



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

## Banks Trail Middle School

861 Fort Mill Parkway  
Fort Mill, SC 29715

803-578-2990

<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 650 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, four paved basketball courts, gaga ball and foursquare.

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.





## Banks Trail Middle School

*Teamwork, Responsibility, Ambition, Integrity, Leadership*

### Report to Parents 2024-2025

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 fourteen 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" (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.

Marc Pyrc  
Principal

**Banks Trail Middle School**

***Katie Jenkinson***  
***BTMS Teacher of the Year 2025 - 26***



"It is an honor and a privilege to be Banks Trail's Teacher of the Year for the 2025-2026 school year. I have been part of this team since 2020, serving first as the Literacy Specialist and currently as the Lead Teacher. Our school community is one-of-a-kind, and I am so thankful to be able to work with our amazing students and teachers on a daily basis. When I look ahead to next school year, I am excited for all of the ways I get to see our students learn and grow, and I am so proud to be part of that experience!"



***Melissa Hall***  
***PTO President***

My name is Melissa Hall and I have two students in the Fort Mill School District. I joined the PTO when my first child started at Banks Trail and now, she's off to high school! My son will be entering sixth grade this year and I'm excited to have another Timberwolf in the house :-). I'm grateful to be able to help out the students and staff at Banks Trail for another year in whatever small ways I can. I hope the BTMS PTO contributions have made the work lives of our teachers and staff just a little better. I'm now in my third year on the Board and hope to continue to be able to give whatever I can to our wonderful school for years to come. I am grateful to be a part of the BTMS Timberwolf community!

***Kate Haynes***  
***BTMS SIC Chairperson***



I have been a proud Banks Trail parent and School Improvement Council member for 3 years. Through my involvement in the SIC committee, I have experienced a consistent willingness to listen to and consider parent/guardian/teacher concerns, questions, ideas, and compliments. It has been an honor to serve as the chairperson of the School Improvement Council.



***Ellee Lorka***  
***BTMS Junior BETA Club President***

I cannot ever be thankful enough to be the BTMS Beta Club President. Being able to be part of Banks Trail is a wonderful experience that I will never forget. Every student and teacher here are amazing people that treat each other with respect and kindness all the time. Although there are ups and downs, being the Beta Club President has forever left an impression on me that I will never forget. The school is constantly changing and growing for the better, and I can't wait to see what comes next. I am honored to be a part of the pack.





## 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 three a week
- Extra Help – During lunch and FLEX periods
- Tutoring – Twice a Week After School
- Small Group Literacy & Math Instruction as needed
- Special Education Classes (Resource and Inclusion)
- ESOL Support
- Six-period daily schedule
- STAR Testing three times a year
- APEX Days for enrichment of teaching staff
- Related Arts Electives
  - Gateway to Technology (GTT) courses in:
    - Flight and Space
    - Design and Modeling
    - Automation and 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
- TRAIL Ticket Incentive Program
- Academic Challenge Team
- Battle of the Books Team
- Service Learning
- Science Olympiad Team
- Yearbook Staff
- Class field trips
  - 6<sup>th</sup>: In House field trips
    - Brought in a specialist from the Schiele Museum to assist students with a hands-on dissection experience
    - brought in local meteorologist, Larry Sprinkle, to present to students and offer a period of Q and A
  - 7<sup>th</sup>: US National Whitewater
  - 8<sup>th</sup>: Washington, D.C.
- Related Arts Enrichment Field Trips
- Club Time
- Spirit Weeks, Pep Rallies, Purple Outs & School wide dances
- Career Development
  - 6<sup>th</sup>: In-House Career Day
  - 7<sup>th</sup>: Career Fair and Winthrop Career in Sports Day
  - 8<sup>th</sup>: Job Shadow Day

