

Virginia Williamson Elementary School

2024-2025

Family & Student Handbook



Virginia Williamson Elementary School
1020 Zion Hill Rd SE
Bolivia, NC 28422
910.756.6010



VIRGINIA WILLIAMSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1020 Zion Hill Rd SE
Bolivia, NC 28422



Mr. Joshua Futrell, Principal

Mrs. Allison Wilkins Assistant Principal

Dear Students and Families,

As we stand on the threshold of a new school year, I am filled with excitement and optimism for the journey ahead. The start of a new academic year is always a time of fresh beginnings, new opportunities, and the promise of growth and learning.

To our wonderful students, welcome back! I hope your summer was filled with joy, adventure, and some well-deserved relaxation. This year promises to be an exciting one, with new subjects to explore, friendships to build, and countless moments to cherish. Remember, every challenge you face is a stepping stone towards becoming the best version of yourself. Embrace each day with curiosity and enthusiasm, and don't be afraid to ask questions and seek help when you need it.

To our dedicated parents, thank you for your support and partnership. Your encouragement and involvement are invaluable as we work together to create a nurturing and stimulating environment for our students. We are committed to providing a high-quality education that meets the needs of each child, and we are excited to share this journey with you. Your trust and collaboration are what make our school community so special.

As we embark on this new school year, let's embrace the opportunities and challenges with a positive mindset. Together, we can create a vibrant and dynamic learning environment where every student can thrive. Our teachers and staff are dedicated to fostering a culture of respect, inclusion, and academic excellence.

Let's make this school year a memorable and successful one. Here's to a year filled with laughter, learning, and growth!

With Stingray Pride,

Joshua Futrell

Joshua Futrell
Principal
Virginia Williamson Elementary School
910.756.6010 ext. 23002
jfutrell@bcswan.net

Stingray Teachers and Staff

There are a lot of new faces around campus (as well as some that you already know).
Please join us in welcoming our 2024-2025 teachers and staff.

PreK/Kindergarten Ms. Deutsch - PK Ms. Evans Ms. Furlow Ms. Hite Ms. Huggins Ms. Copeland	First Ms. Barbery Ms. DeHaro Ms. Hardin Ms. Hartman Ms. Lorton Ms. Needham	Second Ms. Bridgers Ms. Bullock Ms. Hall Ms. Harts Ms. Wood
Third Ms. Lennon Ms. Lazarich Ms. Kenney Ms. Pilsbury Ms. Willoughby	Fourth Ms. Burtram Ms. Hewett Ms. Rousch Ms. Traverson	Fifth Ms. Duke Ms. Ford Ms. Frink Ms. Lennon Ms. Mallory
Enrichments Ms. Barker Ms. Beam Ms. Emery Mr. LeFevre	Support/Office Staff Mr. Futrell- Principal Allison Wilkins-AP Ms. Kenney- AA Ms. Hadley- Data Manager Ms. Wilson- Secretary Ms. Christopher- Parent Facilitator Ms. Stewart- Nurse Ms. Padgett- Student Support	Exceptional Children's Dept. Ms. Amato Ms. Potter Ms. Shuskey Ms. Scott Ms. Whitfield Ms. Smith
Teacher Assistants Ms. Callaghan Ms. Fisher Ms. Rhine Ms. Wilcox Ms. Lucas Ms. McFarland Ms. Phelps Ms. Taylor	Student Support Ms. Clifford Ms. Ehlert Ms. Howard Ms. Hawley Ms. Jenny Ms. Jackson Ms. Shadid Ms. Travis Ms. Stone	

Important Links and Resources

- [School Calendar](#)
- [School Lunch Menus](#)
- [Bus Stop Lookup](#)
- [BCS Testing](#)
- [VWES Website](#)
- [Supply List](#)
- [Brunswick County Schools: Parents' Guide to Student Achievement \(PGSA\)](#)

Ways to Help Your Child Succeed

The following steps will help your child(ren) be successful at Virginia Williamson Elementary School:

