



**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

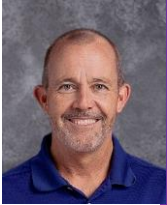
In striving for that vision, our school has

realized many accomplishments (see page 5). 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 2018-2019

Dear Parents,

Banks Trail Middle School's goal is to help all students develop the world-class skills and life and career characteristics needed in the 21st Century. Our school's reputation of excellence and tradition spans only eight years in the Fort Mill community. 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 real-world applications.

We continue to implement new instructional strategies to impact each student's individual learning styles and needs. Banks Trail's teachers participate in professional learning opportunities throughout the school year. Sessions are developed and determined based on 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 in 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, orchestra, art, chorus, and drama. We offer Gateway to Engineering courses and a computer science class that helps prepare students for possible STEM majors and future careers. Athletic opportunities at the middle school level include football, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, soccer, track, and baseball. Other sports options for 7th and 8th grade are offered at our local high school.

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) both at school and in the world. We strive for our students to be globally prepared for 21st Century challenges and for them to be caring people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Michael W. Pratt

Principal

**Banks Trail Middle School**



***Elijah Peters***  
***BTMS Student Council President 2018-19***

“My years at the Trail have been unforgettable. I have made many new friends and created many new memories. The Trail has not only strengthened my leadership, but my integrity and ambition. These character traits will stay with me as I enter high school and continue to strengthen in the years to come.”

Commented [SC1]: Need updated statement from Elijah

***Amy Rossett***

***BTMS Teacher of the Year 2019-20***



“What an honor it is to represent BTMS as teacher of the year for 2019-20. In my 26 years of teaching, BTMS is the best school I’ve ever worked in. As literacy specialist, I look forward each day to serving the extraordinary students and staff of BTMS. Watching our students grow as readers and writers throughout their three years at our school brings me immense joy. We are blessed to have a staff that is so dedicated and committed to each child’s success!”

***Vicki Ellowitch***  
***PTO Co-President***



“This is our first year in Fort Mill and we are loving it here at Banks Trail Middle School. All of the teachers and staff have been extremely welcoming and helpful. Our child comes home happy and tells us wonderful things about her day. We couldn’t be more pleased with our transition into middle school and Fort Mill!”

***Marie DeMartino***  
***PTO Co-President***



“The PTO enables parents to volunteer, stay involved in their child’s education and get to know the amazing teachers and staff of BTMS. With the growth in student population this year we have added amazing creative teachers who have hit the ground running. It has been a pleasure getting to know them. We were able to provide teacher grants for theatre spotlights, lilies for our 6th grade flower dissection project and sewing supplies for Family & Consumer Science. Through parent support with our fundraising efforts we provided the first author visit in the history of our school and will make author visits an ongoing budget item. It has been a rewarding 2 years leading our PTO and I can’t wait to see what next year brings!”

***Don Elliott***  
***BTMS SIC Chair***



“The Banks Trail Middle School Strategic Initiatives Committee (SIC), in collaboration with the BTMS administration, proudly presents the 2018-2019 Annual Report, which highlights the school's on-going pursuit of strategies and initiatives that promote innovative and rigorous educational experiences that empower BTMS students to achieve their greatest success.

As a member of this year's SIC, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand how the BTMS staff, students, parents and community work together to make the Fort Mill School District one of the best in the state of South Carolina. In light of the unprecedented growth in the Fort Mill School District, this plan is designed to enrich the educational experience of each BTMS student. Secondly, the plan is designed to prepare students for a successful transition to high school. The SIC committee applauds BTMS's staff for their leadership in implementing actions that are necessary to maintain the school's strong academic standards while expanding the breadth of its extracurricular opportunities.”



## Our Mission

- 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, Orthopedics in Motion, and Automation & Robotics

- Junior Beta Club
- Character Education Program
- Cultural & Performing Arts
  - Art Honor Society
  - Band
  - Chorus
  - Drama/ Dance
- A/ B Honor Roll program
- Academic Challenge Teams
- Science Olympiad Team
- MATH COUNTS Team

- **Middle School Sports**
  - Football
  - Volleyball
  - Cheerleading
  - Basketball Boys and Girls
  - Soccer Boys and Girls
  - Baseball
  - Track Boys and Girls

- Active School Improvement Council
- Awesome PTO
- Rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders Tour and Orientation
- Back-to-School Orientation
- Fine Arts Performances

## Academic

- Spanish
- 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 roll out Pilot school
- Media Center with 10,000+ volumes, one full-time certified librarian

## Enrichment

- Service Learning
- Student Council
- Yearbook Staff
- The Howl – Student News Program
- Class field trips
  - 6th: Carowinds
  - 7th: Charleston, SC
  - 8th: Washington, DC
- Club Time (Tuesday and Thursday)
- Career Development

