

# **W.B. Beam Intermediate School**

## **Parent/Student Handbook**

2024-2025



# Welcome from Principal Whiteside

Welcome to William Blaine Beam Intermediate School! I am excited to serve as your Principal. This will be my thirty- fifth year in education and twenty-sixth year as a school administrator. The business of education is my passion and wouldn't want any other profession!

I believe school should be a place where students experience personal growth and success through the positive support of staff, parents, and the community. Some of the smartest, kindest, and hardest-working students in the world will enter our front doors on August 14, and I can't wait to see what we'll achieve.

Over the course of the year, we will be dedicated to upholding our mission of "providing a nurturing yet challenging environment that ensures the growth of responsible and successful students." and creating an environment where children can excel academically, socially, and emotionally. The collaboration between school and home is essential for a child's success, and we eagerly anticipate partnering with you to provide a supportive and enriching educational experience for every student.

We value your input and partnership in the educational experience of our students. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or our staff if you want to discuss any aspect of your child's education. Working together, we will make this a wonderful school year.

Thank you for the opportunity to educate your child. Together, our Falcons will SOAR!

Sincerely,  
*Lynn B. Whiteside*

# W.B. Beam Intermediate Fast Facts

## Office Phone

704.836.9114

## School Hours

7:30 - 2:30 (building opens at 7:10am) Breakfast served: 7:10-7:30

## Dismissal Times

Bus Rider Dismissal - 2:20pm

Car Rider Dismissal - 2:30pm

## Enrollment

198 students

## Vision

We will strive to maintain high expectations and cooperative relationships that create global learners equipped to meet 21st century challenges.

## Mission

We will provide a nurturing yet challenging environment that ensures the growth of responsible and successful students.

## Colors

Royal Blue and Yellow

## Mascot

Falcon



## W.B. Beam Office Staff



Principal	Lynn Whiteside	<a href="mailto:lynnbwhiteside@gaston.k12.nc.us">lynnbwhiteside@gaston.k12.nc.us</a>
School Counselor	Mark Reep	<a href="mailto:mareep@gaston.k12.nc.us">mareep@gaston.k12.nc.us</a>
Financial Secretary/Data Manager	Megan Hall	<a href="mailto:mchall@gastonl.k12.nc.us">mchall@gastonl.k12.nc.us</a>
Receptionist	Jessica Hudson	<a href="mailto:jphudson@gaston.k12.nc.us">jphudson@gaston.k12.nc.us</a>
Nurse	Katie Head	<a href="mailto:khead@gaston.k12.nc.us">khead@gaston.k12.nc.us</a>
Social Worker	Chloe Collichio	<a href="mailto:cdcollichio@gaston.k12.nc.us">cdcollichio@gaston.k12.nc.us</a>
School Resource Officer	Officer Mark Stout	<a href="mailto:wbeamsro@gaston.k12.nc.us">wbeamsro@gaston.k12.nc.us</a>
Cafeteria Manager	Cafeteria Manager	<a href="mailto:smriddle@gaston.k12.nc.us">smriddle@gaston.k12.nc.us</a>

# Communication

<b>Parent Conferences</b>	Parent Conference Days are currently scheduled for October 10 and March 13. More information will be coming about procedures for Parent Conference Days. Throughout the school year parents can schedule a conference with a teacher as necessary to discuss academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.
<b>PowerSchool</b>	The Power School Parent Module provides students and parents a secure website to access grades and attendance. For information or assistance with setting up PowerSchool Parent Access, please see the Data Manager/Secretary.
<b>Schoology</b>	Schoology is the GCS Learning Management System (LMS) and is accessible by parents to view assignments and lesson material.
<b>Parent Link Phone Calls</b>	Automated phone calls will be sent home weekly to update parents about news at W.B. Beam. Please be sure you provide and/or update your phone number and email address to receive important information.
<b>School Website</b>	Our school website is frequently updated to keep students, parents, and the community in the loop on important announcements, news, and events at W.B. Beam. Please visit our website at: <a href="https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/wbbeam">https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/wbbeam</a>
<b>Social Media</b>	Our school Facebook page is updated regularly. Please visit it at: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WBBeamintermediate">https://www.facebook.com/WBBeamintermediate</a>
<b>Monthly Newsletter</b>	A monthly newsletter will be shared via email. Paper copies are available upon request.
<b>Bus Information</b>	Information about bus changes (delayed route times, driver substitutions, etc.) will be sent via Blackboard messaging texts as well as emails.