- ☐ Check and sign your child(ren)'s communication folder. The folder has important information and will keep you informed about what all is going on at school. We use it as a communication tool between your family and our school.
- ☐ Read with your child nightly. As they get older and progress in their abilities to read, your child should be doing most of the reading themselves. Reading helps increase your child's vocabulary and will help them later when decoding unfamiliar words.
- ☐ **Math facts and sight words-** make practice a priority in your weekly routine at home. These skills will help your student be a more fluent reader and also progress in their abilities in math.
- ☐ Class Dojo- I cannot stress this one enough. **Please download the app and allow those push notifications.** Teachers can message you directly and also share class news and reminders with you as well. We believe that communication with home is a game changer for student success and Dojo is very helpful with this.
 - Late Bus alerts will be sent via Class Dojo School story. Please download the app and also allow push notifications.
 - If you have an URGENT need- call the school, so that we can best help you.
 - 910- 756- 6010



Know the Lingo...

As most professions have, the education system has acquired quite a few acronyms over the years. When school staff are speaking with parents, we often overlook the fact that our “language” can be overwhelming to those outside our field. So here is a “cheat sheet” to help ...

[NC Department of Public Instruction Education Acronyms](#)

504 (Section 504)	A Civil Rights law that prohibits the discrimination against individuals with disabilities and assures that qualified students with a disability have access to a free appropriate education.
ARIP (At-Risk Intervention Plan)	A Plan created at the classroom level to document classroom based interventions for academic, behavior, and social-emotional learning barriers.
BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan)	A formal plan created for students requiring intensive behavior supports as part of a Section 504 Plan and/or IEP.
DSS (Department of Social Services)	The agency that oversees Child Protective Services and other services
IDEA EC (Exceptional Children)	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This federal law, reauthorized in 2004, is designed to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free and appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living.
EOG (End of Grade)	End-of-Grade tests in English language arts/reading and mathematics (grades 3-8) and science (grades 5 and 8) that are taken by students during the last ten days of the school year.
ESL (English as a Second Language)	English as a Second Language. A program model that delivers specialized instruction to students who are learning English as a new language.
FERPA (Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Acts)	The law that protects the confidentiality of educational records.
IEP (Individual Education Plan)	Individualized Education Program. The IEP is a written statement for a student with a disability that is developed, at least annually, by a team of professionals knowledgeable about the student and the parent. The plan describes the strengths of the child and the concerns of the parents for enhancing the education of their child, and when, where, and how often services will be provided. The IEP is required by federal law for all exceptional children and must include specific information about how the student will be served and what goals he or she should be meeting.
IST (Individual Student Team)	A layer of support that documents data-driven decision making and research-based interventions to address academic, behavior, and social emotional learning barriers.
MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support)	NC MTSS is a multi-tiered framework that promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices as well as Social Emotional Learning (SEL). NC MTSS employs a systems approach using data-driven problem-solving to maximize growth for all.

ORF (Oral Reading Fluency)	A score that reflects how fluently a student can read aloud.
PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support)	Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. Positive Behavior Intervention and Support programs are a way to impact school learning environments by establishing and reinforcing clear behavioral expectations to support high student performance and to reduce behavioral problems. PBIS site schools work to integrate their Safe Schools Plans, character education efforts and strategies, and discipline efforts to make the schools caring and safe communities for learning.
PTA (Parent Teacher Association)	North Carolina's oldest and largest volunteer organization advocating for the education, health, safety, and success of all children and youth while building strong families and communities.
RTA (Read to Achieve)	Read to Achieve. NC state law to ensure every student reads at or above grade level by the end of third grade and progresses in reading proficiency so that he or she can read, comprehend, integrate, and apply complex texts needed for secondary education and career success.

Attendance (BCS School Board Policy 4400)

Attendance in school and participation in classroom instruction is an important part of academic achievement and the teacher-learning process. Regular attendance develops patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the state between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 years attend school. Parents or legal guardians have the responsibility for ensuring that students attend and remain daily. Attendance records will be used to enforce the Compulsory Attendance Law of North Carolina. Notifications are sent to parents when students reach the 3, 6 and 10 days of unexcused absences. After the accumulation of 10 unexcused absences in one school year, the Principal or designee is bound to review the case in consideration of the law.

