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MISSION, VISION, AND BELIEFS

W. A. Bess Elementary School's vision is to equip students for academic success needed for a strong foundation in becoming lifelong learners who contribute to their community. The school's mission is to create a nurturing and learning environment. Leading the school in realizing its vision and in accomplishing its mission are beliefs that include providing

BUS RIDER INFORMATION

Students who live in the W.A. Bess attendance area are allowed to ride the bus

COMMUNICATIONS

Effective communications are essential to the successful operation of a school. We use the ParentLink phone system which is used to deliver phone messages and emails for general remi

Parents who are invited on a field trip are considered chaperones and are responsible for several students. Unfortunately, younger or older siblings are ineligible to go on field trips with their brother or sister. Remember that all chaperones are required to complete the Gaston County Schools Volunteer application and process for approval prior to any trip and/or classroom assistance. Applications must be

successful year of parental involvement. Your participation facilitates a sense of community between the parents and teachers with a focus on student success. Parent support is evidenced by serving on the committee and attending scheduled meetings.

The chief objectives of the Bess P.T.O. are the following:

1. To promote the welfare of all children.
2. To promote a closer relationship among parents, teachers, and administration.
3. To provide a secure, enjoyable, and rewarding educational atmosphere.

Bess P.T.O. Board meetings will occur monthly. Families will be informed of meeting dates and times via ParentLink messages by phone and email and the P.T.O. Facebook page.

PERMISSION TO USE STUDENT PICTURES AND INTERVIEWS

During the school year, your child could be photographed while engaged in a school activity. Please complete the appropriate paperwork for your child to be photographed, videotaped, and/or interviewed by system employees or media regarding routine school topics and activities for public information. Sometimes these pictures are included in a local newspaper or shown on our website or Bess social media. Parents will use the Gaston County Schools Photographic/Videotaping Permission Form to indicate if they do or do not give permission for their child's photograph to be used. Parents will use the Gaston County Schools News Media Interview Permission Form to indicate if they do or do not give permission for their child to be interviewed.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued at the end of each grading period on the dates listed below.

- October 17, 2024
- January 9, 2025
- March 20, 2025
- By May 29, 2025 (mailed)

Now that Schoology and Parent Assistant is available to parents you can see your child's current academic progress at any time. Interim reports are made available. You are encouraged to contact the teacher directly with concerns and/or questions regarding your child's progress.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM

The Bess SIT will meet monthly (check our website for dates and times). A parent representative serves on SIT, but meetings are open to all who wish to attend.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Carolina Photography will make professional pictures of W.A. Bess students throughout the school year.

Yearbook pre-orders will be available in January 2025 and end March 31, 2025.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Keeping children safe while at school is one of our main priorities. Elementary schools are mandated to conduct one metal screening each week. Bess will conduct one fire exercise each month and four lockdown exercise per year in an effort to remain vigilant and prepared to handle any crisis situation. Other safety exercises will be performed in order to comply with district and state emergency preparedness guidelines (e.g. tornado exercises).

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