## Arrival

**Student drop-off** begins at **7:10 AM** via the entrance on **E. 1st Street** parking lot. Our drop off is one way. Please do not enter from Pink Street.

Please **pull up all the way** down to the main building and a staff member or Safety Patrol member will open car doors closest to the curb,

Parents should not use the staff parking as a drop off or pick up point for students unless there are pre-arranged special circumstances.

**Staff members will direct cars to exit** the drop off zone to ensure an orderly and safe departure. Please follow the directions of staff on duty.

**Breakfast will be served until 7:30.** We strongly encourage all students to arrive by 7:25 AM to ensure that they have time to get inside, get breakfast and get settled. This will ensure instruction is not missed.

Staff members will assist **bus riders** into the building.

The **tardy bell rings at 7:30**, and instruction begins.

**After 7:30, students are tardy and parents must come into the school to sign-in their child.**

## Dismissal

**2:20 bell-** Bus riders dismissed, escorted by a staff member

**2:25 bell-** Cars will **pull forward to posts** marked 1-5 . Riders will be called by post number beginning at 2:30.. Please pull all the way down and wait for a staff member to ensure your child is put into the correct car.

**Car tags** (2 per family) will be given to display from the rearview mirror. You must have your car tag displayed for safety purposes. If you do not have a car tag, you will need to **park and provide a picture ID** to the front office.

Please know that we must load cars quickly to keep our traffic line moving. If you need to speak with a staff member about anything, you will need to park and wait for the traffic line to finish.

Any **changes to afternoon dismissal must be submitted in writing to the teacher.** If we do not receive notice in writing, we will have to send your student home according to how they normally leave school each day.

If you do not send in a note about changes, please call the office by **1:00 pm** so that the message can be delivered to the teacher.

# Buses

W.B. Beam provides morning and afternoon bus transportation. Our buses are staffed by drivers based out of the high school. Drivers run routes for all of our schools in Cherryville.

Please become familiar with your child's bus number and driver's name as it will be helpful should you need to contact the school about a bus issue.

To have a student added to a bus route during the school year, a written note must be sent to the office with the student's name, grade, and teacher name along with address information. **A 24-hour notice is required to be added to a bus route.**

Students are expected to follow bus safety rules while they are riding the bus. If a student is not following the expectations for riding a bus, a student will receive the following disciplinary action steps:

1. Conference with Administration
2. Phone call or note to parent
3. Bus Suspension



**Discuss WB Beam's bus rules with your child prior to the first day of school.**

**WB Beam students SOAR on the bus.**

**Bus riders are expected to:**

<b>SAFETY</b>	Keep hands, feet & objects to self. Sit with your back against the seat and face the front. Stand back away from the street. Follow bus rules.
<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	Keep bus clean. Be at your stop 5-10 minutes early. Load & unload quickly.
<b>ACHIEVEMENT</b>	Follow ALL bus expectations.
<b>RESPECT</b>	Listen to adults for directions. Use kind words Help others.



01

**Academics**



# Instructional Program



W.B. Beam aligns instruction with the Gaston County Schools' pacing and curriculum guides which support NC Instructional Standards..

Our **literacy** instruction incorporates instructional practice from the Houghton Mifflin Units of Study for Reading, Writing, and Phonics such as as the workshop model where students learn in both whole group, small group, and independent settings as they practice their literacy skills. Teachers also use SPIRE to reinforce and boost skills in literacy.

Our **math** program is the Ready Math. This program is a focused, coherent, and rigorous K-5 mathematics curriculum aligned to the state standards. Deep and careful attention is paid to mathematics content and to student thinking and understanding.

**Science and Social studies** standards are taught using an integrated method through articles, books, and poems in reading along with labs and class discussions.

Students at WB Beam participate weekly in "Specials" classes (**Art, Music, PE, and STEM**) to build on classroom skills such as critical thinking, language development, creativity, emotional wellness, and working with others



# Academic Information

## Grades 4 and 5

Students in fourth and fifth grade receive letter grade report cards each nine weeks. Teachers enter their grades online on PowerSchool. Parents can obtain login information from the office about how to access their child's grades online.

Our teachers follow the Gaston County Schools Grading Policy, which has a ten point grading scale:

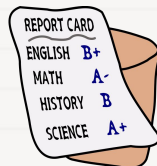
A = 100 – 90

B = 89 – 80

C = 79 – 70

D = 69 = 60

F = 59 and below



Honor roll is also recognized at the end of each quarter for those students in grades 4 and 5 who have maintained their grades for the quarter.