Parents/Guardians have the responsibility of making sure students are at school for the full day 8:35-3:40. For your child to be considered present for the day, they have to be in school until 12:00. If they are picked up at any time after 12:00 and prior to the end of the school day, they will be documented as early out and tardy.

Excused Absences- When a student must miss school. Come to school late, or leave school early, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the student's teacher on the day the student returns after an absence. An absence may be excused for the following reasons:

1. **Illness or Injury:** When the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
2. **Quarantine:** When isolation of the student is ordered by the local health officer or by the State Board of Health.
3. **Death in the Immediate Family:** When the absence results from the death of a member of the immediate family of the student. For the purpose of this regulation, the

immediate family of a student includes, but is not necessarily limited to, grandparents, parents, brothers, and sisters.

4. Medical or Dental Appointments: When the absence results from a medical or dental appointment of a student.

5. Court or Administrative Proceedings: When the absence results from the attendance of a student at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness. The Local Board of Education can be considered an administrative tribunal.

6. Religious Observance: School principals are required to authorize a minimum of two excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by faith of a student or a student's parents. The student shall be given the opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed due to this excused absence. ([S.L. 2010-112](#))

7. Educational Opportunity: When it is demonstrated that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid education opportunity, such as travel. Approval for such absence must be granted 2 WEEKS prior to the absence by the principal. This would include but is not limited to, a student serving as a legislative page or a governor's page.

8. Local School Board Policy: Brunswick County Schools may excuse temporary or occasional absences for other reasons in accordance with local school board policies, provided that the student has been in attendance for at least one-half of a school day during the current school year.

9. Absence related to deployment activities: A minimum of two days each academic year for visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is not identified as at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences and the student's parent or legal guardian is (a) an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy [4050](#), Children of Military Families and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

10. Child Care: Absences due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent are to be coded as excused (lawful). ([G.S. 115C-375.5](#))

If your child is absent, please send a handwritten note with your student for excused absences. This is the easiest way for the absence to be coded as excused by our Data Manager. All notes must be submitted within **TWO** days of the student returning to school

Policy 4400 also states: "If students accumulate 16 or more unexcused absences in any given year, the principal or attendance committee shall consider whether the student's grades should be reduced." The circumstances and number of absences will also be reviewed and the extent to which the student completed the missed work.

Recommendations the principal or committee may make include:

- The student will not receive a passing grade for the semester;
- The student will receive the grade otherwise earned; or
- The student will be given additional time to complete the missed work before a determination of the appropriate grade is made.

Arrival and Dismissal

Students should not arrive at school before 8:10 am. Students will be released from cars and buses and will enter the building to go to their assigned areas for breakfast/class. Punctuality is a responsibility that should be instilled in each student in each student by the parents/guardians. Students who are tardy miss valuable instruction and cause an interruption as well. The tardy bell rings at 8:35 so students entering the building at the time or after are tardy. When the student arrives at school after 8:35, the child must be signed in by an adult. The student will be given a tardy slip to present to their homeroom teacher. Students arriving on late buses are not tardy. Excessive tardies will be reported to the school's social worker.

Please do not drop students off in the bus parking lot. This is extremely dangerous for you and your child.

Parents must drive through the traffic circle to drop off a child in the morning. Please pull as far up in the circle as possible. Appointed staff will direct you when you pull in. Please do not let your child out of the car until your child is directed by a staff member. This will enable school arrivals to take place without causing accidents or confusion.

Students leaving before 3:40 must be checked out through the office. If you know in advance that you will be checking your child out early, please send a note to your child's teacher or email: VWoffice@bcswan.net. Your child will be called to the office once you arrive to check them out. **Early checkout is counted as a tardy.** Parents must sign students out using the computer in the office before leaving. IDs must be shown to front office staff to pick up a student. Parents are encouraged not to check students out early due to the interruptions it causes in the instructional day.

Students are not to be checked out after 3:00. Please email VWoffice@bcswan.net if you need to change your child's transportation for that day.

Students riding buses will begin dismissing at 3:35 daily. Students will be escorted to buses, vans, and cars when the dismissal bell rings at 3:40.

For school safety, all parents will be asked to scan/show their ID for student checkout. All visitors to the school must check in at the main office and scan ID to generate a visitor sticker. Parents will be allowed to walk their children to class during the first week of school.

