



École **BANTING MIDDLE** School

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August 29, 2019

Greetings Banting Community,

Welcome back to another school year. We are looking forward to working with you and your child. First, a big welcome to all our incoming grade 6 students and our new grade 7 and 8 students. We are looking forward to another great year. At present, we will open with twenty divisions in September, eleven English and nine French. The the pick – up and drop – off area is now complete – attached is a map of the drop off protocol. Note – the previous pick up and drop off area is still available (5 spaces on Ellice St. and the entire back of the school – Raynor St). Our parking lot should be completed by Oct.01, which will be where the previous Banting was situated.

Note – our schedule (attached), Wednesday start times will be at 9:03; all the other days will be the usual 8:38.

If you are in band on Wednesday morning, the schedule remains the same. School is still open at the usual time Wednesday mornings, but the bell that rings to start school does not go until 9:03 at which time students are expected to go immediately to class.

If you will be absent any of the first week, please contact us via phone or e-mail. We are open the last week of August if your child is feeling a little anxious and would like to come by for a visit. Information items below. Have a great summer!

School goal for next year: Enhancing inclusive and restorative classroom practices that support the diverse academic and socioemotional needs of our learners via the new curriculum.

Bill

Bill Trask, Principal École Intermédiaire - Banting Middle School

FIRST WEEK - SEPTEMBER 2019

Below is a rough outline of the first week at Banting. Much of the first week is introductory where we go over Banting expectations, goals and the year ahead – presentations, icebreakers, tours, Pride/Fierte matrix, and introductory activities connected to the Core and Curricular competencies. We have schoolwide presentations on Wednesday Sept. 04 all day (on-line safety), a schoolwide assembly on Thursday Sept.05 1:15 – 2:30 and youth mental health presentations all day Friday Sept.06. Please feel free to pop by and sit in on any of the presentations.

Students will not be placed in classes until we are certain of our enrolment, which will probably be Friday, September 6. The first few days, students will work in their team communities until classes are finalized. If we do not need to reorganize the school (grow a class or lose a class based on numbers of students), our tentative plan will be to start exploration classes on Monday September 9.

Lockers will not be assigned until classes are assigned.

A plethora of important notices will be coming home week one; emergency contacts, driving forms, school fees ...etc. – to name a few. Your assistance in returning these promptly is very much appreciated.

There is no cafeteria service, so students will need to pack a lunch starting Wednesday, September 4. We do have microwaves and hot water urns.

We want to start off building good habits, so please note that school begins at 9:03 on Wednesday and 8:38 on Thursday and Friday. Students will want to be a few minutes early at the least.

More information will be forthcoming via newsletter and E-mail. I highly recommend you frequently visit our website for information (such as supply lists), and any calendar updates.

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/banting/Pages/default.aspx>

* Each team will be hosting a pancake breakfast during the second week. The specific days will be announced during the first week and will be on our calendar.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd

The first day of school is simply an opportunity to welcome students to the school, to take attendance, to register new students and to see which students have moved over the summer. If your son or daughter will not be in this day, please contact the school. You do not need to bring anything!

Attendance is staggered by grade level and each group of students **is dismissed after 30 - 45 minutes.**

9:00 – Grade 6 students arrive for attendance in the gym.

9:00 – Any new students arrive for registration – go to the office.

10:00 – Grade 7 students arrive for attendance in the gym.

10:30 – Grade 8 students arrive for attendance in the gym.

TEACHERS WILL TELL STUDENTS WHERE TO MEET WEDNESDAY MORNING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4th

9:03 – 3:00 - all students attend. Please bring a lunch and a pen or pencil.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5th

8:38 – 3:00 - all students attend

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6th

8:38 – 3:00 – all students attend

COMPUTERS FOR NEXT YEAR – BYOD & Office 365 - BYOD – Bring your own device

The decision to formally become a BYOD school is because, increasingly, there are many daily lessons in the classroom where students can collaborate safely with their classmates through Office 365 tools such as OneNote and other shared digital documents. We invite families to send a laptop to school each day to be used in learning activities and only for that purpose. Each student has their own locker and we have never had a computer lost. Smartphones are effective for research and other functions, as are ipads, but for word processing, we highly recommend a laptop. The primary use of the laptop will be word processing; therefore, students do not require a high-end laptop. An affordable option would be Craigslist or Kevin's used computers, for example.

The school has a limited number of laptops for families who are unable to provide a device. Students will be able to sign out the school device for the school year. The student and family will be responsible for ensuring that the device and charger is returned to the school in working condition in June.

Office 365

Students have access to Office 365 at school and at home via the school home page. It is expected that students will save their work in the cloud. Therefore, USB drives will not be permitted.

LATES

At Banting Middle School we believe it is very important that students arrive at school on time, ready to work. Being on time prepares students for work and other activities outside of school: a life skill necessary to succeed after graduation. Late arrivals have the dual effect of hindering a student's academic progress, as well as disrupting the teacher and the class, missing important information, calendar items and daily announcements. Students should arrive at the school by 8:38am to allow them time to go to their locker before the first bell.

If a student arrives late to school, he/she **must** sign in at the office.

- A student who is late twice a month will be excused.
- The third time late in a month, the student will be expected to complete a reflection sheet designed to help the student come up with a plan to arrive at school on time, and to inform parents.
- On the third, and any subsequent late arrivals to school in a month, the student will owe back the time to the office.

PEDS (Personal Electronic Devices – cell phones, iPods, iPads, MP3's, computers, electronic games)

We understand PEDs are a part of everyday life, but it is important that they do not disrupt the learning environment. PEDs will be permitted throughout the school (inside and outside) before and after school but **must be in lockers during school hours.**

PEDs should not be out between 8:35 – 2:55. This means no PED's out at nutrition break or lunch break.

Classroom teachers may permit PEDs in the classroom during classroom time or during breaks, under their supervision. This is the decision of each individual teacher and this must be respected. This means some classrooms or some areas may not permit PED's during certain times or at all.

PEDs should be used respectfully and responsibly. The content on a PED must be appropriate and any staff member can request to see or hear a PED at any time. For safety purposes, the volume level of the PED must be at

a level that the individual using it can hear others around him/her in case of an emergency. PED's that are not connected to earphones or ear buds must be at a volume level that is quiet and does not disrupt others.

PICTURES OR RECORDINGS ARE NEVER TO BE TAKEN AT SCHOOL, INCLUDING BEFORE AND AFTER.

There are exceptions to this rule on a case by case basis. For example, students may be asked to do some video work or take pictures for a class or school project. This will be approved and supervised by a staff member.

PEDs are NEVER to be present in washrooms or change rooms for ANY reason.

Using a PED at Banting is a privilege. If it is abused, you may lose the privilege. If PED use compromises the privacy or safety of a person at Banting, consequences can range from confiscation of the PED to suspension - or both.

THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF PED'S AT ANY TIME.

CAMERAS

Cameras of any type are not to be used at school without teacher supervision. Any use of cameras for photos or video will be for educational purposes only. This is a large privacy/confidentiality issue.