**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The middle years of growing up-ages 11 through 14 are times of rapid physical, mental, and emotional change for early adolescents. These young people learn best in an educational environment that encourages them to convert their energy and enthusiasm into knowledge and skills. Middle schools provide that environment.

Middle school teachers, counselors and support staff understand the unique needs of early adolescence. Learning takes place in a safe, nurturing environment where students explore while discovering new talents and skills. This environment helps students build confidence and a positive self-image.

As young children mature and move towards adolescence, middle schools help them become aware of their physical and emotional changes, while at the same time developing skills that foster academic success. Through the middle years, students are encouraged to develop new learning-skills and self-directed techniques that prepare them for secondary and the years that lie beyond.

**ACTION PLAN FOR LEARNING**

Goal: To improve students’ reading comprehension across the curriculum.

Objective 1: To identify and support students who are minimally meeting expectations and help them develop their skills in literacy.

Objective 2: To identify and support students who are minimally meeting expectations and help them develop their skills in numeracy.

Progress towards our school goals will be communicated regularly in our school newsletter, on our Banting Community Portal: [www.sd43.bc.ca/banting](https://www.sd43.bc.ca/banting), and at School Planning Council meetings and PAC meetings.

**BUILDING BANTING’S COMMUNITY**

Our school motto is “PRIDE”, which forms the foundation of school life at Banting. Banting PRIDE (see pg. 5) describes the appropriate behaviours for students in all locations of the school, is taught to students in classrooms and referred to throughout the school year.

**P**ower of Courage

**R**espect & **R**esponsibility

**I**nclusion

**D**etermination

**E**mpathy

**F**orce de Courage

**I**nclusion

**E**mpathie

**R**espect& **R**esponsabilité

**T**énacité

**E**loquence

**PARENT PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESS CHANGES**

It is of paramount importance that the school has accurate records of parents’ home and work numbers. **Please inform us immediately of phone number or address changes during the year,** so we can keep our records up-to-date.

**MEDICAL ALERTS**

If your child has a medical condition that requires precautionary treatment of medication at school, please complete a Medical Alert Form found online in our community portal.

**SCHOOL OFFICE**

The school office is open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. The office staff will be pleased to assist you. The school numbers are 604-939-9247 and fax number is 604-937-8041

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

The school newsletter is generally published at month’s end. It will be made available online through our community portal. A few paper copies will also be kept at the office.

If you would like to receive our newsletter by e-mail, please email us at [banting@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:banting@sd43.bc.ca).

**BANTING PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (B.P.A.C.)**

All Banting parents belong to the PAC and are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for parents, school staff and community members to share ideas and discuss educational issues as they pertain to our middle school. Watch for meeting dates in our school newsletter, the PAC Newsletter or visit the PAC page of our community portal.

**SCHOOL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Banting School Planning Council is composed of the principal, and 3 parents. They are responsible for assisting the school staff with the development, implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan for Learning.

**SCHOOL FEES**

Activity fees support school wide activities for all students, such as: student leadership events, clubs, cultural performances and special event celebrations. The activity fee also purchases student planners. If payment of the activity fee causes a financial hardship, please contact the school principal. Middle school activity fees are set by the School Board at $35.00

**VISITORS**

In order to support a safe academic environment for all students, we have a No Visitors Policy. Only parents and people conducting business at the school are welcome. Relatives from out of town that are students or students from other schools who are on a non-instructional day, are not expected to visit during the school day. All visitors are asked to check in at the office upon arrival at the school.

**COMMUNITY PORTAL**

Be sure to check our community portal for information and updates.

[**www.sd43.bc.ca/banting**](https://www.sd43.bc.ca/banting)

**TRAFFIC**

We ask for your assistance when dropping off and picking up your children at school. Please drive with caution around our school and move forward in our limited drop off area. We suggest arriving at school after 3:10 in order to avoid and not contribute to the congestion. We ask everyone to please respect the posted signage, paying special attention to Exits and Entrances.

**STUDENT ILLNESS**

The office is not permitted to issue medication. Students who feel too ill to remain in class should obtain permission from the classroom teacher before reporting to the office. If your child will not be attending school for any reason, including illness, please notify the school.

**ATTENDANCE**

It is a joint parental and student responsibility to ensure that students are at school and on time every day. Attendance is taken each morning and the names of absent students are recorded at the office. If the office has not been informed of the child’s absence by parents, an attempt will be made to contact them. This is for safety reasons.