Parents are **encouraged** to eat lunch with their children. After lunch, parents need to check out at the front office to protect the instructional day.

Award Ceremonies

At Virginia Williamson, we all want to recognize, reward, and AWARD our students for their accomplishments. We also want to protect classroom instructional time to ensure that our

students get the very best education possible while they are in our care. Therefore, select students will be recognized quarterly for the award of Terrific Kids as nominated by classroom teachers. Grade levels will hold special awards ceremonies at the end of the school year recognizing students for their accomplishments and for successful completion of one grade level and progression to the next. Students will be recognized and rewarded for making good choices and following school rules and policies as outlined by the school's PBIS program.

Book Fairs

Our school sponsors a Book Fair twice a year. The first book fair will be Fall and there will also be one in the Spring. Students have the opportunity to shop and buy some of their favorite books!

Bus Guidance

Please take a moment to review our bus guidelines and procedures. Mrs. Wilkins oversees transportation at Virginia Williamson and works with the BCS transportation department to arrange transportation and ensure a safe way for students to get to school and return home in the afternoon.

Please email awilkins@bcswan.net if you would like to add your student(s) to a bus route and/or they have never ridden the bus before.

How to look up your most current bus information:

1. Click on the following link: <http://media.bcswan.net/liveweb/webquery/>
2. Enter your home address.
3. Click Virginia Williamson Elementary.
4. Bus information will pop up- Look at the STOP TIME column. The first and third will show the morning and pm stop that is closest to your legal home address.
5. REMINDER- this information does NOT add your student to a bus- it is to inform you of the bus that serves your home. Contact your student's teacher or Mrs. Wilkins (awilkins@bcswan.net or Class Dojo to add your student to a bus route).

You will receive bus information, bus number and stop time in a letter at Open House in August. If this information is incorrect, please let your student's teacher know and we can get it fixed. This is especially important if your child is NOT assigned a bus, and they need to ride a bus this school year.

Students may not ride with a friend on the bus for any reason (morning or afternoon). If you need a different bus stop for childcare reasons, please contact Mrs. Wilkins and fill out an Extra Transportation request form (can take up to 10 days to process).

Bus Transportation for Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade

At the end of the PK/K/1 student's day, if there is no parent or designee at the stop to receive the child, the child WILL NOT be left at the stop. Parents/Guardians will have to pick the student up from school.

If this happens on 3 occasions, the student will be suspended from riding the bus for 1 day. This suspension will increase if it continues to be an issue. This is not ideal, but we do not have staff after school that are able to monitor students.

[Bus Parent Letter](#)

[How to log on to Edulog Transportation App](#)

Bus Safety

The purpose of the school bus is to safely transport students to and from school. This is our priority on the school bus at Virginia Williamson Elementary School. If your child is making it unsafe for themselves or others, the behavior must be addressed.

North Carolina school bus drivers use hand signals telling students when it is safe to cross the road.

Please review the guidance below with your child. This is for students who must cross a road to get on or off the bus. The bus driver is actively monitoring traffic and will let your child know when it is safe to cross and enter the bus.

Crossing Procedure FOR NC SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

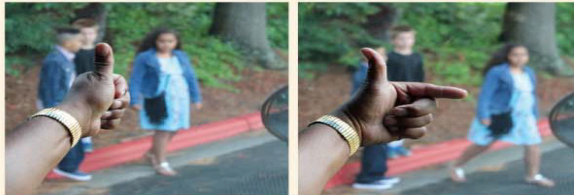
MORNING PICK-UP

- 1** Activate amber warning lights 300 feet in advance of the passenger stop.
- 2** Come to a complete stop.
Put in neutral. Set parking brake.
- 3** Activate red lights (using middle position if there is a 3 position switch).
- 4** If students have to cross, hold left palm up to signal the students to wait.



- 5** When safe, with door open, give “thumbs up”, signaling students it’s okay to cross and then point in the direction they are walking to cross the street.

Make sure THEY also check for traffic.



- 6** Complete the Process:
 - Count, watch and recount students.
 - When students are safe, close the door.
 - Check all mirrors from left to right for students and traffic.
 - Proceed slowly while checking for students.

