parents and community members played in our school. I was proud to accept the nomination as chairperson.

I am a former teacher and have served on various SIC’s as both a teacher and a parent. I am proud to have one BTMS graduate and another that will graduate in 2021. I have seen firsthand how dedicated and passionate the administration, teachers and staff are about BTMS and their students.”







## Academic

- Gifted and Talented Classes in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies
- Daily Power Period time
- High School Credit Courses
  - English 1 Honors
  - Algebra 1 Honors
- Related Arts Electives
  - Gateway to Technology (ITE) courses in:
    - Intro to Engineering, Design & Modeling, and Automation & Robotics
- Physical Education
- Computer Technology
- Family and Consumer Science
- Art, Theater Arts and Music
- Extra Help – before school, during lunch, and after school
- Special Education Classes (resource and inclusion)
- Six-period daily schedule
- Intervention/Enrichment time (Monday/Wednesday)
- Smart Boards, which allow for interactive learning
- 1:1 Chrome Book Program
- Media Center with 10,000+ volumes, one full-time certified librarian

## Enrichment

- Junior Beta Club
- Character Education Program
- Cultural & Performing Arts
  - Junior Art Honor Society
  - Band
  - Honors Chorus & BT Capella
  - Drama/ Dance
- A and A/B Honor Roll Program
- Digital Citizenship Program
- Academic Challenge Teams
- Science Olympiad Team
- Service Learning
- Student Council
- Yearbook Staff
- Class field trips (canceled due to Covid-19)
  - 6th: Carowinds
  - 7th: Charleston, SC
  - 8th: Washington, DC
- Club Time (Tuesday and Thursday)
- Career Development
- One School One Book Program & Author Visit
- Vex Robotics Team

## Athletics

- **Middle School Sports**
  - Football
  - Volleyball
  - Cheerleading
  - Basketball Boys and Girls
  - Soccer Boys and Girls
  - Baseball
  - Track Boys and Girls
- **High School Sports**
  - Cross Country Boys and Girls
  - Golf Boys and Girls
  - Swimming Boys and Girls
  - Softball
  - Wrestling

## Home School Connection

- Active School Improvement Council
- Awesome PTO
- Rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders Tour and Orientation
- Back-to-School Orientation
- Fine Arts Performances
- PATH to the Trail
- Faculty Websites
- Weekly Class Newsletters
- Community Service projects and events
- Staff Luncheons
- Staff Appreciation
- Community Spirit Nights
- Volunteer Opportunities

