

**Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, August 16, 2021
Meeting 5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, August 16, 2021 in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. Additionally, the meeting was live on Spectrum Cable Channel 21 and the Gaston County Board of Education YouTube page. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff K. Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier (arrived after meeting in progress), Justin Davis, Steve Hall, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Robbie Lovelace and Brent Moore (joined by zoom).

Additional attendees include: Superintendent Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Melissa Balknight and Gary Hoskins, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Administrative Assistant Andrea Stephens and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

Superintendent Booker led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Booker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Adoption - Action

The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

Superintendent Booker requested to add — Student Chromebook Purchases for Gaston Virtual Academy to the Consent Agenda.

Motion to adopt the Agenda as amended was made by Mr. Steve Hall; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Good News – Information

Typically, we open each Board Meeting with “good news” about our schools, students and employees. Due to circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic we are unable to have appearances of guests; however, we still have individuals and events worthy of recognition this afternoon. Superintendent Booker shared the following items of good news:

Superintendent Booker reported our school employees stepped up and contributed \$93,382.38 to the 2020-2021 campaign for the United Way of Gaston County. The total was less than \$700 of what was raised in 2019-2020 before the pandemic hit.

Superintendent Booker congratulated North Gaston High School yearbook staff for being recognized for its efforts to create, design and publish another award-winning yearbook.

Superintendent Booker congratulated our Finance Department for once again receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financing Reporting Award.

Superintendent Booker congratulated our Communications Department. Gaston County Schools received three awards from the National School Public Relations Association. The awards include two Golden Achievement Awards for marketing – recognizing our Newspapers in Education campaign with The Gazette and our billboards promotional campaign – and an honorable mention award for the “Gaston County Schools Storybook” publication. Only 84 Golden Achievement Awards were presented this year

Public Expression – Information

Rebecca LaClaire

6478 Kemp Street

Charlotte, NC 28213

RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Although Ms. LaClaire completed the Request to Speak Form, she did not appear at the meeting.

Jessie Jacobs

432 Hartford Avenue

Charlotte, NC 28209

RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Although Mr. Jacobs completed the Request to Speak Form, he did not appear at the meeting.

Laura Sexton

831 Bermuda Avenue

Gastonia, NC 28054

RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Although Ms. Sexton completed the Request to Speak Form, she did not appear at the meeting.

Ryan Simms

105 N. Woodcliff Lane

Mt. Holly, NC 28120

RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Although Mr. Simms completed the Request to Speak Form, he did not appear at the meeting.

Lena Ware

2161 Southridge Drive

Belmont, NC 28012

RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Although Ms. Ware completed the Request to Speak Form, she did not appear at the meeting.

Ava Clarkson

114 Leeper Avenue

Belmont, NC 28012

RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Annalyse Bailey
301 Eagle Road
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Cindy Scruggs
123 Doster Hight Place
Mt. Holly, NC 28120
RE: Retire the Red Raider Mascot

Dr. Crystal Bowe
1895 Hoffman Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
RE: Masking in schools

Dr. David Rinehart
1220 Spruce Street
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Masking in schools

Dr. Brian Buzzeo
631 Cox Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
RE: Masking in Schools

Stephanie Franks
1437 Georgetowne Drive
Gastonia, NC 28054
RE: Mask Requirements

Becca Hurd
2610 Thomas Trail
Gastonia, NC 28054
RE: Mask Requirements

Kelly Shelton
149 Main Street
McAdenville, NC 28101
RE: Mask Mandate

Amanda Memrick
104 Timber Ridge Road
Belmont, NC 28012
RE: Mask Mandate

Amy White
3704 Bellevue Terrace
Gastonia, NC 28056
RE: Mask Mandate

Sierra Hall
1304 S. York Road
Gastonia, NC 280542
RE: Mask Mandate

Laith Sneall
4553 Hickory Hollow Road
Gastonia, NC 28056
RE: Mask Mandate

Ann Jordan
160 Palomino Trail
Mt. Holly, NC 28120
RE: Mask Mandate

Winslow Mellis
Gastonia, NC
RE: Mask Mandate

Jessica Higgins
1700 Old Spencer Mtn. Road
Dallas, NC 28034
RE: Remove Mask Mandate

Monica Powell
3515 Canyon Live Oak Court
Gastonia, NC 28056
RE: Mask Mandate vs. Optional

Melissa Wagner
2045 Donegal Court
Gastonia, NC 28056
RE: Mask Mandate

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of June 21, 2021 (Special Meeting), June 21, 2021 (Regular Meeting) and July 27, 2021 (Special Meeting) as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Lee Dedmon; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

COVID-19 Update – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Superintendent Booker who introduced Mr. Steve Eaton, Public Health Director Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services. Mr. Eaton presented a PowerPoint on COVID-19 Update.

Chairman Ramsey requested a brief break at 6:57 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 7:04 p.m.

Discussion occurred.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie that the Board
Approve that masks will be required for everyone entering all buildings and including buses for the next 30 days. Masks will be optional on athletic fields and outside areas.

Discussion occurred.

Revised Motion

The Revised Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded Mrs. Dot Guthrie that the Board
Approve that masks will be required for everyone entering all buildings and including buses. Masks will be optional on athletic fields and outside areas. This item will be on the agenda at our next Board Meeting on September 20, 2021 for further discussion.

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried. (6-3)
(Mr. Justin Davis, Mr. Steve Hall and Mr. Brent Moore opposed)

(View PowerPoint)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Robbie Lovelace of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting.

(View report)

Operations Committee Report – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Ms. Dot Cherry of the Operations Committee who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting.

(View report)

Back to School Update – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented a PowerPoint on Back-To-School Update.

(View PowerPoint)

Student Interventions and Support – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who introduced Dr. Chris Bennett, Dr. Cristi Bostic, Dr. Derrick Jackson and Dr. Jill Payne who presented a PowerPoint on Student Interventions and Support.

(View PowerPoint)

Summer Projects Update - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Morgen Houchard who presented a PowerPoint on Summer Projects Update.

(View PowerPoint)

Resolution to Request Allocation of 2018 Bond Funds – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who reported in May 2018 Gaston County Board of Education and Commissioners received voter approval of \$250 million in general obligation bonds. The BOE has utilized the 2018 bond funds from a \$60 million issuance in November 2018. These funds were used to build a new Belmont Middle School and provide needed funding for capital projects at other schools throughout the district. There are \$190 million in unissued proceeds from the 2018 bond.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board
Approve Resolution Allocation of 2018 Bond Funds. These funds would be used to construct a new Grier Middle School and provide funding for other capital needs at other schools.

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (8-0)
(Mr. Dedmon left meeting early)

(View Resolution)

Official Depository Designation – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who reviewed the official depository designation as required by G.S. §115C-444(a).

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie that the Board
Approve Official Depositories for Each School/Department

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (8-0)

Appointment of School Treasurers – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who reviewed the appointment of school treasurers as required by G.S. §115C-448(a).

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. Justin Davis; seconded by Mr. Steve Hall that the Board
Approve Treasurers for Each School

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (8-0)

School Nutrition Annual Report – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Ms. Angela Calamia who presented a PowerPoint on School Nutrition Report.

(View PowerPoint)

Consent Agenda – Action

The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. Resolution to Declare Certain Real Property Surplus Property
- E. Contracts
 - Instructure
 - Leader in Me — Addendum
 - School Specialty
 - LMC Leadership Solutions
 - Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH): English 3D
 - Visually Impaired Services
 - Superintendent's Leadership Academy: Gardner Webb University
 - SAVVAS Learning Math I Textbook — Addendum
 - Third Party Transportation
 - Life Safety – Carr Elementary
 - Life Safety – New Hope Elementary
 - Stadium Lights – Forestview High School
 - Lawncare and Landscaping – Various Schools
 - Cellular Telephone
 - WAN
 - VoIP
 - Student Chromebook Purchases for Gaston Virtual Academy

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Mr. Justin Davis; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker reported the Gaston Early College High School and our new Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences started school on August 10. We will have a grand opening in September.