A child that receives all As for the year will be recognized on "A Honor Roll" at the end of year awards ceremony.

A child that receives a combination of As and Bs for the year will be recognized on the "A/B Honor Roll."

Students may be recognized for the growth, determination, and other milestones at the discretion of the teacher.

# Schoology

Learning Management System that allows teachers to...

- Administer online curriculum materials.
- Track and report student data and information.
- Deliver online instruction within a blended classroom environment.

Teachers focus on...

- Increasing student engagement.
- Creating deeper learning experiences.
- Providing opportunities for communication and collaboration.
- Assigning and collecting work electronically.
- Fostering 21st Century Skills and Digital Citizenship.
- Engage with learning materials and the school community inside and outside of the classroom.
- Safe and monitored teacher/administrator/parent online environment.

The Schoology platform is used for personalized learning assignments in the classroom and for homework. Schoology also provides tools for communication with families and a gradebook.

# Technology



Technology expands the realm of possibilities for how teachers teach, it enables them to reinforce and expand the content, it motivates students to learn, and allows them to respond to a variety of learning styles. Everyone learns differently; therefore, with a classroom full of children with different learning abilities, technology allows us to implement differentiated instruction.

Each classroom teacher has a cart of Chromebooks which allows teachers to integrate technology regularly in classroom instruction.

Acceptable Use Policies are signed by all students and employees during the initial sign in to our network. This outlines specific rules for students using the Gaston County Schools' computer network and computer hardware, including care for the equipment and proper use of the Internet. These policies will also be reviewed by teachers. In the enrollment packet, parents are given the opportunity to opt their child out of access to the Internet.

# Student Assessments

In order to help determine if students are mastering learning targets, students participate in state/local diagnostic tests as local check-in assessments..

Students in grades 3-5 will take the NC EOG at the end of each school year.

When such tests are to be given, teachers will notify parents.

Parents may also visit the Gaston County Schools website at [www.gaston.k12.nc.us](http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us) for the most current testing schedules and information.

[GCS Testing Calendar 24-25](#)

# Retention/Promotion

Promotion and retention decisions are based on the student's performance to meet state and local standards

In this decision-making process, parents are involved with the teacher and administration throughout the process.

Parents are notified mid-year if there are concerns on the part of the school that students are not making the necessary progress to be ready for the next grade level.

Interventions are implemented, progress is monitored and parents are kept informed. The principal reserves the right to make the final determination in promotion or retention.

# Instructional Support



**MTSS:** For any student that is working below grade level, Beam uses the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). This is a process where teachers provide specific interventions to help students who are below grade level. A team of grade level teachers meets frequently to review and discuss documented data and student progress so that the most effective support is in place for our students. Parents help us in this process by completing vision and hearing screenings and a social/developmental history. If your child needs additional interventions and support, you will be contacted by your child's teacher.

## **EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM /ESL/Title 1**

**Reading/AIG:** We also have the following other instructional supports: Exceptional Children's program, English as a Second Language, Title 1 Reading Support, & Academically/Intellectually Gifted classes.

Our school recognizes the diverse and special needs of our student population and follows appropriate procedures and guidelines for identifying and serving these students. Our Exceptional Children's program offers services for identified students in the resource room and

regular classroom.

Our **English as a Second Language (ESL)** program offers services for students who has not learned English as their first or primary language.

Our **Title 1 Tutor** works with students who are performing below grade level so that students can increase reading and comprehension skills.

The **Academically Intellectually Gifted** Program offers appropriate differentiation strategies for the gifted child.

**Counseling/504 Plans:** Our School Counselor, Mr. Reep is a resource for students, parents and teachers. He provides individual, small group, and whole class counseling lessons to support our students as they develop, grow, and learn. He works in classrooms teaching students positive social skills and character traits along with coping strategies. As the 504 Coordinator, he also guides students and families with Section 504 accommodation plans when there is a diagnosed disability.

# **W.B. Beam Intermediate is a Title I School**

Title I is a federally funded program designed to improve academic achievement in schools with a high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunches. The purpose of Title I funding is to help schools move all students toward meeting each state's content and performance standards by improving the instructional program for the entire school.