SOUND HORN if students are in danger

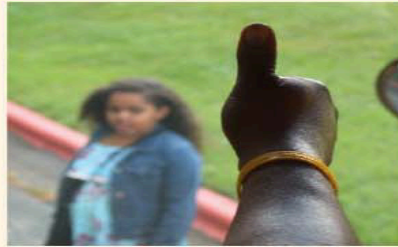
AFTERNOON DROP-OFF

- 1** Activate amber warning lights 300 feet in advance of the passenger stop.
- 2** Come to a complete stop.
Put in neutral. Set parking brake.
- 3** Activate red lights (using middle position if there is a 3 position switch).
- 4** With door open, remind students to look both ways while exiting the bus and to look for your signal if crossing.
- 5** If students have to cross, hold right palm up for students to wait.



- 6** When safe give “thumbs up”, signaling students it’s okay to cross and then point in the direction they are walking to cross the street.

Make sure THEY also check for traffic.



- 7** Complete the Process:
 - Count, watch and recount the students that have exited your bus.
 - Close door (when students are in a safe area).
 - Check all mirrors for students and traffic.
 - Proceed slowly while checking for students.

SOUND HORN if students are in danger

Paid for by the NC Department of Public Instruction with funding from the Governor's Highway Safety Program.
For more information: www.ncbussafety.org/safety



Bus Misconduct (Policy Code: 4317)

School transportation is a privilege, not a right. Students shall follow safety rules and follow the bus driver's directions and/or safety monitor at all times while riding a school bus.

[Brunswick County Bus Conduct Matrix](#)

Brunswick County Schools BUS CONDUCT

The Brunswick County Board of Education recognizes that driving a school bus requires the undivided attention of the driver and that disturbances or disruptions on school buses have been directly responsible for serious accidents causing damages, bodily injuries, and even death by diverting the attention of the bus driver. Therefore, the driver of a school bus, subject to the direction of the Supervisor, shall have complete authority, control, and responsibility for the safe and effective operation of the bus and the maintaining of good order and conduct upon such bus by all passengers. The bus driver shall promptly report any misconduct or inappropriate behavior occurring on the bus to the School Administration. Reportable circumstances shall also include any unusual events and or occurrences in which a passenger blatantly disregards the directions or instructions of the bus driver.

Passengers will be informed of what is expected of them from the beginning. The bus driver should remember that all passengers are different, and no two individuals will react in the same way. All problems or circumstances should be handled fairly and in accordance with established rules, so that passengers will learn to respect the authority of the bus driver.

To ride a school bus is a privilege, which can, and will be taken away if a student jeopardizes the safety and or well-being of the other passengers/students on the school bus.

Bus Behavior Consequence Progression

Rules	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense	4 th Offense
Disruptive Behavior/Insubordination	Warning up to Bus Suspension	Minimum Bus Suspension of 1 day up to 10 days	Minimum Bus Suspension of 5 days up to 10 days	Bus Privilege revoked
Fighting, Physical Aggression, Assault	Bus Suspension-3-5 days	Minimum Bus Suspension of 5 days up to 10 days	Bus Privilege revoked	
Inappropriate/Unwanted Touching	Warning up to Bus Suspension	Minimum Bus Suspension of 3 days up to 10 days	Bus Suspension-10 days	Bus Privilege revoked
Food & Drink. Not in assigned seat, standing, climbing	Warning up to Bus Suspension	Bus Suspension-3 days	Bus Suspension-5 days	Bus Privilege revoked as determined by administration
Profanity, Obscenities, Vulgarity, Inappropriate/Misuse of electronic devices	Warning up to Bus Suspension	Minimum Bus Suspension of 1 days up to 10 days	Minimum Bus Suspension of 5 days up to 10 days	Bus Privilege revoked
Sexual Behavior	Bus Suspension 5 days	Bus Suspension-10 days	Bus Privilege revoked.	
Throwing items/material, Littering	Warning up to Bus Suspension	Minimum Bus Suspension of 3 days up to 10 days	Minimum Bus Suspension of 5 days up to 10 days	Bus Privilege revoked
Vaping. Tobacco Usage. Substance use	Bus Suspension - 3 days	Bus Suspension-10 days	Bus Privilege revoked as determined by administration	
Inappropriate Behavior not otherwise addressed by this matrix	Warning up to bus suspension	Minimum Bus Suspension of 1 days up to 10 days	Bus Privilege revoked as determined by administration	

- Law enforcement will be involved when any illegal activity occurs.

