



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



Welcome Back to School Letter: Meet Your Bess Teacher Event, Monday, August 11

Hello, Bess families!

We hope you are enjoying your summer! We look forward to welcoming our students back to school in a few weeks and are excited to continue inspiring student successes at W.A. Bess!

We welcome our students and parents to meet their Bess teacher on **Monday, August 11**, [Bess Back to School Meet Your Bess Teacher 2025-2026 Flyer](#).

For this event, we ask our students and parents to enter the building through our cafeteria doors. PTO members will be available to share how you can become involved with our school. Bus riders can learn which bus number they will ride, carpool numbers will be assigned if needed, Bess Spirit Wear and Fast Passes will be available to purchase, and more!

Meet Your Bess Teacher times:

- **Kindergarten Students Only**
 - **3:45 pm - 4:30 pm**
 - Kindergarten parents and students are invited to our cafeteria between 3:30 pm and 3:45 pm to mingle, confirm bus times, meet our PTO volunteers, and more.
 - At 3:45 pm, Principal Laura Clark will welcome Kindergarten students and parents to our school and share school information before parents and students Meet Their Bess Teacher, visit the classroom, and participate in the teacher's orientation presentation at 3:55 pm.
- **1st - 5th-grade students with the last name of A-L**
 - **4:30 pm - 5:15 pm**
 - Students and their parents **with the last name of A-L** drop-in to meet their teacher during this time
- **1st - 5th-grade students with the last name of M-Z**
 - **5:00 pm - 5:45 pm**
 - Students and their parents **with the last name of M-Z** drop-in to meet their teacher during this time

Classroom teacher assignments will be shared during our *Meet Your Bess Teacher* event. If the enrollment process timeline allows, classroom teacher assignments will be shared via ParentLink during the days before August 11.

Parents: We are asking our parents and families to complete this short form, "[How is Your Bess Bulldog Going Home From School? 2025-2026](#)," <https://forms.gle/hy3EWNxHGkATQvLM8>, to help us be more prepared for your child's **First Day of School** on **Wednesday, August 13**, by sharing with us how your child will be going home each day.

[W.A. Bess Elementary School Chromebook Agreement, 2025-2026](#): **Parents**, for your child to use a GCS Chromebook for the 2025-2026 school year, please review and submit this [form](#).



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Ride The Bess Bus: If your child needs to receive school bus services, please sign up using the form on our school website, [bit.ly/BessBus25-26](https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/domain/5542). If families complete this form in advance, bus number assignments along with pickup and drop-off times will be available at our *Meet Your Bess Teacher* event.

Please visit our school's website for more [back-to-school information](https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/domain/5542), <https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/domain/5542>.

Student Supply Lists: [Bess 2025-2026 Supply Lists](https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Page/12229), <https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/Page/12229>.

School supplies are encouraged to be brought to our “Meet Your Bess Teacher” event to minimize what students must carry on their first day of school.

The First Day of School is Wednesday, August 13, 2025. We will start receiving students at 7:05 a.m. The tardy bell will ring and instruction will begin at 7:30 a.m. For dismissal, we will start dismissing bus riders at 2:15 p.m., followed by daycare riders. Our carpool students and car riders will begin dismissing at 2:30 p.m.

We are looking forward to an amazing 2025-2026 school year!

Think, Learn, and Power Up!



Sincerely,

Laura B. Clark
Principal
W.A. Bess Elementary School