

Timberwolves
Teamwork. Responsibility. Ambition, Integrity. Leadership

Banks Trail Middle School
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Fort Mill, SC 29715

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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 700 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 gymnatorium 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 and the Palmetto Gold Award. 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 2025-2026

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" (**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

Marc Pyrc
Principal

Banks Trail Middle School



Ronika Middleton
BTMS Teacher of the Year 2026-27

I am honored to be named Banks Trail's Teacher of the Year for the 2026-2027 school year. I am grateful to be part of a school community that inspires students to be their best each day. As a School Counselor, the true reward is watching students grow confidence, character, and courage as they discover their potential. I look forward to seeing our students thrive and build meaningful connections as learners and leaders!



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 in high school! My son will be entering seventh 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!



Megan Fox
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.







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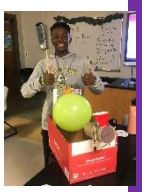

Academic

- Gifted and Talented Classes in ELA and Math
- Daily FLEX time
- High School Credit Courses
  - English 1 Honors
  - Geometry 1 Honors
- Timberwolf Time – Math and ELA intervention three times a week
- Extra Help – During lunch and FLEX periods
- Small Group Literacy & Math Instruction as needed
- Special Education Classes (Resource and Inclusion)
- ESOL Support
- 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
  - 6th: In House field trip
    - Brought in a specialist from the Schiele Museum to assist students with a hands-on dissection experience
  - 7th: Anne Springs Greenway & Roper Mountain
  - 8th: Charleston, SC. & SC State Museum
    In House
    Tanya Trachtenburg: spoke to students about her father and grandfather's experiences during WWII and the Holocaust
    Demaris Martin spoke to students about her grandfather's experience as a service member during WWII
- Related Arts Enrichment Field Trips
- Club Time
- Spirit Weeks, Pep Rallies, Purple Outs & School wide dances
- Career Development
  - 6th: In-House Career Day
  - 7th: Career Fair and Winthrop Career: Beyond the Bell
  - 8th: 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 6th Grade Tour and Orientation
- Rising 9th 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

- Thirty-two students were inducted into Junior Beta Club making our total enrollment sixty-six.
- Twenty-six students recognized as Junior Scholars
- One hundred twenty-six 8th grade students took the PSAT
- Twenty-one 6th, 7th and 8th Grade students competed on the Academic Challenge team. They finished 3rd in the OEC Regional Tournament.
- Banks Trail Science Olympiad fielded two teams this year. Team A finished 3rd, and Team B finished 6th place overall at the SC state tournament at Presbyterian college. Eight students had 1st place finishes, 12 had 2nd place finishes, and 20 students had 3rd place finishes in individual science events.
- The Media Center hosted author Amy Rossett for a writing workshop with a select group of 8th grade students.
- Read *Daybreak on Raven Island* as a One School One Book event for the entire school. Ended the OSOB event with a virtual author visit with Fleur Bradley.
- Participated in a District wide Battle of the Books competition. BTMS took first and second place in the Fort Mill School District Competition.
- School wide Spelling Bee. Clinton K won and went on to represent BTMS at the District Competition
- Brighton M. was accepted into the Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities.
- 8th grade Band, Chorus, Theatre, and Art students participated in the Imagination Campus Workshops at Disney World
- 65 students participated in Matilda Jr either as performers, set designers, technical crew, or ushers
- 7th and 8th Grade band received Superior rating at SC Concert Performance Assessment
- 7th and 8th Grade Honors Choruses performed at SC Concert Performance Assessment
- 6th Grade Chorus received Superior rating at the Carowinds Festival of Music
- 6th Grade Band received Superior rating at the Carowinds Music in the Park festival.
- 7th Grade Band and Honors Chorus received Excellent ratings at the Dollywood Music in the Parks Festival.
- Band students participated in the Solo and Ensemble competition.
- 5 band students were selected to audition for All-State Band
- 12 band students were selected for All-Region Band
- Three students were selected by audition for the South Carolina Honor Choir
- One student was selected to perform at the SCMEA Choral Clinic at Winthrop University
- 9 BTMS students participated in the Catawba Ridge High School Marching Band receiving 1st in the state and the BOA Atlanta Regional.
- 7th and 8th Grade Honors Choruses represented BTMS at the district choral clinic
- 7th and 8th Grade Honors Chorus performed the National Anthem at the CRHS football game
- 7th and 8th Grade Band Pep Rally Performance
- Band and Chorus performed a Winter Concert (all grades)
- Band and Chorus performed a Spring Concert (all grades)
- 8th Grade Art Honors students completed the op art mural in the art room and created the brick mural for the garden in the courtyard.
- 7th grade Art Honors students visited the Charlotte Mint Museum and helped create props for the Matilda Jr. play.
- Art students created signs around the school for various events.
- Through donations from Banks Trail Families, BTMS provided 30 complete Thanksgiving meals to our families in need and were able to help 31 families during the winter holidays through our Angel Tree Program.
- Second Harvest Food Bank, Springs Foundation and Fort Mill Schools, worked together to provide weekend food bags for some of our BTMS families.
- 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 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 Unified Sports competed against GHMS in volleyball.
- BTMS Unified Book Club brought in community members as guest readers.
- Inclusion classes participated in the Special Olympics
- PTO Booster Bash Fundraiser and Silent Disco

2025-2026 School Improvement Council Members

- Marc Pyrc, Principal
- Mary Margaret Brand, Asst. Principal
- Ashley Donovan, Teacher Representative
- Katie Jenkinson, Teacher Representative & Title 1 Liaison
- Megan Fox, Parent Rep & President
- Chris Coleman, Parent Representative
- Katie Conroy, 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

- Sarah Morris, President
- Erica Hicks
- Carly Light
- Thornly McWilliam

Testing Data
2025 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
6th	**58.5%**	**75.9%**
7th	**56.9%**	**80.7%**
8th	**65.0%**	**81.5%**

Algebra 1 End of Course Data:

Algebra 1 – 96.9% 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.