



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

WELCOME GRADE 5 STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS!

On behalf of the staff at Banting Middle School we would like to extend a very warm welcome to our future students and their families! The Banting Vice-Principal (Ms. McMahon) and myself (Principal, Mr. Trask) will soon be visiting our five “feeder” elementary schools twice and will meet with the students again in May and June. We are excited about your arrival at our school and are looking forward to meeting and working with you. At present, we are expecting to open the new Banting in October or November – very exciting news and we will keep you informed. During the coming months, several events will occur to make the transition for our new students informative and positive; our intention is to ensure all incoming grade fives are prepared, informed, and that we have alleviated any anxiety they may have about middle school. We invite all students and parents to participate fully in these activities. We have five main feeder schools listed below. Some of our students come from elementary schools all over the district and outside the district. If you are not in one of our five “neighbourhood” schools, we encourage you to attend as many or all of the activities below. ****NOTE**** - If your child is coming from a school other than Miller Park, Mountainview, Porter, Glenayre, or Roy Stibbs, you may attend any of the activities listed on this sheet. You would need to get to and from the school on your own accord. Please RSVP with Mr. Trask via E-mail: btrask@sd43.bc.ca

OPEN HOUSE FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS – Wednesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

We would like to extend a cordial invitation to all future grade 6 students and their parents to attend our Open House on Wednesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. in our gymnasium. At this meeting, several staff members including the administration will present information on a variety of topics relating to our school. There will also be leadership students assisting. There will be a meeting for parents with children who have special needs from 6:00 – 6:30 in room 225. We will keep it fairly brief as there is a lot of information to share. A detailed information night is planned for Wednesday May 09 (see below).

BANTING “MIDDLE SCHOOL 101” Wednesday May 09 7:00–9:00 Banting Library

All parents welcome! (students also). Open house evening does not offer all the information you may want; therefore, this opportunity is for you! We will spend our time explaining middle school philosophy and some of the things unique to Banting Middle. There will be time to answer any questions and a tour. This talk mirrors much of the discussion we have with the students when we visited our four elementary feeder schools.

GRADE FIVE CLASSROOM VISITS AND TEACHER MEETINGS: (April)

Banting teachers, administration and the counselor will meet with Grade Five teachers two times to discuss the learning needs of each child coming to our school next year. Elementary classroom teachers, learning assistance teachers, administrators, and counselors will make recommendations regarding programming for each student, giving us specific information about learning styles, strengths, specific needs, etc. While the elementary and middle school teachers and counsellors are meeting, the Principal and Vice-Principal will be meeting with the Grade Five students to continue to discuss aspects of Banting such as middle school expectations, courses, timetable, lockers, extra-curricular activities and safety. Additionally, students will be filling out a questionnaire detailing their strengths, needs, and learning styles that will assist us with classroom placement. *****NOTE***** We only visit our five main feeder schools – Porter, Glenayre, Miller Park, Roy Stibbs, and Mountainview. For students from other schools, we send the teachers and parents an articulation form to guide us for classroom placement and to have further information that will help us support the student.



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World Wide Band Tour and Explorations Fair– Wednesday, June 13, 9:30 – 11:30

Your final visit! Another opportunity to tour the school, meet future teachers, classmates and schoolmates. In addition, all students will have an opportunity to hear our band and visit our explorations classrooms and get a presentation about our fantastic explorations programs (Tech. Ed., Art, Music, Drama, Inquiry, and Home Economics). Our five neighborhood feeder schools are coming – open to ALL our future grade 6 students. If you are coming from a school other than Miller Park, Porter, Mountainview, Glenayre, or Roy Stibbs (non-feeder schools), you will need to find your own transportation to and from Banting.

BASKETBALL - APRIL 26 from 3:30 – 5:30 Banting has invited the Elementary feeder schools over for a basketball jamboree. Ask your child's teacher if your school is attending. If you are a non neighbourhood school student, let Mr. Trask know you would like to play and we can put you on a team.

PEDS (Personal Electronic Devices)

I have had many parents E-mail, phone or ask me "should I get my son or daughter a laptop, and if so, what kind?" The first part of the question is easier to answer. Laptops, notebooks, netbooks and iPads/iPods (all under the heading of PEDS – personal electronic devices) are encouraged at Banting. They are also encouraged as students move on to Secondary school. Note – they are not mandatory. While technology is used to empower student learning and engage students, Banting can provide students with all their technology needs. Teachers plan their lessons and learning opportunities so that the necessary resources are available, including technology needs. However, a personal electronic device will assist your son or daughter educationally in many ways....too many ways to list. Great student technology for schools should:

- Enable students to communicate and collaborate
- Support student research
- Be great for creating documents, presentations and movies
- Not be distracting

Different PEDS perform different functions. In the end, it all depends on what your child uses it for, your and their comfort level with a product and price \$\$\$. Whatever product you purchase should have wireless capability (Wi-Fi) and have a program that can permit word processing. This can be a laptop, tablet, tableau and either be any android device (Samsung, Windows tablet, Google Chromebook, Acer, HP, Dell,etc.) or Apple Device (iPad/iPod/iPhone/Mac Air.....etc.). We find smartphones, although Wi-Fi capable, are not beneficial for writing, which is a huge component of research/inquiry. If you feel your son or daughter would benefit academically by having a laptop or handheld device in class you may choose to send it along to school. He or she might make use of the device to word process assignments or research online. Students can check with their teachers to find appropriate times and assignments to complete on their personal technology. With the large number of electronics at school our staff do their best, but are unable to guarantee security. Most students store their PEDS in their lockers and we have not experienced any loss to date. Students are fully responsible to ensure that their PEDS are stored safely and all PEDS policies are adhered to. Any questions, feel free to contact me.

Bill

Bill Trask, Principal, Ecole Banting Middle School