## Accomplishments, Recognitions, & Awards

- Twenty six students recognized as Junior Scholars.
- Five students received State Recognition for the Duke TiP Program.
- Seventy four 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Junior Beta Club members
- Science Olympiad Team prepared to compete. The competition was canceled due to Covid-19.
- Sixth through Eighth Grade participated in Academic Challenge.
- We had 165 8th grade students take the PSAT
- BTMS Band participation in Your Instrumental Workshop at Disney World, Orlando, FL and Choral participation in the Disney Performing Arts Series: Disney Sings, Orlando, FL.
- Two students qualified for the SC All-State Band Event which was canceled due to Covid-19.
- Twenty-two students earned York County Band Honors.
- Eighteen students represented BTMS in the All-Region Band.
- Winter Band Performances. The Spring Performances were canceled due to Covid-19.
- Fall Performing Arts Showcase featuring Theatre Arts, 7th and 8th Grade Choruses, and the newly formed a cappella group, BTcappella.
- Invited for the seventh year in a row to the MTI Broadway Junior Musical Theater Festival. Unfortunately, canceled due to Covid-19.
- Renaissance Festival field trip for Drama and Art students.
- Fall dramatic performance of Hoodie.
- Spring performance of Madagascar Jr.
- A chapter of Junior Art Honor Society
- Participated in the District Juried Art Exhibit.
- Vex Robotics team for the second year.
- Jack M. (7<sup>th</sup>) and Keegan C. (7<sup>th</sup>) were finalists for the Do the Right Thing award from the Fort Mill Police Department.
- Banks Trail participated in a food drive called March Canness. In just two weeks, 1186 pounds of food was collected for The Fort Mill Care Center. This fundraiser was cut short due to Covid-19.
- BTMS Student Council raised approximately \$1350 for Angel Tree gifts for the Fort Mill community during the holiday season.
- BTMS raised over \$1500 for Hoops for Heart with a 3 on 3 basketball tournament
- Third annual Path to the Trail program for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders. This was canceled due to Covid-19.
- Fourth Annual Literacy Night with the Faces of Banks Trail, author Dan Gemeinhart, Scholastic Book Fair and various classroom exhibits.
- Read The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart as our second One School One Book program.
- Author Dan Gemeinhart presented to each grade level during our second PTO sponsored Author visit.
- Participated in Read Across America Day with a Read Across America Map. The students “pinned” the settings of their favorite books on this map.
- Participated for first time in District & County wide Battle of the Books. BTMS took first place in both the District and County competitions.
- Scheduled to attend the 7th grade career fair that took place in March, with over 60 businesses represented. This was canceled due to Covid-19.
- Eighth grade participated in Job Shadow day
- Sixth grade STEAM Career Day was planned for the spring, but was canceled due to Covid-19.
- Three Scholastic Book Fairs
- This I Believe Celebration for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade was planned but canceled due to Covid-19.
- Our Annual Dodgeball Tournament was held in November to raise money for MS Sports.
- 2020 Spring Sports Seasons were canceled due to Covid-19.

## 2019-20 School Improvement Council Members

- Amy Merrigan, SIC Chairperson
- Marc Pyrc, Principal
- Bradley Wagner, Teacher Representative
- Amy Rossett, Teacher Representative
- Adam Miller, Teacher Representative
- Megan Drew, Parent Representative
- Amy Eisenrieth, Parent Representative
- Andrew Merriman, Parent Representative
- Nikki Godfrey-Hill – Community Representative
- Sarah Worley – Community Representative

### School Improvement Council Purpose

Mandated by law, the SIC serves as an advisory group to the school. The SIC Brings together parents, school faculty, and community stakeholders to collectively establish, monitor, and evaluate specific long and short-range goals for students achievement. In addition, the SIC is a forum for parents, community members, and faculty members to share ideas and concerns about the school. Other functions of the SIC are to provide an annual school report to parents and the community and to increase parental awareness of and involvement in SIC initiatives. The BTMS SIC meets monthly. Updates and reports about the SIC are available on the school website.

### Athletic Booster Club Board Members

- Kelly Thomas, President
- Ashley Causey, Treasurer
- Tyson Gardin & Elizabeth Parra, Concessions

### Testing Data

#### Science and Social Studies SC PASS Data:

The percentages below reflect students who have scored Exceeds and Meets Expectations in Science and scored Met or Exemplary in Social Studies for the year prior. Only 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> took the Science SC PASS test. Only 7<sup>th</sup> grade took the SC PASS Social Studies test.

Grade	Science	Social Studies
6 <sup>th</sup>	78.9%	
7 <sup>th</sup>		81.8%
8 <sup>th</sup>	64.8%	

#### English and Math SC College & Career-Ready (SC READY) Assessment Data:

The percentages below reflect students who have scored Exceeds and Meets Expectations for the prior year.

Grade	English	Math
6 <sup>th</sup>	71.6%	79.5%
7 <sup>th</sup>	65.5%	65.4%
8 <sup>th</sup>	67.1%	65.6%

#### English 1 and Algebra 1 End of Course Data:

English – 99% passing  
Algebra 1 – 97% passing

### Annual Report

Banks Trail Middle School and its School Improvement Council would like to share this Annual Summary Report with parents and community members who are interested in our school. The report provides information about our student academic achievement, school accomplishments, programs, and community service and involvement.