Superintendent Booker reported the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Belmont Middle School campus was held on Sunday, August 22 and it was a wonderful celebration.

Superintendent Booker thanked Susan Redmond for her leadership and everyone who had a role in planning and preparing for the celebration.

Superintendent Booker thanked all employees in Gaston County Schools for going beyond expectations to get ready for a brand new school year.

Superintendent Booker reminded employees that Convocation will be held on Wednesday, August 18 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Closed Session

Chairman Ramsey asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Mr. Kevin Collier; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis; motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:42 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:08 p.m.

Motion

The Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Dot Guthrie that the Board
Award a two-year Assistant Principal contract through June 30, 2023 to the following:

William Winston
Amber Lawson
Shanika Mack

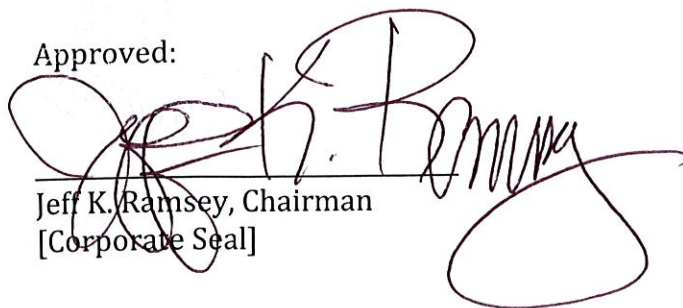
A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (8-0)

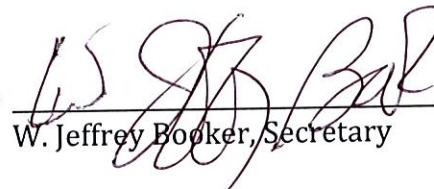
Adjournment

All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Steve Hall; seconded by Mr. Justin Davis motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

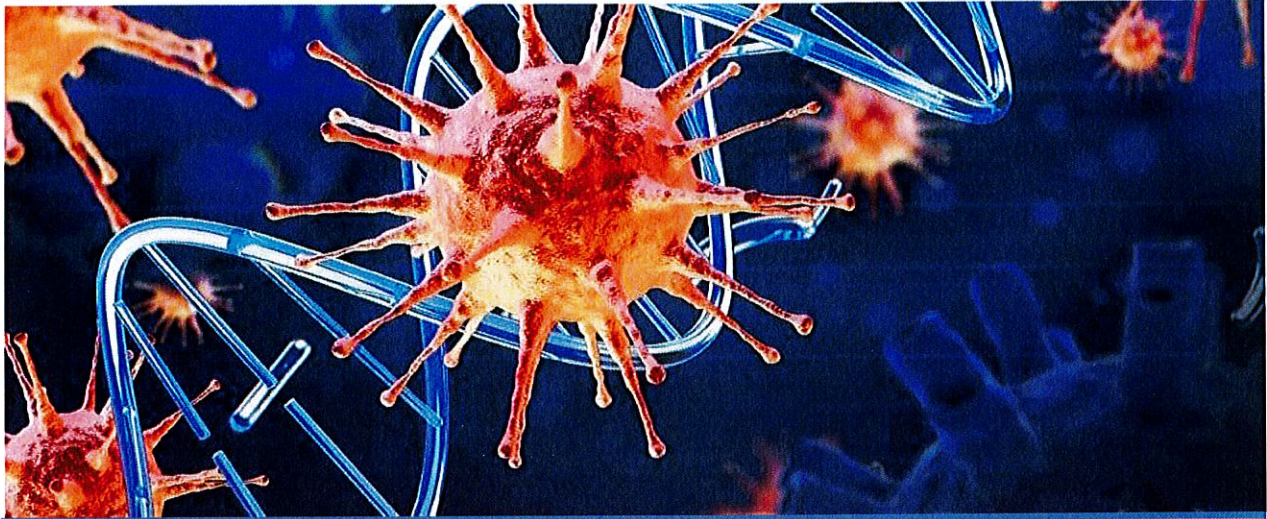
The Board Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Approved:


Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]


W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved: 9/20/2021



KEY METRICS - COVID-19

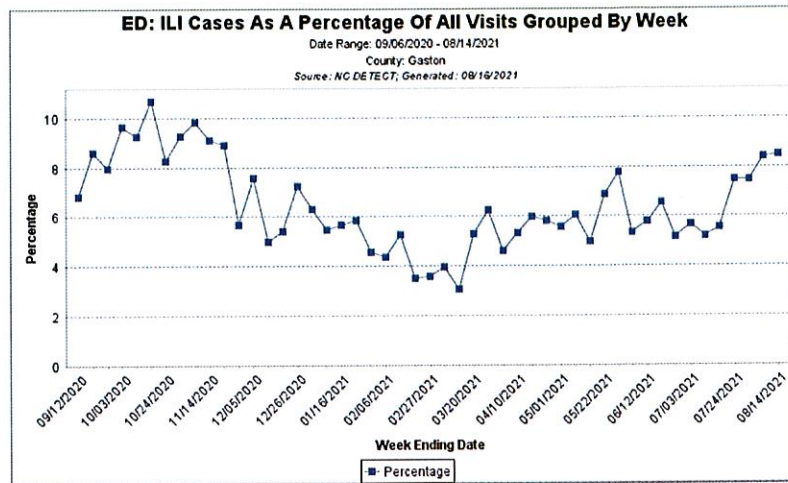
GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AUGUST 16, 2021

SUMMARY OF KEY METRICS

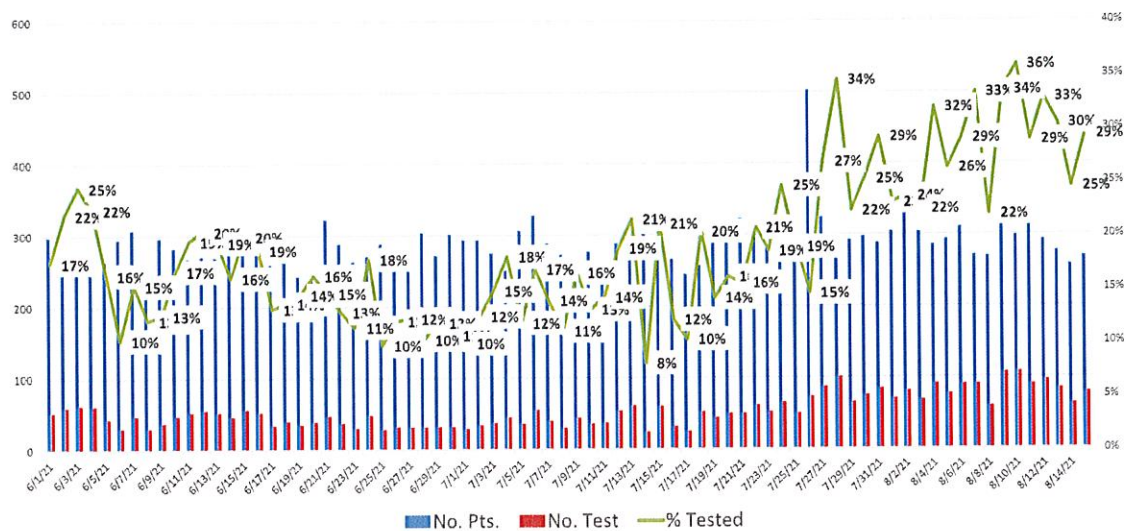
Goal	Note	8/9/21	8/16/21
○ Decline or steady sustained level of influenza like illnesses	<i>This indicator is obtained from NC DETECT, and remained level in the most recent week.</i>	✗	—
○ Downward trajectory or sustained leveling of COVID-like Syndromic cases over 14 days	<i>The indicator for this measure is the percentage of ED visits resulting in a COVID-19 test This has been over 25% this week</i>	✗	✗
○ Downward trajectory or sustained leveling of cases over 14 days	<i>The number of cases has increased over the past 14 days.</i>	✗	✗
○ Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percentage of total tests over 14 days	<i>Gaston County Percent of Positive cases increased over the most recent 14 days.</i>	✗	✗
○ Downward trajectory of hospitalizations over 14 days	<i>Hospitalization levels had a significant increase in the most recent week.</i>	✗	✗
<div> ✓ Goal Achieved — Trending Towards Goal ✗ Trending Away from Goal </div>			

