



**W.A. Bess Elementary School**  
4340 Beaty Road | Gastonia, NC 28056 | 704.866.6075  
Laura B. Clark, Principal



May 9, 2025

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

We are so happy that your child will be coming to W.A. Bess Elementary School this upcoming school year! Kindergarten is the first big step in your child's education. We hope that the activities planned in August will help make the transition easier for all. The following is a schedule of important dates for you and your child.

**Invitation To Participate in the Bess Kindergarten Entry Pre-assessment**

Kindergarteners are invited to our school's cafeteria to meet our Kindergarten teachers, discover additional information about Bess, and take our school's Kindergarten Entry Pre-assessment on Thursday, May 22, between 9:00 am - 11:00 am. The pre-assessment should take approximately ten minutes. Flyer: [Welcome Future W.A. Bess Bulldogs: Thursday, May 22](#)

**Meet your Bess Kindergarten Teacher**

Our Kindergarten Open House event will be held on Monday, August 11, from 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm. Open House will be a time for students and parents to meet their teacher and learn about the Kindergarten Curriculum. We ask parents to please be on time for this event as teachers will begin their presentation at 4:00 pm. At this event, you will be notified which half-day orientation your child will attend.

**Student Half-Day Orientation Days**

These half-days help our Kindergarten students get acquainted with our school and their classroom in a smaller group setting.

Wednesday, August 13th                      8:30 am - 11:30 am

**or**

Thursday, August 14th                      8:30 am - 11:30 am

Your child will only come on *one of these days* from 8:30 – 11:30 am. This day is planned to ease your child into the Kindergarten schedule and to acquaint him/her with the school and special people he/she will see daily. Students will eat lunch at school on this day.

**All Kindergarten students attend for a Half-Day, Friday, August 15.**

The purpose of this day is for all students in each class to meet each other and have the opportunity to experience daily classroom procedures, including practicing arrival and dismissal.

**First Full Day of Kindergarten! Monday, August 18** - Arrival 7:05 am - 7:30 am

**Kindergarten Registration Reminders and Requirements:**

North Carolina Law requires that all children entering Kindergarten have a physical exam documented on the NC Health Assessment form, including an **up-to-date** immunization record on file no later than 30 calendar days from the date of enrollment (**Friday, September 12**). Please ensure these forms are completed and uploaded in your child's Scribbles Kindergarten application. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from class until all required documentation is complete.

If you know of any children in the community eligible for Kindergarten who have not enrolled, please encourage their parents to enroll their child online at the Gaston County Schools webpage. It is difficult to plan for students if we have a lot of last-minute enrollments.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year. Please view our school's website, <https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/bess>, for a school supply list, <https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Page/12229>, to learn about arrival and dismissal procedures, <https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Page/13077>, and to sign up for bus transportation, [bit.ly/BessBus25-26](https://bit.ly/BessBus25-26), if needed.

Welcome to the Bulldog Family!

Sincerely,

Laura B. Clark, Principal