W.B. Beam recognizes the critical role of parents in the education of their children and in the schools. You will learn more about our Parent Involvement Policy at our Annual Meeting in September. Each parent is encouraged to learn about W.B. Beam's educational program, the educational goals and objectives of our school, and his or her own child's progress. We value your input and encourage each of you to become part of the team that impacts your child's life.

Under federal law, parents of students attending Title One schools have the right to know information on the professional qualifications of each child's teacher, including:

1. Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects he/she teaches.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under provisional status because of special circumstances.
3. Whether the teacher has an advanced degree and the field of discipline of the teacher's certification or degree.
4. Whether the child receives special services from a paraprofessional and the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

Should you have any questions about our teachers' qualifications, please see an administrator.

For more information on our 24-25 Title 1 Plan, please click the link below:

**[W.B. Beam Title 1 Plan](#)**

# Field Trips

Field trips are an important way to extend the educational experience of students. Throughout the year, grade levels will take field trips to locations in our community and state. Students are required to ride school-provided transportation (bus) to and from field trip locations. Additionally, students are expected to follow the GCS Code of Conduct while on field trips.

Students must have a signed permission slip in order to attend field trips, and parents can pay any fees associated with trips via cash, check, or <https://schoolcashionline.com>. Payment is expected prior to the field trip date. No refunds will be given to students absent on the day of the field trip.

Costs for field trips are figured using the admission cost to the venue and travel on the bus. Parents who wish to chaperone field trips must be an approved GCS volunteer and **invited** by the grade level to attend.

You can sign up on the GCS homepage by clicking “Become a Volunteer.” Once approved, please call the school to sign up for the required volunteer orientation.

***Some field trip locations do not require or allow parent chaperones or require a certain number of chaperones.***

Parents should not plan to meet the class attending a field trip. Oftentimes venues can only accommodate school groups and their chaperones. The best way to participate in field trips is to volunteer to chaperone.





02

**Attendance**



# Attendance



At W.B. Beam, we believe that going to school is a student's job. We feel that a day missed in school is comparable to a parent missing a day of work. It is logical to assume that academic material covered in a school day would never again be re-taught in as much detail.

According to the Gaston County School Attendance Policy, after 12 absences, the student does not meet the 94% attendance requirement for promotion to the next grade level.

Students must be in attendance at least 168 days. Only 12 absences, including excused and unexcused absences, are permitted each school year.

We will use the Parent Link calling program to contact parents when absences occur. Please contact the school if phone numbers change, so that we may contact you.

Please observe the following procedures regarding necessary absences:

- All absences are coded unexcused until a note is brought to school.
- Bring a **note to the teacher WITHIN 3 days of absence** stating: child's first and last name, date(s) & reason for absence.
- Excused absences include: personal illness, death in the family, court, doctor appointment and religious holidays.
- **Family vacations are not considered excused absences.**
- Students are not authorized to leave campus at any time during the school day without permission of school officials.
- Parents may write notes up through the 10th absence or tardy. After that, parents will need to provide doctors' notes. After 7 unexcused absences, the school social worker may seek legal mediation through the court system.
- Missed instructional time will be tracked by the Administration, Social Worker & School Counselor. (Tardies & Early Dismissals)
- Gaston County Schools sends home letters informing parents after students have missed 3, 6 and 10 days of school.

## Early Sign Outs

It is very important that all students remain in school for the entire school day. Parents, please make every effort to schedule appointments for your child after school or on teacher workdays. In the event that you plan to sign your student out early, please send a note to the teacher including: date, student name, reason for sign out, the time, and the name of the person who will be signing the student out. Please have your child to give this note to the teacher as they come into the classroom for the day. We also encourage parents to refrain from signing students out after 1:45 PM as this interferes with our end of day/dismissal procedures.

*In order to sign students out, Gaston County Schools' policy requires that the adult present current photo identification-No exceptions! We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining student safety.*

## Tardies

Arriving at school on time helps students begin their day successfully. Students must be in their classrooms by **7:30** or they will be considered late or tardy. If your student arrives to school after 7:30, you must report to the door, ring the bell and work with office staff to sign your student in.

## Proof of Residency

Gaston County Schools maintains a policy that students must attend school in the district where their legal guardians live.

In keeping with this policy, parents must present 2 "proofs of address" proving students live in their given school district. The following are the only documents that can be accepted as documentation: lease or mortgage statement and a utility bill (power, water, sewer, cable or satellite). The same documents are needed for a change of address if you move to another address within our district.