We reserve the right to suspend a student from the bus for extreme misconduct on the first offense- i.e. hitting/fighting/physical aggression/severe distraction to the driver, etc.

DON'T LOSE YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGE. FOLLOW THE RULES.

BCS 2024-2025 Calendar

BACK TO SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE		
High Schools	Tuesday, August 20, 2024	4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Middle Schools	Wednesday, August 21, 2024	4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Elementary Schools	Thursday, August 22, 2024	4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

JULY 2024	JANUARY 2025
4 Holiday-Independence Day	1 Holiday-New Year's Day
12-13 Non-Required Workdays	2 Non-Required Workday
14 First Day for Teacher Assistants	3 Required Workday
14-15 Required Workdays	17 Report Cards Released
16 Non-Required Workday	20 Holiday-Martin Luther King Jr. Day
19 First Day for Bus Drivers & Child Nutrition Staff	21 Required Workday
19-22 Required Workdays	
23 Non-Required Workday	
26 First Day of School	

SEPTEMBER 2024	FEBRUARY 2025
2 Holiday-Labor Day	21 Non-Required Workday
OCTOBER 2024	MARCH 2025
18 End of 1st Quarter	7 End of 3rd Quarter
21 Required Workday	10 Required Workday
	21 Report Cards Released
	31 Non-Required Workday

NOVEMBER 2024	APRIL 2025
1 Report Cards Released	18 Holiday-Good Friday
5 Required Workday	21-25 Annual Leave Spring Break
11 Holiday-Veteran's Day	
27 Annual Leave	
28-29 Holiday-Thanksgiving	

DECEMBER 2024	MAY 2025
20 End of Semester	5 Non-Required Workday
23 Annual Leave	26 Holiday-Memorial Day
24-26 Holiday-Christmas	28 Last Day of School
27 Annual Leave	28 Last Day for Teacher Assistants, Bus Drivers & Child Nutrition Staff
30-31 Annual Leave	29-30 Required Workdays

2025 Graduation Schedule	JUNE 2025
	2-4 Required Workdays
	5-6 Non-Required Workdays

Instructional Day Start/End Times	2025 Graduation Schedule
High Schools: 7:35 - 2:40	TBD
Middle Schools: 7:45 - 2:50	
Elementary Schools: 8:35 - 3:40	

Early Release Times	School Closings
11:45 a.m.—High Schools	Closings and/or delays will be broadcast on local television and radio stations, posted on www.bcschools.net , Facebook, and Twitter, and shared through Blackboard Messaging. The BOE reserves the right to use early release days and Saturdays as makeup days for inclement weather. The BOE may add days of employment to the end of the school year.
12:00 noon—Middle Schools	
12:45 p.m.—Elementary Schools	

BRUNSWICK COUNTY SCHOOLS 2024-2025 TRADITIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR



JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

★ Students' First/Last Day of School W Required Teacher Workday W Non-Required Workday
 △ Holiday □ Annual Vacation Leave ER Early Release ■ End of the Nine Weeks/Report Card Release Dates NOTED ON LEFT

Cancellation of School

Cancellation of school takes place only during extraordinary circumstances such as extreme weather, equipment failure, or public crisis. The school board members and administrators are aware of the hardship, which can be caused by an abrupt cancellation and/or remote learning day. Therefore, school will not be canceled unless a significant safety risk has been created by unusual circumstances. In the case of snow or hurricanes, announcements concerning school closings will be made on local radio, the BCS website, Class DoJo, and local television stations. Facebook notifications are also great for knowing of early releases, remote learning day, and/or cancellations.

Please make sure your contact information is always correct so that you can receive the School Messenger phone calls. If you will provide the school with a correct email address, you will also receive email updates about school news.

