



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

July 06, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade Five students and new students entering Banting in Fall 2022,

Greetings from Banting Middle School – home of the Banting Blaze! I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and in good spirits as we start the summer vacation. If you are receiving this letter, then we have you registered for fall 2022! 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 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, we were not able to have students or parents into the building. With COVID-19 protocols still around (much less – but still being safe), we were able to visit the elementary schools several times and meet all the grade 5 students but could not have them in for a tour or have an open house for the parents and students. 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 tours and open house night, 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?”

My answer is very different from last year at this time, which is good news. We are now far more cognizant of crowding and utilizing space better, hand sanitizing and staying home when we have flu like symptoms, which means we will be proceeding in September, for the most part, the way we did pre-COVID. One bell schedule, freedom of movement, no loss of clubs or sport activities, class movement, no zones, an all students will have a locker (unless they are in a portable).

Next year, we will have 22 divisions - six grade 6/7 English classes, eight grade 7/8 English 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, and 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.

****I will be sending home an e-mail in late August giving you a snapshot of how the opening week will look (times to arrive, schedule, what we have planned etc.)****



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Here are some important links I highly recommend you view.

- 1) **Tour.** A virtual tour of Banting hosted by me – a short 20 minute tour and a longer 40 minute tour which gets into some of the details and intricacies of Middle Schools and Banting

Short tour <https://youtu.be/pXnNCSk8dZs>

Long Tour <https://youtu.be/vWUXoB8oHY4>

Tour done by students 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiRepNno9-c&t=5s>

- 2) **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#/=)
- 3) **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.
- 4) **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 lists. 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.

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!