## Athletics

- **High School Sports**
  - Cross Country Boys and Girls
  - Golf Boys and Girls
  - Swimming Boys and Girls
  - Softball
  - Wrestling

## Home School Connection

- Faculty Websites
- Weekly Class Newsletters
- Community Service projects and events
- Staff Luncheons
- Staff Appreciation
- Community Spirit Nights
- Volunteer Opportunities

*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

- Thirty four students recognized as Junior Scholars.
- Twenty two students enrolled in the Duke TiP program.
- Five students received State Recognition for the Duke TiP Program.
- Sixty nine 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Junior Beta Club members
- BTMS MATHCOUNTS Team competed in the Catawba Chapter Competition and finished third.
- Science Olympiad Team placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the state with top five finishes in 12 out of the 23 events.
- Sixth through Eighth Grade participated in Academic Challenge.
- Eighth grade won the Olde English Consortium Regional Academic Challenge thus qualifying for the state competition.
- Participated in the Optimist Essay Contest with a 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, Alyia S. (7<sup>th</sup>) and 3<sup>rd</sup> place win for Tatum P (7<sup>th</sup>)
- Five students represented BTMS in the Scripps National Spelling Bee District competition
- We had over 160 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 attended the SC All-State Band Event.
- Twenty-six students earned York County Band Honors.
- Twenty six students represented BTMS in the All-Region Band.
- Fourteen Band students participated in the Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- Winter and Spring Choral and Band Performances.
- Chorus performances at the Foundation for Fort Mill Schools Chili Showdown and the Veteran's Day Assembly at BTMS.
- Josiah M. (8<sup>th</sup>) and Jenna T.(8<sup>th</sup>) were named All-Star performers at the MII Broadway Junior Musical Theater Festival.
- BTMS Theatre Company performed at Broadway Jr. for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row.
- Thirty one active members in Junior Art Honor Society for BTMS.
- Five students participated in the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest. One student has gone on to compete at the Regional level.
- BTMS submitted seven pieces to the District Juried Art Exhibit taking home a 1<sup>st</sup> place for Sadie M. and an honorable mention for Giada E.
- Four BTMS students competed in the SCEA Read Across SC Poster Contest
- Twenty four students represented BTMS at the first FMSD Art Exhibit, where BTMS won a 1<sup>st</sup> place and honorable mention.
- First VEX Robotics team formed.
- Ben W. (7<sup>th</sup>) and RJ S. (8<sup>th</sup>) were finalists for the spring Do the Right Thing award from the Fort Mill Police Department. James L. (8<sup>th</sup>) won the grand prize Do the Right Thing award in the fall.
- Banks Trail participated in a food drive collecting almost 1300 pounds of food for families in need.
- BTMS Student Council raised a little over \$1000 for the Angel Tree gifts for the Fort Mill community.
- BTMS raised over \$1500 for Hoops for Heart with a 3 on 3 basketball tournament
- Second annual Path to the Trail program for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Third annual Literacy Night with over 500 visitors, the Faces of Banks Trail and various classroom exhibits.
- Read The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen as our first One School One Book program.
- Author Wendelin Van Draanen presented to each grade level during our first PTO sponsored Author visit.
- Participated in Read Across America Day with a Drop Everything & Read (DEAR) program.
- Attended the 7th grade career fair that took place in March, with over 55 businesses represented.
- Eighth grade participated in Job Shadow day
- Sixth grade STEAM Career Day
- Two Scholastic Book Fairs
- This I Believe Celebration for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- 2019 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Baseball Team won FM Athletic Conference Championship
- 2018-2019 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls & Boys Basketball Teams won the FM Athletic Conference Championship

**Commented [SC2]:** Waiting to hear from ELA if we participated in this this year

**Commented [SC4]:** Waiting to hear from Kati with an updated number

**Commented [SC3]:** Waiting to hear back from Christi on these numbers for this year



## 2018-19 School Improvement Council Members

- Don Elliott, SIC Chairperson
- Marc Pycr, Assistant Principal
- Bradley Wagner, Teacher Representative
- Melanie Kugler, Teacher Representative
- Adam Miller, Teacher Representative
- Sara McCart, Parent Representative
- Amy Merrigan, Parent Representative
- Kelly Wilson, Parent Representative
- Celia McCarter, Parent Representative
- Nikki Godfrey-Hill – 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

- Mindy Atkins, President
- Ashley Causey, Treasurer
- Kristen Privette
- Kelly Thomas
- Donna Jackley
- Ed Shelton

## 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>	76.8%	
7 <sup>th</sup>		80%
8 <sup>th</sup>	69.6%	

### 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>	65.6%	77.2%
7 <sup>th</sup>	56.6%	60.9%
8 <sup>th</sup>	55.2%	62.5%

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

English – 99% passing  
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.