PERCENTAGE OF ED VISITS WITH ILI – GASTON COUNTY

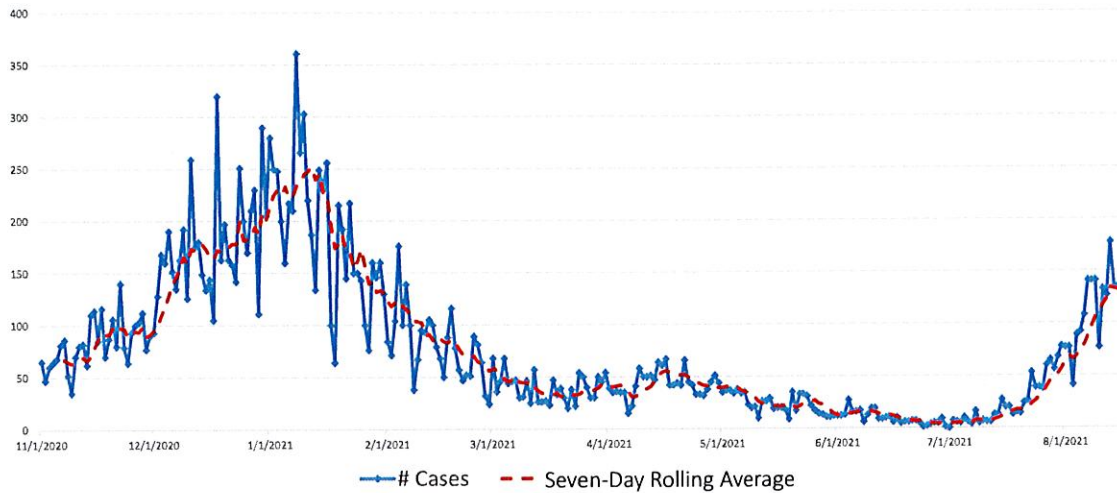


Source: NC DETECT, ILI Syndrome Line List

COVID-19 TESTING IN THE ED



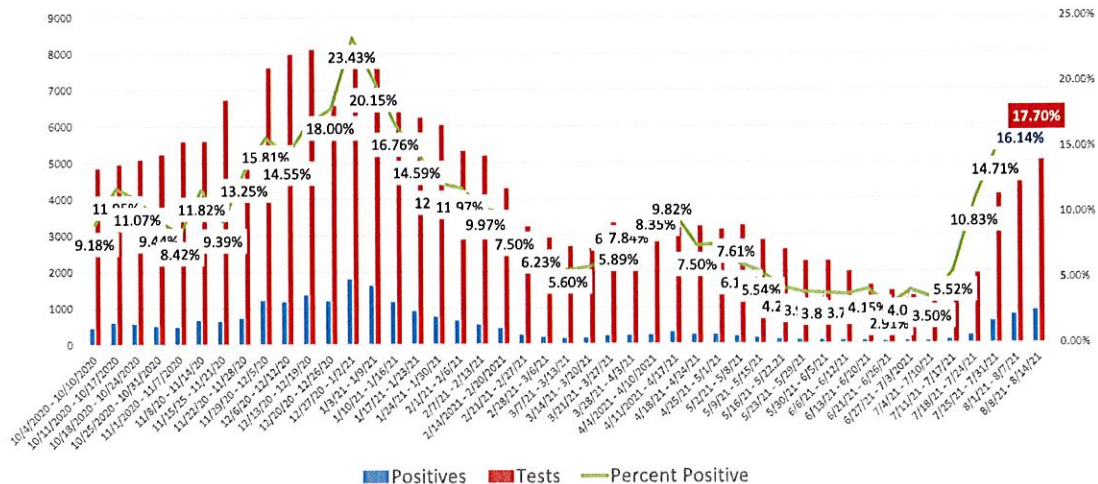
GASTON COUNTY COVID-19 CASES BY DATE REPORTED



Source: NC EDSS

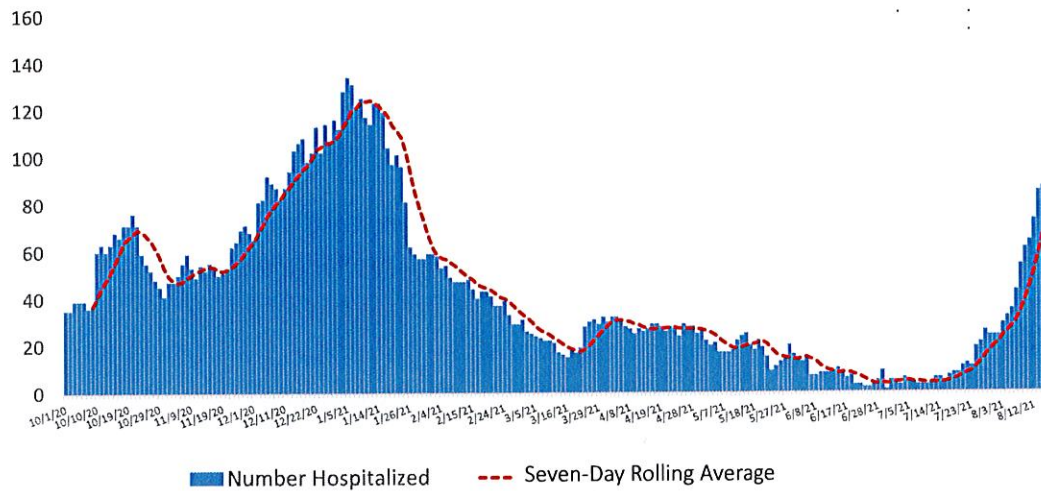
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PERCENT POSITIVE, BASED ON COLLECTION DATE



Source: NC EDSS; Updated each Monday. Some tests from the most recent week may be missing, previous weeks will be updated as information is received.