## Student Withdrawal

Please notify the school in advance, at least 2 days, of a student's withdrawal. This will allow us to prepare student materials, records for the transfer as well as to collect library books, Chromebooks and other school materials. Parents will be notified of any fees necessary. All school materials, lunch payments, and other debts should be paid in full before the transfer of records to another school. Otherwise, the debts will follow the student.



03

**Communication**

# Teacher & School Communication



## Teacher Digital Tools

**Schoology, DoJo, Remind, GCS Email**

For daily communication, it is best to communicate with teachers using either school email, Class Dojo, Remind App, or the Schoology learning management system.

## School Digital Tools

**Parent Link, school webpage, WB Beam FB page**

ParentLink is the GCS automated phone system that allows the school and/or the school system to send a recorded message out to families with information regarding current events at the school or the district. WB Beam sends a "Weekly Message" each Sun. or Mon. evening. Gaston County Schools also uses this system to notify the entire school system at one time in the event of an emergency or school closing. In order to receive these notifications, you must ensure that we have your up to date contact information.

Our school website and Facebook page are kept up to date with information, documents, photos, and good news. You are also welcome to call the school office with any questions.

# Other Communication Tools



## Folders

Daily folders will be used to send assignments and communicate with parents. In addition, parents will receive **Tuesday folders** from teachers with checked work and other important school documents.

## Parent Conferences

Occasionally, the need for a conference with your child's teacher may arise. Either parent or teacher may request a meeting in writing so that a convenient time for both parties can be established. Please understand that if you come without an appointment, your teacher will most likely not be able to meet with you due to required after school meetings, trainings, and planning.

Similarly, parents are not able to drop-in at arrival, during the instructional day, or during lunch to meet with a teacher. This time is important for supervising and instructing all students

## Radio/Website

In the event of inclement weather and for the safety of staff and students, Gaston County Schools will close or delay school. Once a decision is made, this information is broadcast on all local news stations, local radio broadcasts, and social media.



04

# Health & Safety

# School Safety Procedures



- **All persons visiting the school** will be required to use the video entry system and present appropriate photo ID. A member of the office staff will come to the front door to assist the visitor. This regulation is necessary for the protection of your children to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the school building/campus.
- **Fire exercises, severe weather exercises, and lockdowns** are performed on a regular basis in order to prepare students in case of an emergency. Please note that administrators also conduct random metal detection of students and their belongings several times a month.
- **Metal detection** screenings are performed regularly as another safety measure. All visitors are subject to random metal detection.
- Our school has no areas containing **asbestos**. Inspections are made annually to provide adequate maintenance of these areas.

## Disruptive Items

To achieve student safety and keep our focus on instruction, the following items are not allowed to be brought to school:

1. Weapons, any items resembling weapons, and any items that could be used as weapons such as Knives, guns, or other sharp-pointed or dangerous objects, including fireworks

These items warrant an office referral and possible suspension.

If the following items (or similar items) are brought to school without permission a teacher will hold the item until the end of the day. On all future occasions the items will be held until a parent/guardian comes to pick these up:

2. Money that is not being used to pay for lunch, field trips, or school-sponsored events.
3. Live animals from home, except with invitation from the child's teacher and the approval of the principal
4. Chewing gum, candy, and sodas
5. Toys, including trading cards of any kind
6. Electronic devices such as iPads, iPods, cell phones, handheld gaming devices or MP3 players.

**The School will not assume responsibility for the security of personal items.**



# Visitors



A safe, nurturing learning environment is our priority at Beam.

All visitors are required to enter through the main entrance and sign in at the door. Presenting a photo ID. In keeping a safe and healthy environment, please note that all visitors are subject to metal detection.

Visitors must wear visitor tag, they receive at check in, for the duration of their visit.

Visitors may **not** photograph or record other students when visiting.

Parents may begin eating lunch with their children on August 26 - lunch visitors will not be allowed prior to August 26. Parent visitors at lunch will need to sign in via the front office, scan a driver license to get a "visitor" badge, and then eat with their child in the designated areas. Parents should not leave the designated area for any reason. Students will walk themselves back to class when lunch is over. Due to space limitations, we must **limit to 2 guests/student** at lunch.

# Volunteers

In keeping with GCS policy and our efforts to provide a safe, nurturing environment for all staff and students, all parents and community members who work in the classrooms, serve as room parents, and chaperone field trips must be trained volunteers.

