



École Banting Middle School

820 Banting Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 4J4

•Phone: 604-939-9247 •Fax: 604-937-8041 Website: www.sd43.bc.ca/middle/banting

May 19, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of present Grade Five students and new students entering Banting in Fall 2021,

Greetings from Banting Middle School – home of the Banting Blaze!

To start – if you are receiving this, then yes, we have you registered with us for next year 😊

I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and in good spirits as we near the end of the school year. Under normal circumstances, we would have met all our incoming students four or five times by now and we would have had students and parents at the school for several tours. Our goal is always to have our incoming students feel connected to the school, the staff, other students, and know their way around their school. After all, other than home, the second most amount of time your child will spend at a particular spot is their school, so we like Banting to be “a home away from home”. Face to face meetings and tours also decreases anxiety and is a great start to what we hope will be a fantastic Banting journey.

Unfortunately, with COVID-19 protocols, we cannot do any of our usual welcome activities. We have met with all the students’ teachers, counsellors, and principals to assist us with class placement and to give us any information that will assist us in supporting our incoming students. Despite the absence of meetings and tours, rest assured, when students return in September, we will be doing many “ice breaker” activities, get-to-know-you activities, and tours. The first weeks will be Banting familiarization week. Which brings us to *the* big question.....

“What will September look like?”

I wish I had an answer for you. I do not. Things are looking optimistic however. Everything will be dependent on the how the pandemic progresses, and the recommendations set forth by the Provincial Health Officer (the PHO direct the Ministry of Education who in turn, directs the School Districts). As a school, for 2021-22 we have a plan “A” (which is business as usual as we have done in the past), “plan B” remote learning or a hybrid model (could be a day 1/day 2 model like you saw in May 2020 or full attendance with staggered times and cohorts of 30 like we did this school year), and we are more than ready to initiate “plan C, D, or E” which could be anything depending on the news in late August. I will keep you informed as best as I can throughout the summer. I will be sending home another communique leading into the break with the latest news and staffing changes for next year etc.

Next year, we will have 22 divisions - two grade 7/8 English classes, seven grade 6/7 English classes, two English grade 6 classes, three English grade 8 classes, four grade 6/7 French classes and four grade 7/8 French classes. Computers - We are a BYOD school- which means bring your own device. As we are a new school with a fantastic fiberoptic network and a super charged wifi system, we take advantage of this and encourage students to bring their own device to school. Laptops or tablets are preferred as they are much simpler to use for word processing. All SD43 schools operate on the MS 365 platform that is offered free to all students (we have used the TEAMS video/audio function extensively during remote learning). We have found that iPads and Chromebooks do not work that well, although some students use them for different applications in addition to their laptop. As part of the BYOD program, we are able to supply a limited number of laptops to families who do not have one. Please see the BYOD attachment for more information.



École Banting Middle School

820 Banting Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 4J4

•Phone: 604-939-9247 •Fax: 604-937-8041 Website: www.sd43.bc.ca/middle/banting

Here are some important links I highly recommend you view.

Tour. Two virtual tours of Banting hosted by me (for students and parents). These take the place of open house, grade 6 for a half day and some other grade 5 tours. If you or your child has any questions from the video or want more information, please e-mail me at btrask@sd43.bc.ca and I will make a third video answering the questions.

BANTING TOUR PART 1 <https://vimeo.com/552172160/0c6a323996> 20 min

BANTING TOUR PART 2 <https://vimeo.com/552199426/c0d789d97f> 30 min

- 1) **Our Website.** This is something you should check frequently. The calendar is updated as best we can along with many resources and sections that can answer many of your questions. Additionally, our daily announcements that the students hear are on this so you are completely in the information loop. I would also recommend incoming students to spend 20 minutes “surfing” the site as it will help you “get to know” Banting. [https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/banting/Pages/default.aspx#/=](https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/banting/Pages/default.aspx#/)
- 2) **Code of Conduct.** Usually during a tour, we go through some school rules and expectations. I have included our school code of conduct as an attachment. Students will be going over this in detail the first few weeks of school.
- 3) **Supply List.** As we are unsure how the start of school will look and what students may need, we are a little hesitant putting out the supply list. Generally, it remains the same year to year, with only a few minor changes if any. I have included the French and English supplies list. Please do not be in a hurry to buy all the supplies, there will be plenty of time in the fall to purchase supplies. Middle schools do not offer supplies or offer supply packages as some elementary schools do.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, or our Vice-Principal Ms. Bain. We are in the school for the first two weeks of July and are back at the school two weeks before school begins. If your son or daughter is feeling a little anxious or nervous and would like to pop by, please feel free to contact us and we will see what we can do.

Bill Trask, Principal – btrask@sd43.bc.ca Shannon Bain, Vice-Principal sbain@sd43.bc.ca

Wishing you a great summer

Bill & Shannon

Bill Trask

Principal / Directeur

Ecole Banting Middle School

“Blaze your trail ...”

Ton chemin, ton demain!