



Timberwolves
Teamwork. Responsibility. Ambition, Integrity. Leadership

Banks Trail Middle School
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<https://www.fortmillschools.org/BTMS>

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 485 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 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.





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Report to Parents 2022-2023

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 over twelve years. Our goal is to raise the academic achievement of all of our students through 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 Technology courses and computer science classes that help 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. Additional 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" (**T**eamwork, **R**esponsibility, **A**mbition, **I**ntegrity and **L**eadership) 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". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marc Pyrc
Principal

Banks Trail Middle School

Kelsey Linner
BTMS Teacher of the Year 2023 - 24



"I am humbled and honored to be recognized as the 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year for Banks Trail Middle School. Banks Trail was the first school in my teaching career, and I am truly so fortunate to work alongside a faculty so committed to helping the students succeed. Teachers and administration help to foster an environment of learning and positivity that helps our students progress on their educational journey. I feel so grateful to spend my day with so many amazing people who put children first, every day."



Rachel Mann
PTO President

"Why did I want to serve on the PTO for Banks Trail Middle School?"

I have served on elementary school PTOs since my daughter started school in 2014. In all honesty, my intentions were to be done with PTO once my kids went to middle school. I wasn't sure PTO was needed or even wanted by middle school administration or teachers. I was quickly proven wrong. Serving on BTMS PTO has given me the opportunity to be a part of reaching the goals BTMS administration has set for our school. I have witnessed the community that administration has built with students and how that community fosters academic leadership as well as social/emotional growth. I am thankful to be a part of the BTMS community and look forward to what the future holds!

Carrie Seekings
BTMS SIC Chairperson



"I am proud to have 3 BTMS graduates and 2 more in 7th and 8th grade. Being on the SIC, I have seen firsthand how passionate and dedicated our administration, teachers and staff are about BTMS! It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as the Chairperson of the School Improvement Council for the last two years. I encourage all parents to get involved with our amazing School!"

Leilani Langley
Student Council President 2022 - 23



"I am so honored to have been Student Council President for BTMS. I am so grateful that I was able to represent our student body, and experience new things. Being Student Council President came with a lot of responsibilities and challenges, but working with our amazing teachers and students it wasn't a challenge. It's been an incredible opportunity to be a leader of OUR wolf pack, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for our school and the upcoming Student Council President."

Academic

- Gifted and Talented Classes in ELA and Math
- Daily FLEX time
- High School Credit Courses
 - English 1 Honors
 - Algebra 1 Honors
- Timberwolf Time – Math and ELA intervention twice a week
- Extra Help – Before school, during lunch, and after school
- Tutoring – Twice a Week After School
- Small Group Literacy Instruction as needed
- Special Education Classes (Resource and Inclusion)
- One School One Book
- Six-period daily schedule
- STAR Testing three times a year
- APEX Days for enrichment of teaching staff
- Related Arts Electives
 - Gateway to Technology (ITE) courses in:
 - Intro to Engineering
 - Design & Modeling
 - Automation & Robotics
 - Physical Education
 - Computer Technology
 - Family and Consumer Science
 - Spanish
 - Art
 - Theater Arts
 - Music
- Media Center with 10,000+ volumes, one full-time certified Librarian

Enrichment

- Junior Beta Club
- Character Education Program
- Cultural & Performing Arts
 - Band & Chorus
 - Drama/ Dance
- A and A/B Honor Roll Program
- Digital Citizenship Program
- Academic Challenge Teams
- Battle of the Books Team
- Service Learning
- Student Council
- Yearbook Staff
- Class field trips
 - 7th: Charleston, SC
 - 8th: Washington, D.C.
- Related Arts Enrichment Field Trips
- Club Time
- Spirit Weeks & Pep Rallies
- Career Development
 - 6th: Virtual Career Day
 - 7th: Career Fair
 - 8th: Job Shadow Day

Athletics

- **Middle School Sports**
 - Football
 - Volleyball
 - Cheerleading
 - Dance Team
 - 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
 - Tennis Boys and Girls

Home School Connection

- Active School Improvement Council
- Awesome PTO
- Rising 5th Grade Tour and Orientation
- Rising 9th Grade HS Tours
- Back-to-School Orientation
- Band & Chorus Fine Arts Performances
- Weekly Class Newsletters
- Monthly Cultural Activities
- Community Service projects and events
- Staff Appreciation
- Community Spirit Nights
- Volunteer Opportunities



Our Mission

Banks Trail strives to provide educational experiences in and outside of the classroom which empower all students to make a positive impact on their world.