Applications can be completed at [tinyurl.com/GCSVolunteerSite](https://tinyurl.com/GCSVolunteerSite). An online application begins the background check process. Once approved, potential volunteers will need to view Power Point slides and sign off that you agree to all terms outlined in the orientation slides.

**Visit the same site and login to "reactivate" your account each school year.**





# Tobacco Free Campus

W.B. Beam and all Gaston County Schools are tobacco free campuses. We do not permit smoking or the use of tobacco products (including electronic cigarettes) in the buildings or on the school grounds or school events by students, staff, parents, or visitors. We appreciate all visitors following this policy while on campus and while on field trips with our students and staff.



**Use of e-cigarettes  
is prohibited**

**Interdit de fumer  
des cigarettes  
électroniques.**

# Student Illness

If students become ill or are injured at school, they are to let their teacher know. The school will then make contact with the child's family. Please be sure the office has current phone numbers for you at all times in case of an emergency.

There are several staff members who are trained in CPR and First Aid and designated as First Responders. These trained individuals will respond immediately to any medical emergency within our building. Should it be deemed necessary in an emergency, 911 will be called to respond.

If a student becomes ill or has been injured at school, the parent or guardian will be notified. If a student becomes ill or has been injured at school, the parent or guardian will be notified. Board Policy prohibits school employees from applying any type of first aid medications to injuries.

Students who suffer from fever, vomiting, or diarrhea will be expected to be picked up from school, and they should recover at home until they are free from these ailments for 24 hours. Covid 19 will follow traditional sick guidelines.



# Medication

Gaston County Schools has established policies for administering medications at school.

If your child must have medication of any type, including over-the-counter drugs, given during school hours, you have the following options.

1. You may come to school and give the medication to your child at the appropriate time(s).
2. You may obtain a copy of a medication form from the school nurse or school secretary. Take the form to your child's doctor and have him/her complete the form by listing the medication(s) needed, dosage, and number of times per day the medication is to be administered. This form must be completed by the physician for both prescription and over-the-counter drugs. The form must be signed by the doctor and by you, the parent or guardian.

Prescription medicines must be brought to school in a [pharmacy-labeled bottle](#) which contains instructions on how and when the medication is to be given. [Over-the-counter drugs must be received in a container labeled by a pharmacist, complete with instructions \(like a prescription drug\).](#)

3. You may discuss with your doctor an alternative schedule for administering medication (i.e., outside of school hours).

## School TeleHealth Clinic

Your child can now visit his/her provider without leaving school! Telehealth services through Kintegra Health are available for minor illnesses like allergies, asthma, coughs, colds, ear pain, fever, rashes, and more. Students can use this service with a signed enrollment and consent form, plus additional consent at each visit.

This service allows your child to stay in school and receive necessary care, saving you time. An offsite provider connects via audio-visual technology, assisted by an on-site clinical professional. You can join the visit in person or via video.



Telehealth visits are covered by Medicaid and most insurance carriers, and a sliding scale discount is available for those without insurance. To enroll, complete and submit the consent form at the school office or online. Find the form on your student's school website or at <https://bit.ly/KintegraConsent>





05

# **School Nutrition**

# Cafeteria and School Nutrition

Breakfast and Lunch are offered daily in all schools.

A complete school breakfast consists of: an entree made with grain and/or protein, fat free or 1% milk, and fruit and/or juice.

A complete school lunch consists of: an entree made with protein and/or grain, fat free or 1% milk, vegetable, and fruit.

Gaston County Schools follows the NC Healthy Schools initiative. Parents are asked to send in healthy snack and lunch options; we recommend that students do not bring sodas or energy drinks for snack or lunch. Students are asked to have a water bottle for their day that contains water.

**The following meal prices are current for the 2024-2025 school year:**

**Breakfast:** Students: \$0   **Lunch:** Students: \$0

W.B. Beam is one of 45 schools participating in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Universal Free Breakfast and Lunch. **Every student at Beam will receive free breakfast and lunch automatically.** Students can keep an active balance on their school nutrition account to purchase additional items such as snacks and ice cream.

Gaston County Schools maintains a computer system that accounts for students and their cafeteria spending. Check, cash, or money order can be accepted in the school cafeteria. Parents/Guardians may utilize Family Portal Link <https://lincconnect.com> to pay with their credit or debit card.