GASTON COUNTY COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS

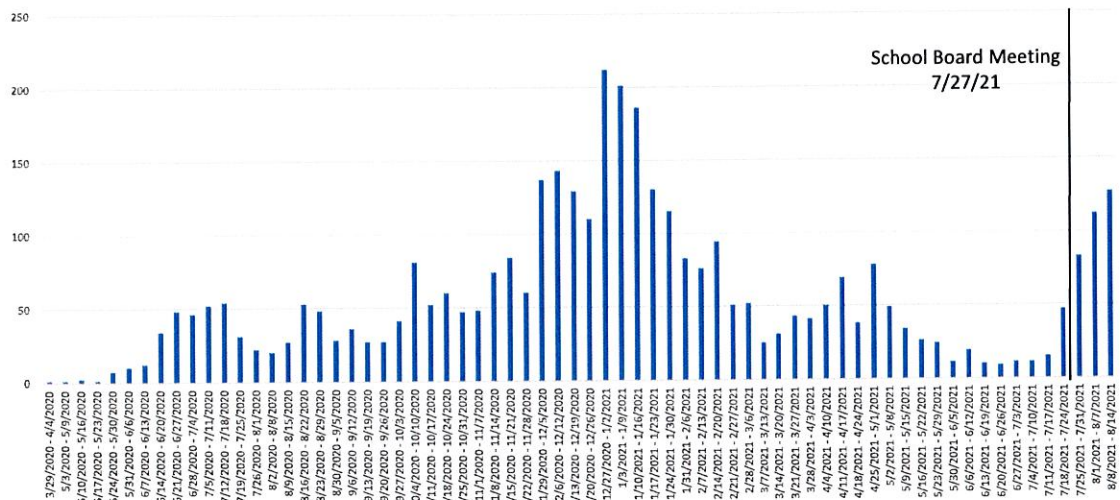


Source: Gaston County DHHS

COVID-19 GASTON COUNTY SCHOOL AGE CASES

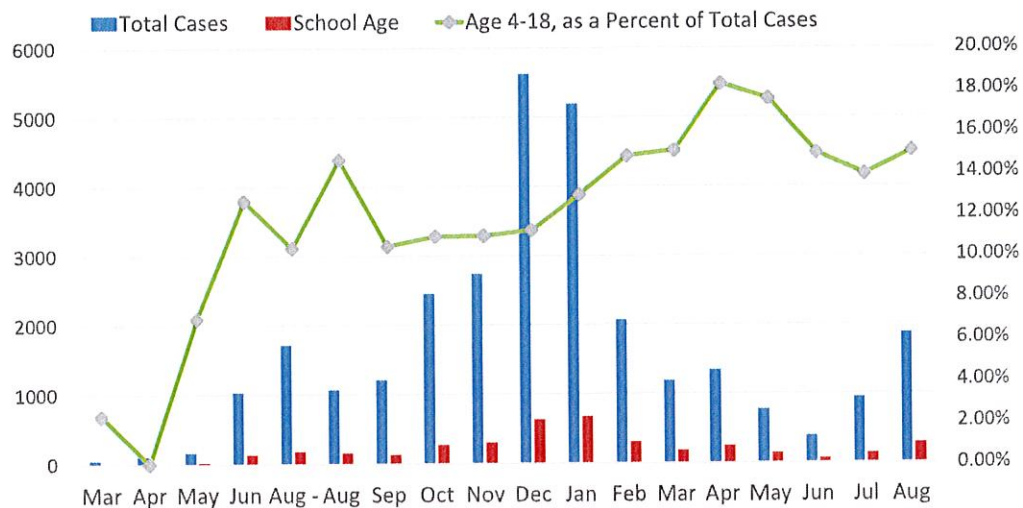


WEEKLY CASES, AGES 4 - 18



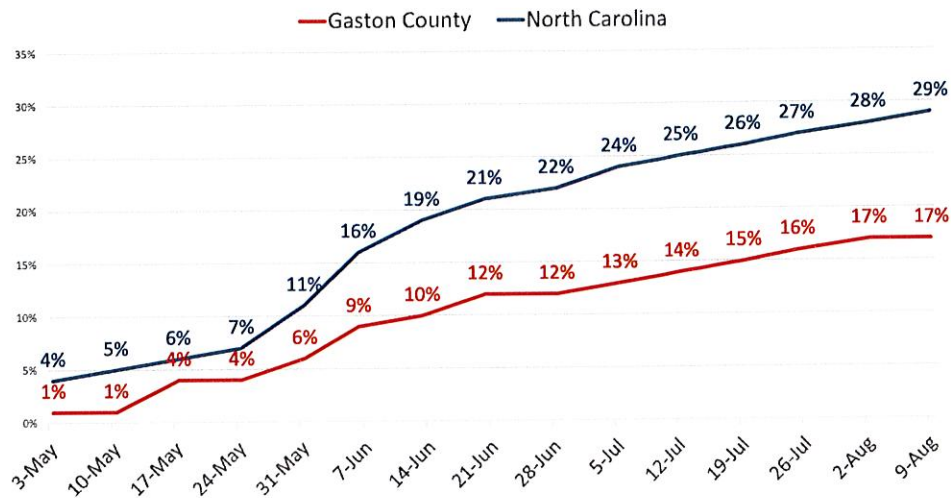
Source: NC EDSS; August 16, 2021

AGES 4 – 18; PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CASES



Source: NC EDSS; July 23, 2021

VACCINATION RATES, AGES 12 - 17



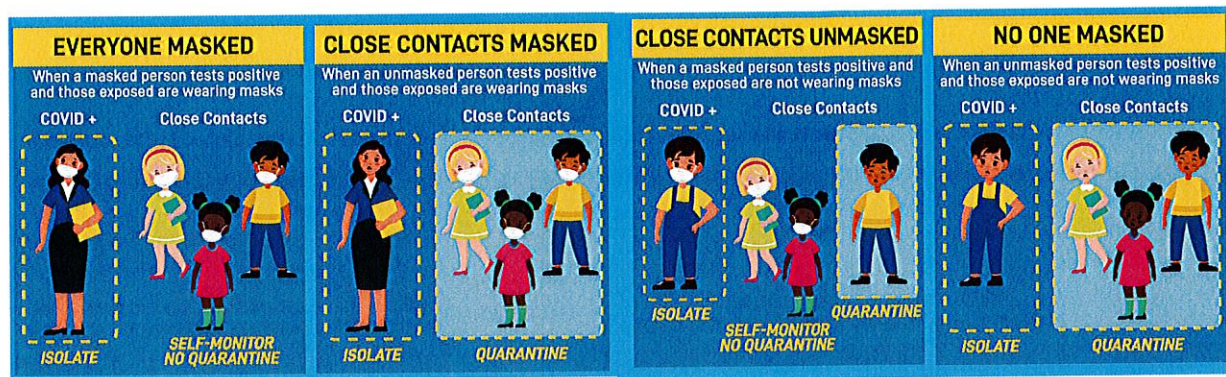
Source: NC DHHS August 13, 2021

2ND WEEK IN AUGUST COMPARISON

	2020	2021
Daily Average Case Count	41	132
Ages 4-18, Average Daily Case Count	5.0	19.7
Percent of Positive Cases	7.62%	17.71%
Average Daily Hospital Count	38.2	67.4

Source: NC EDSS; August 16, 2020, Based upon the second week of August each year.

Masking Scenarios



*If a contact is vaccinated, they can self-monitor and do not have to quarantine

PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATION

Adhere to the Strong Schools NC Toolkit and Guidance Updated 7.21.21

- Require all children and staff (K-8) to wear face coverings when indoors
- Require all passengers and staff to wear face coverings on buses, vans, and other group school transportation (Per CDC Order)
- Ensure face coverings are worn indoors by all individuals *not vaccinated*
 - Grades 9-12, workers, teachers, guests, and other adults.
- Follow physical distancing protocols outlined in the Strong Schools NC Toolkit

Basis for Public Health Recommendation

- Gaston County's low vaccination rate (**38%** fully vaccinated)
- Current local spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant
- Gaston County's increasing positivity rate which is now at **17.7%** and expected to increase
- Increase in daily new cases

**Gaston County Schools
BOE Curriculum & Instruction Committee**

Report for Regular Meeting on July 12, 2021

Members Present:

Dot Guthrie, Robbie Lovelace, Steve Hall, Justin Davis, Dot Cherry, Jeff Ramsey

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM.

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) department provided a budget update on the CTE Local Application System grant.

Staff shared follow-up information regarding digital tickets for athletic events. Utilizing digital tickets will provide another option without eliminating the paper option. The committee also received information about middle school athletic eligibility for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Leader in Me Academy is a Choice Program in our Dallas feeder schools. The academy has a strong foundation in leadership and culture. Gaston College will provide our high school academy students with a Leadership Certification upon completion of the program.