Parents can help staff monitor attendance by phoning the office anytime to inform us of the child’s absence each day the child is away. There is an answering machine for after hours or early calls. Alternatively, you can complete an Absence Report online in our community portal.

If a child must leave early for an appointment or other commitment, please notify the office by either submitting an Absence Report online indicating the time and reason for early dismissal, sending a note with the child or calling the office by 9:00 am. If a child is ill and wishes to go home early, a parent will be contacted and informed of the situation before the child is dismissed.

**LATES**

It is the student’s responsibility to be at school on time and to arrive promptly for all classes. Students arriving to school late should provide a note or an acceptable reason for being late and **must check in at the office** for a late slip before proceeding to class. If you know your child will be late, please advise the office by submitting an Absence Report online or calling the office by 9:00 am.

**CLOSED CAMPUS**

Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds during school hours without written parental permission.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

Since promoting success is our major goal, we have a code of rights and responsibilities, which, if adhered to, will promote student success.

* I have a **RIGHT** to learn in this school. It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to attend all classes punctually, complete assignments and work cooperatively in the classroom.
* I have a **RIGHT** to hear and be heard. It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to listen while others are speaking.
* I have a **RIGHT** to be respected in this school. It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to treat others with respect - to not tease, harass or discriminate against other people.
* I have a **RIGHT** to be safe at school, and on the way to and from school. It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to not threaten, intimidate or physically hurt anyone at school or on the way to or from school.
* I have a **RIGHT** to privacy and to my own personal space. It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to respect the space of others, maintain school cleanliness and respect school property.

**STUDENT DRESS CODE**

We recognize that clothing is an avenue of personal expression, however students are asked to not wear articles of clothing which promote alcohol, drugs or inappropriate language. We also believe that clothes that show too much of your body (skimpy tank tops, tiny miniskirts, etc.) or revealing undergarments (underwear, bra-straps, etc.) are inappropriate and are thus not allowed. Common sense and modesty should be the rule here. Students will be asked to replace such clothing with proper attire.

At Banting we also have a “no hat policy” – hats, and other forms of non-religious headwear, are not to be worn in the school.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Students are assigned textbooks for certain subjects by their teachers. Students are expected to take great care of these expensive resources. A student who loses or damages a textbook will be assessed a replacement fee or a damage fee dependent on the original condition of the book. Refunds will be given if lost textbooks are found and returned to the teacher.

**STUDENT PICTURES/GO-CARDS**

The school picture program provides the school with student photos for our Emergency Preparedness Program as well as ID (Go cards) cards used for Transit as proof of age. Students/Parents wishing to purchase color packs may do so at this time. We also have an opportunity in the Spring for Student photos, which are not used by the school but strictly a service for parents, if you so choose.

**LOCKS AND LOCKERS**

Each student will be assigned a locker and a lock. Lockers are the property of the school and the contents are subject to school supervision. Students may only use locks issued by the school. It is the students’ responsibility to take care of their lockers and to ensure that their lock combination is kept secret. The school is not responsible for items lost from a locker. The school reserves the right to revoke locker privileges for neglect or abuse of the locker. If students lose or break their lock, there will be a new lock issued at a charge of $5.00. Students may decorate the inside of the locker as long as it is in good taste and can be easily removed. Students are encouraged to bring a lock from home in order to safeguard their possessions in the P.E. change room.

**VALUABLES**

We encourage students to keep valuable items, including electronic devices, at home.

The school will not be responsible if items are lost or stolen.

**BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Banting offers a breakfast program from 8:10 – 8:30 am. Items range from .25¢ to $1.00.

**VENDING MACHINES**

Beverage dispensers for water, fruit juices, and healthy snacks are available. Machines are to be used at your own risk as different companies service these machines. Students may only use the machines in the morning, at nutrition break, at lunch-time and after school, not during or between classes.

**COUNSELLOR**

The counsellor’s role in assisting students is multifaceted. The main areas are: counselling, consultation, coordination and education. The youth worker works closely with the Counsellor to assist with any problem students might be experiencing, as well as liaising with home.

**STUDENT SERVICES**

Banting Middle School, in keeping with the inclusionary model, integrates all students into grade appropriate teams. Students’ individual needs are met within the classroom environment by classroom teachers, student support teachers and special education assistants. Students receive help in areas of specific weakness, as well as with course work and homework when needed. This additional support may take place within the regular classroom or may be delivered on a “pull out” basis.

**SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The school library is open during nutrition break and lunch time for students who wish to work quietly. During the day the library is usually booked by classes for research, but individual students are welcome to use the library with a library pass from their teacher.

The barcode on the Go-Card is used as a library card. Students should keep it in a safe place. Students are responsible for care of materials they use, and must compensate for any books they lose or damage.

Our teacher-librarian is available for guidance and instruction.

**STUDENT EVALUATION AND REPORTING**

**Formal reporting**:

This reporting occurs three times during the year and will include:

1. A letter grade for achievement in each subject
2. A rating for work habits
3. Anecdotal teacher comments

Exploratory classes will issue a separate report at the end of each of the four exploration periods. These will be sent home at the end of each academic term.

**Informal Reporting:**

There will be two informal reports during the year. Other forms of communication to parents may include telephone calls, letters or interviews by teachers, counsellors and/or administrators.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences:**

Early Dismissal days are scheduled to facilitate conferences between parents and teachers. Teachers will communicate with parents if a conference is needed outside these scheduled dates. You are encouraged to contact the teachers whenever you have a concern about your child’s progress.

**LETTER GRADES**

The letter grades and symbols used for reporting are as follows:

**A** The student demonstrates excellent or outstanding performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes for the course or subject or grade.

**B** The student demonstrates very good performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes for the course or subject or grade.

**C+** The student demonstrates good performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes for the course or subject and grade.

**C** The student demonstrates satisfactory performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes for the course or subject and grade.

**C-** The student demonstrates minimally acceptable performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes for the course or subject or grade.

**I** (In Progress/Incomplete) The student has not yet completed the term requirements. A plan will be developed to assist the student meet the learning outcomes.

**F** The student has not demonstrated minimally acceptable performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes for the course or subject or grade.

For work habits a rating of **G, S or N** is given:

**G – Good**

**S – Satisfactory**

**N – Needs improvement**

**HONOUR ROLL**

After each report, students with all B’s (or better) in core subject areas are recognized on our Academic Honour Roll. All G’s in core and exploration subject areas are required for the Work Habits Honour Roll.

**AWARDS**

Banting Middle School places a high value on student achievement, involvement and citizenship. Students are recognized at the end of the year in several categories: academic and work habit achievement, athletic and fine arts participation and excellence shown in exploration courses. Several awards assemblies are held in June to honour recipients. Teams hold team assemblies to recognize their students. There is a special Grade 8 Ceremony to honour our senior students who are leaving. Parents are encouraged to attend and will be advised of dates in advance.

**HOMEWORK**

Regular study is essential for success at the middle level. Students should develop a regular habit of doing at least an hour of study a night, five nights a week. Study doesn’t mean just doing assigned work but also consistent review. All students should be bringing home school work to organize, review, or complete. There is no such thing, as “I have no homework.” It is suggested that parents post a copy of the student’s timetable at home and that they monitor notebooks and course work regularly. This planner is an excellent way of keeping track of student assignments.

**P.E. REQUIREMENTS**

All students must have proper PE clothing. This includes shorts, a T-shirt, and running shoes that are different from clothing worn the rest of the school day. Students are encouraged to bring a lock from home they may use during their PE block. Students will get the opportunity to purchase Banting PE clothing in the fall, but should have other clothing available until it arrives. Students who are unable to participate in PE classes must bring a note from home. If a student is unable to participate for an extended period of time s/he must bring in a medical statement. Students who are unable to participate in classes will be expected to complete alternate assignments.

**ATHLETICS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Banting Middle School is proud to sponsor many exciting extracurricular and intramural activities. All students and staff are encouraged to participate. Depending on volunteer coaches and sponsors, we hope to offer all, or most, of the following activities:

**ATHLETIC FEES**

Students who take part in extra-curricular teams will be charged between $10.00 per sport, depending on the sport, to cover operational costs such as referees, jerseys, tournament, and association fees. This will be collected by each coach at the beginning of the sport’s season.

**FALL**

Cross Country Running, Volleyball, Cheer

**WINTER**

Basketball, Wrestling

**SPRING**

Track & Field and Rugby

**LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES**

Students can take part in many activities:

Adventure Playground Tether Ball

Four Square Library

Cheer Club Basketball

Grass Field

**STUDENT CLUBS**

Cheer Club, Choir, Concert and Jazz Band, Drama Club and Yearbook Club are just some of the clubs which may be offered this year.