Gaston County Schools will host holiday meals on Wednesday, November 20 (K-2 parents invited to attend) and on December 11 (grades 3 - 5 parents invited to attend). **The adult price for holiday meals is \$5.00.**

## Special Dietary Needs

Students with medical conditions such as allergies and diabetes may request modifications to school meals by completing a **Diet Order Form**.

These may be obtained through the cafeteria manager, school nurse, or Gaston County School Nutrition. Diet Orders must be signed by a physician and returned to the cafeteria manager.

## Snacks

To ensure safety and sanitation, **all foods brought to school for classwide snack distribution or classroom celebrations must be store bought with a complete ingredient label adhered to the package.** Thank you for understanding that this is to protect students with food allergies

Homemade food and snacks in the classroom and cafeteria will not be allowed except for personal meals consumed by individual students.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping to protect our students with food allergies.

**We will not be sharing food or snacks in an effort to keep our students healthy and safe.**



06

**Student  
Expectations**

# Student Dress Code



The following guidelines outline the appropriate dress for your student to actively and safely participate in the instructional program at W.B. Beam Intermediate. **Parents of students whose attire has been deemed inappropriate will be called to bring other clothing.**

- Students should attend school dressed comfortably for the weather and school building.
- Clothing advertising alcoholic beverages/tobacco products or containing inappropriate language or messages should not be worn.
- Students are not permitted to wear tube tops, halter tops, see-through shirts, midriff tops, or bike shorts.
- Skirts and shorts should fall at mid-thigh (or lower). Underwear should not be showing.
- Students will not wear hats, caps, or other head coverings inside the school building. (except on spirit days)
- Shoes with wheels are not allowed at school or any school function. Students wearing flip-flops or high heels may be restricted from the playground equipment and certain physical education activities. Shoes with constant flashing lights must remain off during the school day. (Shoes that light up when you step on them are allowed if they are not a distraction.)



# Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones are for emergency use only. They should be turned OFF and kept in their backpack at all times, including on the bus.

Should students need to use the phone during school hours, they will be allowed to do so through the use of school phones, not their cell phones.

Students are not allowed to call, text, play games, record, stream, or email on their personal cell phones during the school day or on the bus.

Cell phones that ring or cause a distraction to school may be held in the office for parent pick-up.



# Positive Behavior Intervention Support

WB Beam is a proud Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) school.

As a PBIS school, we **develop and teach** defined expectations and recognize student compliance with rewards for positive behaviors and making good choices.

We work to provide a strong level of **consistency in student expectations, procedures, and consequences** so that our school environment is predictable and safe.

Students are rewarded for positive behavior. Students earn different levels of points for rewards in the classroom, quarterly and annual awards at the school level.

Weekly, students are selected by the teacher for "Best Week Ever". Students are called to the office to select a prize from the Office Prize Box!

# Gaston County Code of Student Conduct

In addition to school-wide expectations, all students are expected to follow the Gaston County Schools Code of Conduct (found on the GCS website).

The WB Beam behavior plan is based on the Gaston County Schools' Student Code of Conduct which is provided to all students. Administrators use this document as a guideline for administering consequences when a student does not respond to classroom behavior interventions, student behavior expectations or follow bus expectations



07

**Transportation**

## Car Riders

Each family will be issued 2 car tags that are unique to our school. These tags will change each school year and must be replaced at Open House or via the front office.

Students should enter and exit the car on the passenger side only. During afternoon dismissal, the car tag **MUST** be displayed so that staff can easily read the students' names. If a school issued tag is not displayed, parents may be directed to the front door to present a photo ID in order to pick up your child.

Car dismissal procedures begin at **2:25** and parents of car riders are asked to be in line at this time. During dismissal, for safety reasons, do not park and walk to pick up your child.

Due to safety restrictions, parents must remain in cars at all times. Please pick up your child promptly. If you are running late, please notify the front office.

Please follow the directions of staff when pulling out.



## Daycare Riders



Our school has a list of daycares that provide transportation from our school. Please see our Office Staff for this list.

Daycare vans load in the front of the school. Students are expected to walk to the vans at dismissal to avoid injury.

If daycare vans are late for pick-up, students are expected to wait quietly in the designated area until the van arrives and students are called.

Please notify your child's daycare, as well as the school when your child is not riding.

# Bus Riders

Bus stop information and schedules can be picked up at the school office.

Students are expected to be waiting at the bus stop **10 minutes** before the bus is scheduled to arrive.

If a student is not at the bus stop when the bus arrives, the bus will not stop, hold up traffic, or blow its horn.