The ESL department completed the curriculum adoption process and selected Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: English 3D as the ESL curriculum to be implemented in grades 3-12 for the 2021-2022 school year.

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.

Report for Regular Meeting on August 9, 2021

Members Present:

Dot Guthrie, Robbie Lovelace, Steve Hall, Justin Davis, Dot Cherry, Jeff Ramsey

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.

Staff shared with the committee information about Ticket Spicket. Ticket Spicket will provide a digital ticketing program for athletic events beginning fall 2021. Dragonfly is providing a digital platform to access athletic forms. The typical forms required by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and Gaston County Schools can be completed through the platform.

Technology Support Services (TSS) updated the committee on the purchase of additional student chromebooks for the Gaston Virtual Academy during the 2021-2022 school year.

The Student Support Services department will apply for a McKinney-Vento sub grant for \$120,000. The grant will provide tutoring at a homeless shelter and additional professional development opportunities for school social workers.

The committee received information about the Superintendent's Leadership Academy and a potential partnership with Gardner-Webb University.

The Department for Exceptional Children recommended continuing a contract to provide services for visually impaired students for the 2021-2022 school year.

Staff shared information about providing support to Restart schools and all high schools. LMC Leadership Solutions will provide 60 days of professional development to support both areas.

CASE Benchmark Assessments and Canvas have both merged with the Instructure company. CASE will continue providing the benchmark assessments used in high schools. Canvas will continue as the learning management system utilized to support instruction in grades 6-12.

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 PM.

The following items are on tonight's agenda:

Leader In Me- Contract Addendum

English 3D- Contract for ESL curriculum

Student Chromebook Purchases for Gaston Virtual Academy

Superintendent's Leadership Academy: Gardner-Webb University

Visually Impaired Services- Contract

LMC Leadership Solutions- Contract

Instructure- Contract

August 16, 2021
Board of Education Meeting
Operations Committee Report

The Operations Committee met on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 4:00pm here in the Central Office Board Room. Our committee consists of Chairman – Lee Dedmon, Kevin Collier, Dot Cherry, and Brent Moore.

Our agenda and discussions included the following:

1. Associate Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, Gary Hoskins, shared information regarding Gaston Aquatic Inc.'s proposal to build an aquatic center in Gaston County. Gaston Aquatics wants to purchase approximately 2.5 acres of land near Stuart Cramer High School. No purchase price was presented. Should the Board of Education consider such a sale, Gaston County Commissioners would have to agree to the sale. Further, the Board of Education would be required to follow the process set forth in the General Statutes to dispose of real property. This matter will be discussed further by the Operations Committee.
2. We currently own a property located at 425 S. Ridge Street in Dallas. This property was the subject of a plea agreement in a legal settlement years ago. It is a 1,418 square foot house built in 1971. The property is vacant and is not likely to be used for school purposes. The Committee recommends that we declare the property as surplus and begin the disposal process for this property. A resolution supporting this recommendation is included on the Consent Agenda.
3. Project Manager, Chris Hall, briefly updated us on the School Business Systems Modernization (SBSM) project. The SBSM project is state funded by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Oracle will be replacing our district's primary Human Resources, Finance, and Payroll systems. Our new Finance system in Oracle went live on July 1, 2021. HR and Payroll systems are scheduled to Go-Live on October 1, 2021. Exempt employees will remain on a monthly payroll – generally on the 27th of each month. Non-exempt employees will move to a bi-weekly payroll – every other Friday. We will be paying exempt employees more often since the new process is more efficient and streamlined.
4. Chad Duncan, Director of Athletics, discussed adding a \$25 per day charge for extra cleaning as a result of COVID. Groups using our facilities for multiple days/weeks would only pay \$80 for the cleaning agent.
5. Our Executive Director of Human Resources, Joey Clinton, informed us that 261 new employees have recently been hired. 217 of these new hires are teachers and 131 of those are new teachers. Each school was given one additional teacher allotment due to COVID. This year there were approximately 100 retirements, which is more than our yearly average. The Safe School modules for all employees have been sent out for the 2021-2022 school year. TIPS for first year teachers and the Teaching and Learning Conference have both taken place for this year.

6. Angela Calamia, Director of School Nutrition, reported information from the 2020 – 2021 school year. She will make this presentation to the entire Board during this meeting.
7. Project Manager, Paul Nault, gave updates on the new Belmont Middle School. The grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony was held on August 15th. The auctioning of used furniture and equipment took place on July 24th. The transfer of the old Belmont Middle School to the County is expected to be completed at the end of the month.
8. Morgen Houchard, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services shared current and upcoming capital and summer projects.
9. Gary Hoskins discussed the existing \$60 million bond disbursements. All funds have been allocated except \$588,501. Staff has worked with an architect to determine the best location to build another middle school. We also reviewed information from our Facilities department regarding the condition of our buildings. Based on this information, the Committee recommends that Grier Middle School be the next replacement school. A resolution supporting this recommendation is included on the Board agenda.
10. Contracts for: Transportation, Life Safety at Carr Elementary and New Hope Elementary, Stadium lights at Forestview High, Lawn care and Landscaping, Cellular Telephones, WAN, and VoIP, were all recommended for approval from the Board and will appear on the Consent Agenda.

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021 at 4:00pm in the Central Office Board Room.

Back-To-School Update

*Gaston County Board of Education
August 16, 2021*

Gaston County Schools

First Day of School

Monday, August 23

Gaston County Schools

By The Numbers

- **29,000 students**
- **1,800 kindergarten students**
- **1,900 classroom teachers**
- **130 new (first-year) teachers**

Gaston County Schools

**What's Going On
This Week?**

Gaston County Schools

Faculty/staff meetings
Professional development
Classroom preparation
Orientation/open house

Gaston County Schools

Back-To-School
CONVOCATION

Wednesday, August 18

Gaston County Schools



Back-To-School Nights

Gaston County Schools

Tuesday, August 17
East Gaston Highland
Stuart W. Cramer
Hunter Huss Forestview



Back-To-School Nights

Gaston County Schools

Wednesday, August 18

Ashbrook Cherryville

Bessemer City

North Gaston South Point



Back-To-School Nights

Gaston County Schools

**First Day of School
Coverage**

Monday, August 23

Gaston County Schools

Back-To-School Highlights

Gaston County Schools

Need To Know

- **Students attend five days a week**
- **School Schedule**

Elementary Schools	7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Middle Schools	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
High Schools	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Gaston County Schools

School Schedule

- **Helps with our bus routes**
- **Gets students to school and back home in a timely manner**
- **Addresses bus driver shortage**

Gaston County Schools

Need To Know

- **Academics is our priority**
- **Focus on school safety**
- **COVID-19 procedures**

Gaston County Schools

Worth Mentioning

- **Breakfast and lunch meals**
- **Chromebook computers**
- **School nurses**

Gaston County Schools

Worth Mentioning

- **School traffic**
- **Parent questions/concerns**
- **Up-to-date contact information**

Gaston County Schools

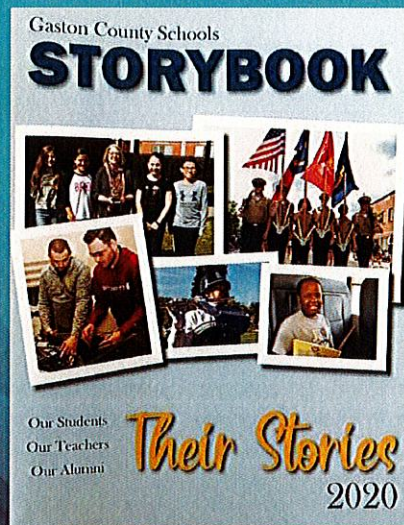
What's Ahead

Gaston County Schools



**Student Recognition Program
with The Gaston Gazette**

Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Schools



Channel 21 Update

Gaston County Schools

A brand new school year is here!

