



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 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 ten 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

Tabatha Astacio-Arce
BTMS Teacher of the Year 2022-23



“I am honored to be recognized as the 2022-23 Teacher of the Year for Banks Trail Middle School. I have been teaching for 17 years and have taught in several different districts but I have never felt as much at home as I do at Banks Trail. I am so fortunate to work at a school that embraces the love of reading as much as I do. This love is felt throughout the staff and administration and trickles down to students. A school that creates readers is a school that creates strong leaders.”



Jennifer Brindisi
PTO President

“Why did I want to become PTO president for Banks Trail?”

Selfishly, I wanted to be more in the know about what was going on in middle school but it’s evolved into much more. Yes, I get to know what’s taking place but I’ve also been given a wonderful opportunity to find out firsthand the administration’s goals for our staff and students. I’ve been able to help plan events to support these goals and gain a better appreciation for all that goes on behind the scenes in our school. I’ve gotten to know many of the staff members personally and have enjoyed cultivating that feeling of community. I’ve met other parents and families I wouldn’t have otherwise been able to meet. I look forward to continuing these relationships in the future as well as helping to make Banks Trail the best we can be.”

Joshua Doty
BTMS SIC Co-Chair

“I’m honored to participate in the School Improvement Council with other parents, school staff and community members. For me, it is an opportunity to help preserve the high quality of education which attracts so many to Fort Mill and to advocate for high academic standards to which each student should aspire.”



Carrie Seekings
BTMS SIC Co-Chair

“I am proud to have 3 BTMS graduates and 2 more in 6th and 7th grade. Being on the PTO and 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 Co-Chairperson of the School Improvement Council. I look forward to seeing what next year will bring!”

Academic

- Gifted and Talented Classes in ELA and Math
- Daily FLEX time
- High School Credit Courses
 - English 1 Honors
 - Algebra 1 Honors
- Availability of Virtual Academy
- 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)
- Six-period daily schedule
- 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
 - Drama/ Dance
- A and A/B Honor Roll Program
- Digital Citizenship Program
- Academic Challenge Teams
- Battle of the Books
- Service Learning
- Student Council
- Yearbook Staff
- Class field trips
 - 7th: Camp Canaan
 - 8th: Camp Canaan
- Club Time
- Spirit Weeks
- 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

Home School Connection

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



Accomplishments, Recognitions, & Awards

- Twelve students recognized as Junior Scholars.
- Sixth through Eighth Grade participated in Academic Challenge. The team finished third in York County.
- Participated in a County wide Battle of the Books. BTMS took first place for York County and first place for our District for the second year in a row.
- Second Annual Summer Reading Pizza Party was held for all the students that read 5 or more 2021 Summer Reading Books.
- We had sixty-four 8th grade students take the PSAT.
- BTMS production of High School Musical Jr. was held in the Spring.
- Both the Beginning band and Advanced band students received a Superior rating at Carowinds Festival of Music.
- One of our seventh-grade students represented BTMS in the All-Region Band.
- Five students participated in the District Juried Art Exhibit.
- Art club created props for High School Musical Jr. and are in the process of painting a school wall mural.
- The Eighth grade Art Students and Art Club went on a Field trip to the Mint Museum in April.
- A Recycled Art Show for Earth Day, featuring artists from Eighth Grade Honors and the Art Club.
- BTMS Student Council raised over \$3000 this year with generous donations from PTO and anonymous donors for Angel Tree gifts for the Fort Mill community during the holiday season.
- Student Council held a food and monetary drive and were able to provide twelve Banks Trail families with full Thanksgiving meals at a cost of around \$800.
- For Read Across America Week, Student Council organized a book drive and collected over 400 gently used books for the Fort Mill Care Center.
- During Read Across America Week, BTMS held a fun spirit week for the students and participated in Drop Everything And Read on March 30th.
- 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 and then were able to choose to either watch a video for a career that interested them or job shadow a professional of their choice for the day.
- Two Scholastic Book Fairs.
- This I Believe Celebration for 7th Grade.
- Held a #PinkOut for Breast Cancer Awareness and a #BlueUp against Bullying during the Fall.
- Students participated in an Annual Dodgeball Tournament to raise money for the Athletic Booster Club.

2021-22 School Improvement Council Members

- Marc Pycr- Principal
- Joshua Doty, SIC Co-Chairperson/
Parent Rep
- Carrie Seekings, SIC Co-Chairperson/
Parent Rep
- Sara Davis, Vice Chair/ Teacher
Representative
- Stephanie Cost, Secretary/ Community
Rep
- Lee Blackwelder, Parent Rep
- Staci Dreher, Parent Rep
- Wesley Edwards, Parent Rep
- Gigi Frank – Teacher Rep
- Kirk Ogden – Parent Rep

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 2021 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	68.6%

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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	67.2%	71.4%
7 th	65.1%	62%
8 th	67.1%	65.8%

Algebra 1 End of Course Data:

Algebra 1 – 98% 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.