Students are expected to keep the bus clean and neat.

No eating or drinking will be permitted on the bus.

Please read the GCS Bus Guidelines as well.

New students will need to allow up to 2 full school days after enrollment before beginning bus service so that the stop can be added to the route and the bus driver made aware of a new rider.

Parents are responsible for the supervision of their students until the bus arrives for pick-up and upon arrival at the bus stop in the afternoon.

## Bus Rider Behavior Expectations:

- **B - Be Responsible**
  - Follow the GCS Code of Conduct
  - Be on time - at the stop 5 minutes early!
  - Keep the bus clean - No food, candy, gum, or drinks.
- **U - Use Respect**
  - Talk softly and appropriately
  - Respect yourself, others, and property
  - Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself - Take nothing out of your bookbag, including homework, phones/electronics, and toys
- **S - Stay Safe**
  - Stay seated and keep aisle clear
  - Listen to the driver and other adults
  - Get on and off only at your assigned stop

Failure to follow these rules could result in a suspension of bus privileges. Our goal is to keep all students safe and we need everyone's cooperation to make this possible.



08

**Additional  
Information**

# Student Recognition and Celebrations

There will be three planned parties during the school year: Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Treats may be given for other holidays. Parents will be invited to attend the Halloween and Christmas parties. Valentine's Day parties will be for students only.

Students are not allowed to receive flowers or balloons at school.

We are also unable to hold birthday celebrations during school hours.

Teachers will be allowed to distribute invitations for birthday parties if ALL students in the class are receiving an invitation.

We are unable to share student information for birthday party invitations.

At WB Beam, we know that birthdays are very exciting and important to students, so we recognize students' birthdays on the morning announcements.

WB Beam recognizes Students of the Month and Principal's Pride for each class each month. These students will be recognized on the morning announcements and in the WB Beam newsletter.





# Important Dates- **NEED REVISION**

## Fall 2024

### August

- 8/11: Sundaes on Sunday, meet Principal Whiteside
- 8/12: Meet the Teachers/*Annual Title I Meeting* 5:00-6:30 drop-in
- 8/14: First Day of School

### September

- 9/3: No School - Labor Day
- 9/19 Title I Curriculum Night

### October

- 10/1: Fall Pictures
- 10/10: Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal-
- 10/11: No School
- 10/19: 1st 9 weeks report cards distributed
- 10/18: Fall Carnival
- 10/31: School Halloween Classroom Treat (Small Snack/No Parents) 1:30pm

### November

- 11/5 No school
- 11/8: Picture Retake/Make-Up Day
- 11/11: No School - Veterans Day
- 11/27-11/29: No School - Thanksgiving Break

### December

- 12/5: Rankin Curriculum Night and PTA Holiday Program
- 12/18: Christmas Classroom Party (Large Party/Parents Attend)- PreK to 1st 1:30pm
- 12/29: Christmas Classroom Party (Large Party/Parents Attend)- 2nd-5th 1:30pm
- 12/20-1/3 Christmas Break - :No School

## Spring 2025

### January

- 1/9: 2nd 9 Weeks Report Card Distributed
- 1/20: No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 1/21: Class and Club Picture Day

### February

- 2/14: School Valentine's Day Classroom Party (Small Snack/No Parents) 1:30pm
- 2/17 : No School - Optional Work Day

### March

- 3/5: Spring Pictures
- 3/13: Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal-
- 3/14: No School
- 3/20: 3rd 9 weeks Report Card distributed
- 3/20 Title I Curriculum Night

### April

- 4/17 Field Day
- 4/18-25 - Spring Break

### May

- 5/8: EOG Reading 3rd-5th
- 5/13 EOG Math 3rd-5th
- 5/15: EOG Science 5th
- 5/16: EOG Reading Retest 3rd grade
- 5/16: 5th Grade Awards Day and Picnic
- 5/19 End of Year Party PreK-1st 1:30pm
- 5/20: 3rd & 4th Awards Day (9:00 & 10:30) 2nd-5th grade End of Year Party 1:30
- 5/21: - End of Year Party 2nd-5th 1:30pm
- 5/21: Title I Curriculum Night
- 5/21: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

**THANK YOU**  
**for all of your**  
**cooperation**  
**and support!**



**QUESTIONS,**  
**please call the**  
**office @**  
**704-836-9114**

You may request a paper copy of the full student handbook by calling the office.