Gaston County Schools

Stay Connected



District and School Websites
Mobile App
Channel 21
Social Media



Gaston County Schools

Back-To-School Update

Gaston County Board of Education
August 16, 2021

Gaston County Schools



Student Interventions and Support

Gaston County Schools

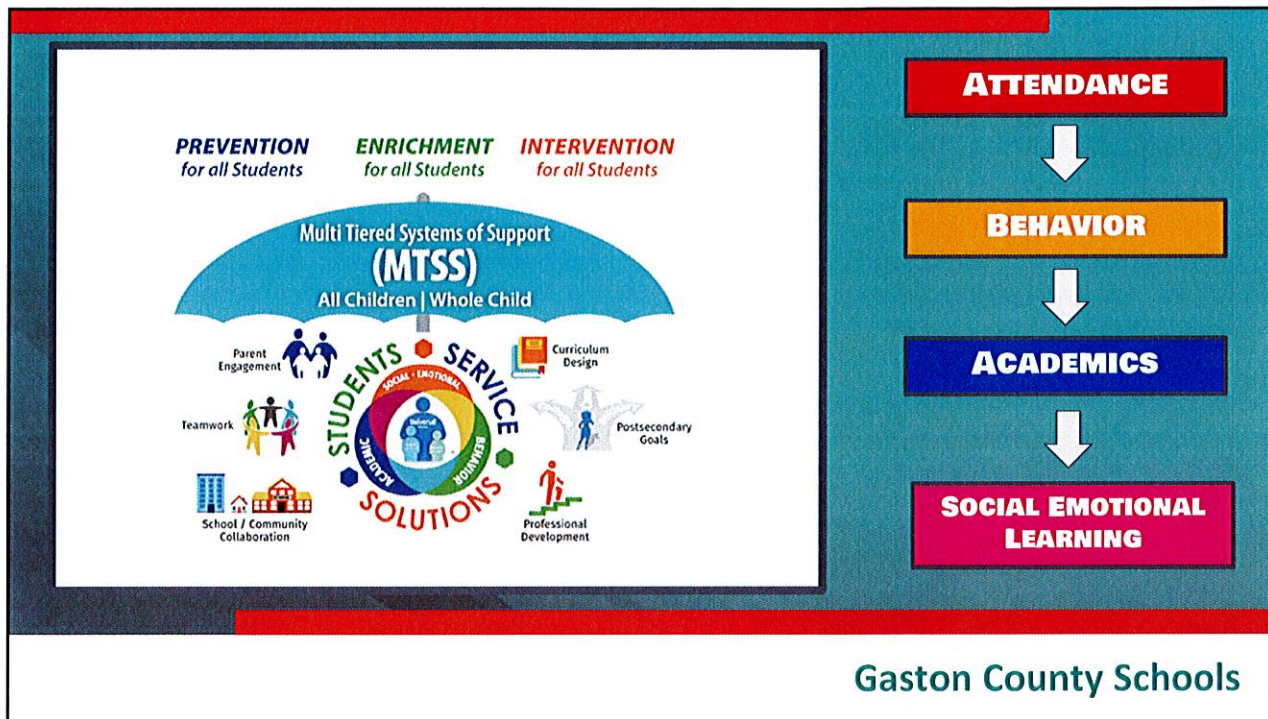
Gaston County Schools will implement MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) in all K-12 schools.

This MTSS framework promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices, as well as recommended practices in attendance and social and emotional learning (SEL).

MTSS employs a systems approach using data-driven problem-solving to maximize growth and equity for all.



Gaston County Schools



MTSS Initiatives

- Time Allocations
 - Elementary Flex Time
 - Middle School Connections
- Resources for Intervention, Practice and Enrichment
 - Spire
 - MegaWords
 - Transmath
 - Assessing Math Concepts

MTSS Initiatives

- Professional Development for Teachers
- Data Analysis Teams
 - Positive Behavior Intervention Support - Behavior
 - Professional Learning Communities / Problem Solving Team - Academics
 - Social Emotional Learning
 - Student Support Services with Attendance

Gaston County Schools

Elementary Summer Camp Update

Tier	Definition
I	On or above grade level
II	One grade level below
III	Two or more grade levels below

Gaston County Schools

Elementary Summer Camp Update

- 1,539 students attended

Tier Movement	Improvement
From Tier III and II to Tier I	25%
From Tier III to Tier II	42%

Gaston County Schools

Elementary Summer Camp Update

- Teacher Professional Learning
 - 599 teachers participated in Sound Sensible/SPIRE reading intervention training
 - 633 teachers participated in Ready math curriculum training
 - 155 teachers participated in weekly follow up coaching sessions during camp

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Gaston County Schools

Elementary Support


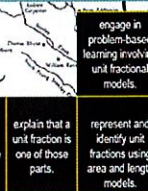
- Teacher
 - Proficiency Scales
 - Pre and Post Assessments
 - District-Wide PLCs
 - Virtual

NC.3.NF.1 Interpret unit fractions with denominators of 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 as quantities formed when a whole is partitioned into equal parts: Explain that a unit fraction is one of those parts. Represent and identify unit fractions using area and length models.	
Exceeds requirements for grade-level work.	
4	In addition to score 3 performance, the student will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage in problem-based learning involving unit fractional models.
Meets requirements for grade-level work.	
3	In addition to score 2 performance, the student will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interpret fractions with denominators of 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 as quantities formed when a whole is partitioned into equal parts. explain that a unit fraction is one of those parts. represent and identify unit fractions using area and length models.
Approaching requirements for grade-level work.	
2	The student will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify fractions in area and length models that have been partitioned into equal parts. recognize unit fractions in area and length models. understand the meaning of numerators and denominators within a fraction. understand specific vocabulary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unit fraction numerator denominator equal parts area model length model whole halves fourths eighths sixths thirds
Not yet meets requirements for grade-level work.	
1	With teacher support, the student is not yet able to meet requirements for grade-level work.

Gaston County Schools

Elementary Support

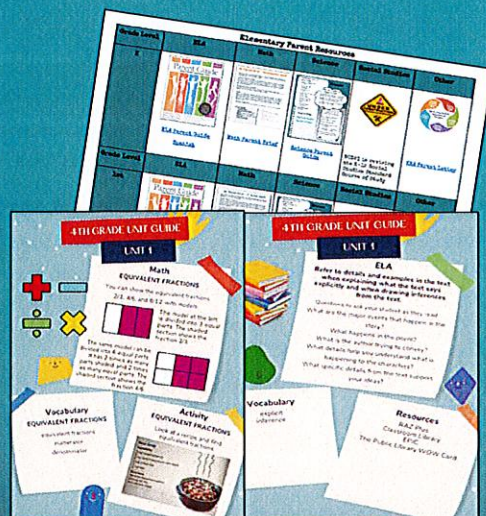
- Students
 - FLEX Time
 - ELA and Math
 - 45 Minutes Daily
 - Proficiency Scales
 - Pre and Post Assessments

I Can... 		engage in problem-based learning involving unit fractional models.	
interpret fractions with denominators of 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 as quantities formed when a whole is partitioned into equal parts.		explain that a unit fraction is one of those parts.	
represent and identify unit fractions using area and length models.			
identify fractions in area and length models that have been partitioned into equal parts.	recognize unit fractions in area and length models.	understand the meaning of numerators and denominators within a fraction.	understand specific vocabulary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> unit fraction <input type="checkbox"/> numerator <input type="checkbox"/> denominator <input type="checkbox"/> equal parts <input type="checkbox"/> area model <input type="checkbox"/> length model <input type="checkbox"/> whole <input type="checkbox"/> halves <input type="checkbox"/> fourths <input type="checkbox"/> thirds <input type="checkbox"/> sixths