Accomplishments, Recognitions, & Awards

- Forty-two students inducted into Junior Beta Club
- Eleven students recognized as Junior Scholars.
- Fifteen 6th, 7th and 8th Grade students competed on the Academic Challenge team. They finished 3rd in the OEC small school division and finished 4th overall in the regular season.
- Participated in a County wide Battle of the Books. BTMS took first place for Fort Mill School District for the third year in a row.
- More than doubled the number of students participating. Third Annual Summer Reading Pizza Party was held for all the students that read 5 or more 2022 Summer Reading Books.
- We had sixty-three 8th grade students take the PSAT.
- BTMS production of Beauty and the Beast Jr. was held in the Spring at CRHS.
- Attended the Broadway Jr. Celebration in Charlotte. Students performed "Be Our Guest" for a panel of judges. Norah B. and Josephine R. were selected by the judges as All Star performers and were given an award.
- Band and Chorus Trip to Disney World.
- Both the Beginning band and Advanced band students received a Superior rating at Carowinds Festival of Music.
- BTMS students represented our school in the All-Region Band.
- Eight students participated in the District Juried Art Exhibit. Brina B. won 1st Place and Jemma A. won Honorable Mention.
- Participated in a Recycled Art Show for Earth Day, featuring artists from Eighth Grade Honors
- 7th grade Art Honors crafted banners for the BTMS Football team and our Fall Pep Rally
- After holding "Penny Wars" Banks Trail collected \$935 toward Angel Tree gifts. BTMS was also able to donate two Chromebooks; \$150 in Target GC donations. This all benefitted the 33 Angels that were adopted
- With the help of Banks Trail Families and a generous \$250 donation to Food Lion from Sigma Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Banks Trail provided 12 complete Thanksgiving meals to our families and donated over 200 nonperishables to the Fort Mill Care Center.
- Mr. Shannon Brown, the Church Plant Pastor at River Rock Community Church (formerly Indian Land Community Church) has partnered with BTMS to help support our Back-pack Program, any student/family with financial needs and also the staff appreciation efforts.
- During Read Across America Week, BTMS held their Book Challenge party to celebrate the students that read more than five books.
- Path to the Trail program for Rising 6th graders will be held during the month of July.
- The Sixth grade experienced a Virtual Career speaker event. The speakers met with the students live through Zoom. Various careers were represented throughout the morning.
- The Seventh grade attended a Career Day where they met with employees from Comporium. The employees showcased their careers and introduced students to 16 different Career Clusters.
- Eighth grade participated in a Job Shadow day. They received a Career Development lesson. They were also able to choose to either learn about the Military from JROTC at Catawba Ridge High School or job shadow a professional of their choice for the day.
- Two Scholastic Book Fairs.
- This I Believe Celebration for 7th Grade.
- 8th Grade Celebration week before Promotion Ceremony
- Students participated in an Annual Dodgeball Tournament to raise money for the Athletic Booster Club.
- PTO Booster Bash Fundraiser and Silent Disco.

2022-23 School Improvement Council Members

- Marc Pycr- Principal
- Carrie Seekings, SIC Chairperson/
Parent Representative
- Wesley Edwards, Vice Chairperson/
Parent Representative
- Stephanie Cost, Secretary/ Community
Representative
- Tabatha Astacio-Arce – Teacher Rep
- Lee Blackwelder, Parent Representative
- Katie Conroy, Parent Representative
- Sara Davis, Teacher Representative
- Staci Dreher, Parent Representative
- Kate Haynes – Parent Representative
- Kirk Ogden – Parent 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 student's 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

- Andrew Reynolds, President
- Jane Mosher, Treasurer
- Shannon Edwards, Concessions
Coordinator

Testing Data 2022 Results

Science SC PASS Data:

The percentage below reflect students who have scored Exceeds and Meets Expectations in Science for the prior year. Only 6th grade took the Science SC PASS test.

Grade	Science
6 th	65.7%

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 th	64.6%	61.1%
7 th	58%	50%
8 th	69.8%	52.3%

Algebra 1 End of Course Data:

Algebra 1 – 100% 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.