## 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
  - Tennis - Boys and Girls
  - Lacrosse – Boys and Girls

## Home School Connection

- School Improvement Council
- Awesome PTO
- Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Tour and Orientation
- Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade HS Tours
- Back-to-School Meet the Teacher
- Path to the TRAIL
- Weekly Class Newsletters
- Band & Chorus Performances
- Literacy & Math Nights
- 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 students were inducted into Junior Beta Club making our total enrollment seventy-one.
- Twenty-six students recognized as Junior Scholars
- One hundred twenty-eight 8th grade students took the PSAT
- Twenty-six 6th, 7th and 8th Grade students competed on the Academic Challenge team. They finished 2nd in the OEC Regional Tournament.
- The Science Olympiad team of fifteen students placed 2nd in the state at the S.C. State tournament. Six students took 1st place, eighteen students placed 2nd & eight students had 3rd place finishes in the various Science categories.
- The Media Center hosted storyteller, Chetter Galloway for an 8th grade presentation on Storytelling.
- The 6th and 7th grade participated in and Author visit with Landra Jennings, author of *The Whispering Fog*. A small group of 8th graders was selected for a fiction writing workshop with Ms. Jennings.
- Read *A Duet for Home* as a One School One Book event for the entire school. Ended the OSOB event with a virtual author visit with Karinna Yan Glasser.
- Participated in a County wide Battle of the Books competition. BTMS took first place in the Fort Mill School District and York Countywide Competition.
- Sixth annual SC Junior Book Award Pizza Party held for students and staff that read at least five 2024–2025 Summer Reading books
- Fourteen students participated in the district wide Read-In
- School wide Spelling Bee. Teertha D. won and went on to represent BTMS at the District Competition
- Charity B., Leo M., Myla S. & Maddie R. were accepted into the Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities.
- 7th grade Honor's Theatre performed *15 Reasons Not to be in a Play*.
- 8th grade Honor's Theatre participated in a 3-day stage combat workshop with a local combat choreographer.
- 8th grade Band, Chorus, Theatre, and Art students participated in the Imagination Campus Workshops at Disney World
- 8th grade Honor's Theatre performed *Game of Tiaras*.
- 7th and 8th Grade band received Superior with Distinction rating at SC Concert Performance Assessment
- 7th and 8th Grade Honors Choruses received Superior ratings at SC Concert Performance Assessment
- 6th Grade Chorus and Band received a Superior rating at Carowinds Festival of Music
- 7th Grade Band and Honors Chorus received Superior ratings at the Dollywood Trills & Thrills Music Festival
- Landon P. and Russell C. received a Superior rating at the Solo and Ensemble competition.
- 2 band students were selected to audition for All-State Band
- Eight band students selected for All-Region Band
- Three students were selected by audition for the South Carolina Honor Choir
- Norah F. was selected to perform at ACDA National Honor Choir in Dallas, TX and was awarded a solo.
- Seven BTMS students participate in the Catawba Ridge High School Marching Band receiving 1st in the state 18th in the nation at Bands of America Grand Nationals out of over 130 bands.
- 7th and 8th Grade Honors Choruses represented BTMS at the district choral clinic
- 7th and 8th Grade Honors Chorus performance at the Kingsley Holiday Event
- 7th and 8th Grade Band Pep Rally Performance
- Band and Chorus Winter Concert (all grades)
- Band Spring Concert (all grades)
- 7th and 8th Grade Honors Chorus Spring Concert with CRHS
- 8th Grade Art Honors participated in the annual Disney Field Trip and attended the Art Workshop for Disney Imation Campus
- 8th Grade art students created the shoe mural in the gym.
- 7th Grade Art Honors students are creating an op art mural in the art room this will be completed by the end of May.
- Art students created signs around the school for various events.
- Through donations from Banks Trail Families, BTMS provided 22 complete Thanksgiving meals to our families in need and were able to help 18 families during the winter holidays.
- Second Harvest Food Bank, Springs Foundation and Fort Mill Schools. Worked together to provide weekend food bags for some of our BTMS families.
- Mr. Shannon Brown, the Church Plant Pastor at River Rock Community Church has partnered with BTMS for staff appreciation efforts.
- Path to the Trail program for Rising 6th graders will be held during the month of July
- The Sixth grade held an in-house Career speaker event. Various careers were represented throughout the morning.
- All 7th graders participated in the FMSD Middle School Career Fair. The Fair consisted of community members that represented over 50 various careers and jobs. Students also learned about and were able to practice soft skills needed when interacting with potential employers.
- Eighth grade participated in Job Shadow Day. They were 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.
- One Scholastic Book Fair
- This I Believe Celebration for 7th Grade
- 8th Grade Celebration week before 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony
- Students participated in an Annual Dodgeball Tournament and a 3 v 3 Basketball Tournament to raise money for the Athletic Booster Club.
- BTMS continued as a Unified Champion School this year and hosted a Unified Spirit week for our students.
- BTMS hosted a Unified Field Day for all the middle schools in our district
- BTMS started Unified Sports and competed against GHMS in volleyball and basketball.
- Inclusion classes participated in the Special Olympics
- PTO Booster Bash Fundraiser and Silent Disco

## 2024-25 School Improvement Council Members

- Marc Pyrc, Principal
- Mary Margaret Brand, Asst. Principal
- Ashley Donovan, Teacher Representative
- Kelsey Small, Teacher Representative
- Katie Jenkinson, Title 1 Liaison
- Kate Haynes, Parent Rep & President
- Chelsea Beauchamp, Parent Representative
- Chris Coleman, Parent Representative
- Katie Conroy, Parent Representative
- Megan Fox, Parent Representative
- Chris Moody, Parent Representative
- Jacob Poulsen, Parent Representative
- Emily Salaman, Parent Representative
- Sylvia Thornton, 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

- Nicole Zorn, President
- Sarah Morris, Treasurer
- Carly Light
- Thornly McWilliam

## Testing Data 2024 Results

### 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>	<b>74.9%</b>	<b>64.5%</b>
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>72.2%</b>	<b>56.3%</b>
8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>36.5%</b>

### Algebra 1 End of Course Data:

Algebra 1 – 96% 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.