Gaston County Schools

Elementary Support

- Parent Support Sessions
 - Live sessions before each unit of study
 - Resource/Information Guide
 - Video explaining the topic
 - Vocabulary
 - Activities



Gaston County Schools

Middle School Summer Camp Update

- 430 students attended
- Reading
 - 55.8% demonstrated growth; avg: 13.5 points
- Math
 - 62.7% demonstrated growth; avg: 8.2 points
- Teacher professional learning
 - Megawords (25 teachers), ELA standards unpacking (58), Math standards unpacking (70), TransMath (66), Instructional Rounds (53), Reading Research to Classroom Practice (43)

Gaston County Schools

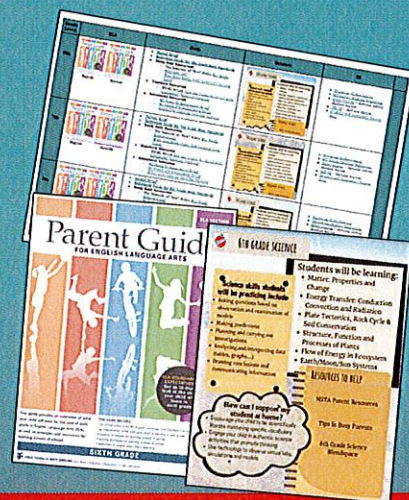
Middle School Connections Block

- Focus: meet all students where they are and grow
 - Daily, 45 minute block
 - Grouped based on specific literacy or math skill needed
 - Tier movement based on progress monitoring
- Enrichment
 - Designed for students not demonstrating skill gap
 - Engaged in additional opportunities to extend core instruction
- Social emotional learning
 - 1 day per week; relationship building opportunity
 - Focuses on developing the whole child

Gaston County Schools

Middle School Additional Supports

- Extensions - after school tutoring
 - Daily
 - Additional supports for students
- Professional Learning Communities
 - 4 critical questions
 - Focus: learning, collaboration, results
- Parent resources
 - Overview of courses
 - Strategies to help at home



Gaston County Schools

High School Support

- Research Based Interventions
- Remediation/Tutoring
- Credit Recovery
- Social Emotional Support
- Parent Resources

The collage features two main documents. The top document, titled "High School Parent Resource", is a comprehensive guide listing various support programs and resources. It includes sections for "English 9", "English 10", and "English 11", each detailing specific interventions and materials. The bottom document, titled "Welcome!", serves as an introduction to the guide, explaining its purpose and providing a list of included resources.

Welcome!

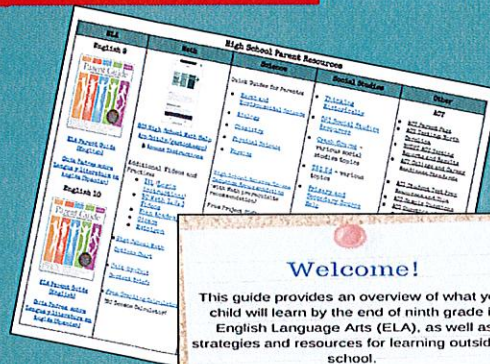
This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of ninth grade in English Language Arts (ELA), as well as strategies and resources for learning outside of school.

This guide includes:

- an introduction to the NC English Language Arts Standard Course of Study
- an explanation of the skills your child is learning in ninth grade
- reading strategies for learning outside of school
- writing strategies for learning outside of school
- websites to support your child's learning

Gaston County Schools

- Research Based Interventions
- Remediation/Tutoring
- Credit Recovery
- Social Emotional Support
- Parent Resources



Welcome!

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of ninth grade in English Language Arts (ELA), as well as strategies and resources for learning outside of school.

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Student Interventions and Support

Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Schools

Auxiliary Services Summer Projects

Morgen A. Houchard, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Auxiliary Services
Gaston County Schools

Presentation to the Board of Education

August 16, 2021

2021 Summer Projects

- Life Safety
- Generator Installation
- Roofing Design
- Tennis Courts
- Drainage Improvements
- Elevator Renovation
- Painting (ext/interior)
- Locker Renovation
- Flooring
- Dining Room Renovation
- LED Lighting
- Stadium Lighting
- Gym Flooring
- Media Centers
- Paving
- Pumping Grease traps and Lift Stations

Gaston County Schools

Life Safety Renovations

Carr Elementary

New Hope Elementary

Bessemer City High



Gaston County Schools

Generator Installation

Brookside Elementary

Ed Sadler Elementary

Cramerton Middle

Forestview High



Gaston County Schools

Roofing Design

Pinewood Elementary

Bessemer City

Lingerfeldt Elementary

Cramerton Middle

Springfield Elementary

Holbrook Middle

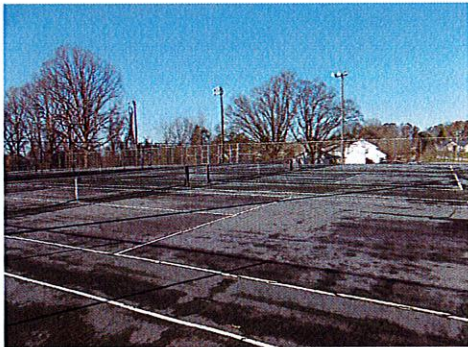
Kiser Elementary

Forestview High

Gaston County Schools

Tennis Courts

South Point High



Gaston County Schools

Drainage Improvements

East Gaston High

Forestview High

Ashbrook High

Bessemer City High

Ida Rankin Elementary



Gaston County Schools

Elevator Renovations

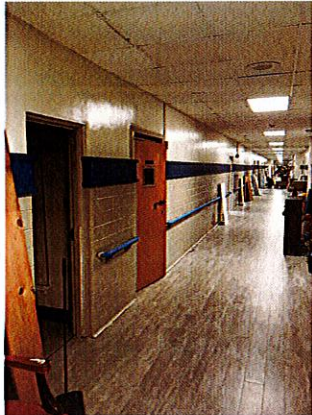
Southwest Middle

Ashbrook High

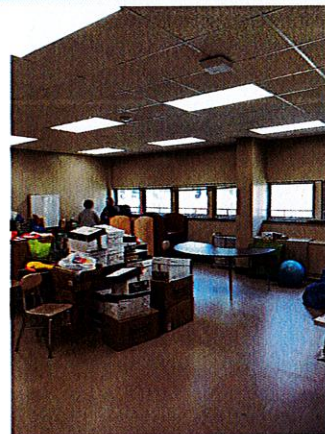


Gaston County Schools

Painting and Locker Renovation



Webb Street School



Gaston County Schools

Flooring

Webb Street School

Mount Holly Middle

South Point High

Hawks Nest

Lowell Elementary

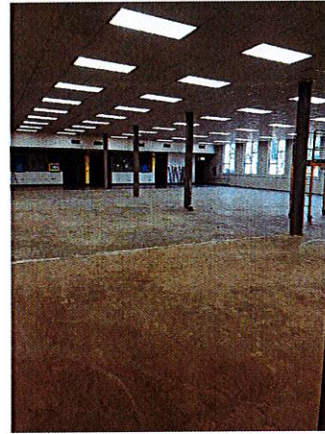


Gaston County Schools

Dining Room Renovation



Hunter Huss High



Gaston County Schools

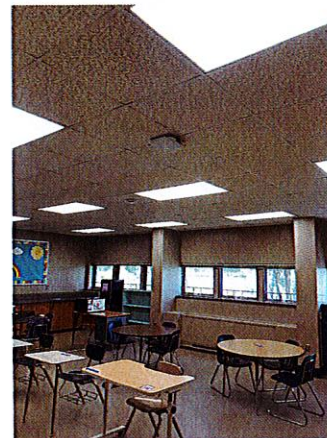
LED Lighting

Webb Street School

Cherryville High

Highland School

Forestview High



Gaston County Schools



Paving Projects

Bessemer City Middle

Bessemer City High

Hunter Huss

Catawba Heights

Gardner Park Elementary



Gaston County Schools

Pump Grease Traps and Lift Stations

54 School Grease Traps

24 Lift Stations



Gaston County Schools

Transportation

**Four Camera
System**

All Yellow Buses



This photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY.

Gaston County Schools

Belmont Middle School



Gaston County Schools

Questions

**Gaston County Schools
Board of Education**

Thank you for your continued support!

Gaston County Schools

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST APPROVAL AND APPROPRIATION OF 2018
SCHOOL BOND FUNDS FOR GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, in May 2018, the citizens of Gaston County approved a \$250 million bond referendum to provide adequate school facilities for the students and employees of Gaston County Schools; and

WHEREAS, the referendum proposed the building of several new schools to accommodate the anticipated growth of the Gaston region; and

WHEREAS, many facilities which currently house the students are in desperate need of repair, renovation and reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, these needs have been outlined in a Capital Improvement Plan totaling in excess of \$700 million; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 bond referendum authorizing \$250 million in school bonds proposed using the funds for new school construction, school additions, and renovations and repairs; and

WHEREAS, since the \$250 million bonds were authorized in 2018, the County issued \$60 million in funding that has been provided to construct a 160,000 square foot replacement middle school in Belmont, NC and numerous needed renovations and repairs at existing schools including new roofs, updated life safety and security systems, more efficient lighting and HVAC systems, site improvements, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston County School district has either utilized or dedicated approximately 98% of the issued \$60 million in funding for the purposes cited above; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Education has determined that multiple facility needs can be addressed by using the remaining bond proceeds and

WHEREAS, the Operations Committee of the Board of Education has recommended that Grier Middle School be replaced with a new school due in part to population growth and the age of the facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gaston County Board of Education requests that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners appropriate additional funds from the 2018 Bond Referendum to be used for enlarging, renovating and maintaining existing school buildings and other school plant facilities and for the construction of a new Grier Middle School in Gastonia, NC.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Gaston County Schools

Superintendent: _____

Gaston County Board of Education

Chair: _____



Gaston County Schools

School Nutrition Report

Angela Calamia, MS, RD, LDN, SNS
School Nutrition Director
Gaston County Schools

Presentation to the Board of Education

August 16, 2021

School Nutrition 2020-2021

Operating under the Emergency Summer Feeding Program
since March of 2020

- **Grab-n-Go Meal Distribution began in March and extended throughout the Summer of 2020**
- **Meals were provided at school sites as well as delivered via bus to neighborhoods that had difficulty accessing the grab-n-go sites.**

Gaston County Schools



School Nutrition Team Members

March 2020 through the start of school- August, 2020

- 3 Million Meals provided
- 54 Sites operated Monday – Friday
- Approximately 30,000 Meals delivered via bus

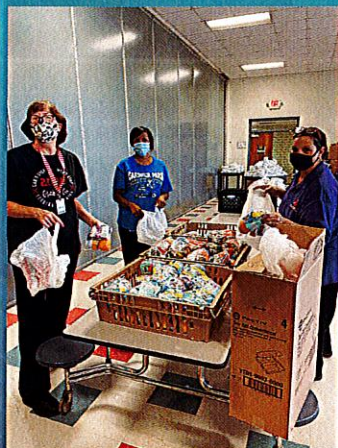
Gaston County Schools

When school began on August 17, 2020

The following practices were established:

- Served breakfast and lunch in the classroom daily
 - Required to adapt all food preparation and serving practices
 - Secured necessary transport carts and food packaging
 - Adapted menu to meet revised procedures
- Established curbside distribution of meals
 - Meet the needs of Gaston Virtual Academy students
 - Remote learning days for hybrid students
 - Fed children under 18 in the community under the Federal Feeding Program

Gaston County Schools



School Nutrition Team Members

- Meals delivered to the classrooms
- Curbside Grab n Go



Gaston County Schools

We Expanded to a 7 Day a Week Meal Program

The following practices were established to meet needs:

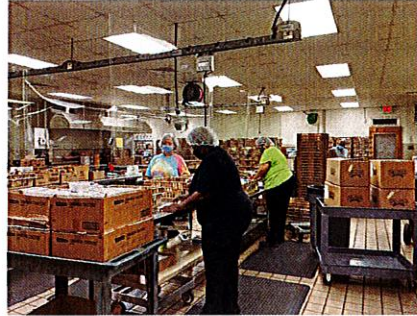
- Prepared take home meals for Saturday and Sunday
- Prepared take home meals for Wednesday Remote Learning Day
- Meal Boxes Distributed for Holiday Breaks
 - 8,000 over the Winter Break
 - 3,000 over the Spring Break

Gaston County Schools

Central Kitchen

Produced the take home meals distributed at school sites:

- Provided meal packages for the weekend; and
- Virtual Learning Days



Gaston County Schools

School Nutrition Distributed

4,689,081

Meals since March 17, 2020

Gaston County Schools

Additional Highlights

25% to 43%

Breakfast participation increased

Gaston County Schools

Summer Feeding 2021

**22 School Sites Open for Summer
Feeding June 7 - August 12, 2021**

**Serving more than 3,000 Children Daily
Breakfast and Lunch**

Gaston County Schools

Summer Feeding Program 2021

- Serving Hot Meals for students Monday through Thursday
- Providing Cold Meals for students Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- Providing Bus delivery to three sites servicing the Community
- Pick up at school sites

Gaston County Schools

Summer Feeding Program 2021

Participating programs

- Gaston County Schools Summer Camp
- YMCA
- Boys and Girls Club
- Head Start and other community organizations.

Gaston County Schools

School Nutrition Financial Performance

The following highlights since our last report:

- **Maintained a positive fund balance**
 - Two month operating reserve
- **Maximized operating efficiency with Freezer and Dry Storage Additions at Central Kitchen**
 - Eliminated Cost of:
 - Rental facility for dry storage
 - Frozen trailer rentals
 - Frozen storage facility rental space
 - Food needed on hand during the Pandemic

Gaston County Schools

School Nutrition Financial Performance

Additional funding provided:

- **COVID Equipment Grant**
 - used to buy special equipment such as Carts, milk boxes, PPE etc...
- **CARES Funds - help close the gap in Revenue lost due to COVID.**

Gaston County Schools

School Nutrition Community Outreach

- **Continued support of the Gaston County Head Start Pre-K Program**
 - **Provided 120 breakfast, lunch and snacks each day**
- **Partnerships with Dairy Alliance and No Kid Hungry**
- **Catawba Heights Baptist Church – food recovery**
- **Year Round Partnerships with YMCA (not just summer feeding)**

Gaston County Schools

School Nutrition Looking Forward – 2021 - 2022

School Meals will be funded through the “Seamless Summer Option”:

- **Program will operate under National School Meal Program**
- **Allows for Free Meals for All students 18 and under**

Gaston County Schools

School Nutrition Looking Forward – 2021 - 2022

Projects and Goals for Fiscal Year 2022:

- **Provide the Meal Options that were available before COVID**
- **Maintain the Increase in Breakfast Participation**
 - **Utilize Breakfast Kiosks, Grab-n-Go breakfast**

Gaston County Schools

School Nutrition Looking Forward – 2021 - 2022

Projects and Goals for Fiscal Year 2022:

- **Continue our transition to buying Direct from Manufacturer**
- **USDA and Commodity Foods Management**
- **Kick off new training program for SN Managers**
- **Social Media and Marketing - Advertise and promote use of online menu and App**
- **Engage Students, families and the community-Advertise Free meals**

Gaston County Schools

THANK YOU!

Gaston County Schools