Cell phone Use (BCS School Board Policy 4311)

Parents who allow children to bring cell phones to school must understand that we require that all cell phones be turned off and remain out of sight and in backpacks during the school day. **Cell phone use is not permitted during lunch or recess.** School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, displayed or visible in

violation of this policy. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated wireless communication devices will be returned only to the student's parent.

Contact (School)

Classroom Interruptions (Policy 3300): Classroom activities provide support of the instructional program and should maximize the learning experience for students. Announcements, conferences, and appointments shall be scheduled and conducted so that instructional activities are not interrupted.

Conferences for Parents and Teachers (Policy 4300): Parents are encouraged to schedule conferences with the teacher, school counselor, assistant principal, or principal to express concerns, obtain information, or ask for help. Conferences may be scheduled with teachers by note, Class DoJo, or by calling the office and having the teacher return your call after school. Teachers are available after school and at other times designated by the teachers. Protecting instructional time for all of our students is our priority when scheduling conferences. We welcome opportunities to meet you to discuss your concerns. Appointments with the principal and assistant principal can be made by calling the school office.

Contact Information: Please fill out new student data forms when any contact information (address or phone number) changes. Proof of residency must be provided to change address and/or bus. It is important that we have a current phone number in case of an emergency.

The school phone number is 910.756.6010

Communication

Every Sunday evening one of our administrators makes a phone call to all Virginia Williamson Elementary parents and families. This call gives you valuable information and out what is happening weekly at school. This call is also another important reason to make sure we have an updated phone number(s) on file.

Deliveries

Please do not send flower arrangements, balloons, or singing telegrams to students while they are at school. It causes a disruption to classroom instruction and also the bus ride home.

Discipline Plan

The BCS Board of Education adopted a Student Code of Conduct (Policy Code: 4300) defining the rules and regulations for the control, discipline, suspension, and expulsion of students. These rules and regulations are intended to promote an atmosphere within the school that is safe and conducive to learning, as well as, ensure the protection of the rights of students. Self-respect and respect for others are major goals of the code.

Virginia Williamson's discipline plan is based on **Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)** and developing relationships between school and home. Each teacher is expected to contact or attempt to contact the parent/guardian before the student is referred to administration. Strong partnership between teacher and parent/guardian will result in the elimination of most discipline issues. We believe that the purpose of discipline is to foster responsibility, independence, positive attitudes, and self-determination. The best discipline is self-control. A major goal of VWES is to help students develop self-discipline and self-control. Though discipline is not taught as a separate subject, self-discipline is one of the most important factors in the achievement of the student. The student who develops and maintains self-discipline in school will be more successful and more appreciative of the rights and responsibilities of him/herself and other students.

Please familiarize yourself and your child with the BCS Code of Conduct. Remember that it was developed to protect each student and ensure each student is provided with the best possible learning environment. VWES will strictly enforce the BCS Code of Conduct. Major offenses will result in immediate referral to administration. Repeat offenders will be referred to the administration. Suspension is an option if the disturbance interferes with teaching and learning or the orderly conduct of school activities.

Behavior Management Plan

Our school will continue to use the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Support) system as our behavior management program. The following matrix explains school rules and expectations. Each grade level will also have their own individual rules.

D.A.R.E

All fifth graders participate in the **D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance Education)** program. Students are provided instruction to help them recognize and better understand the dangers of drugs and alcohol so that they will make good choices in life. The program is implemented through the partnership of Brunswick County Schools and Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and instruction is provided by the SRO.

Dress Code (BCS School Board Policy 4316)

The BCS Board of Education believes that dress and appearance of students affects their academic performance and requests that parents/guardians outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. Clothing must be age appropriate. The Board prohibits any appearance or clothing that does the following:

- Violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school;
- Is substantially disruptive
- Is provocative or obscene or
- Endangers the health or safety of the students or others.

Clothing Requirements

- Shorts, skirts and dresses must reach mid-thigh.
- Shirts or blouses must cover the waist or midriff.
- Leggings may only be worn under skirts, dresses or shirts as long as the skirt, dress or shirt each the individual's mid-thigh.
- Pants must be worn at the waistline.

Prohibited Items and Styles of Wear

- Clothing that disrupts the teaching/learning process or is indecent, vulgar, or obscene.
- Clothing made of sheer or mesh material is not permitted.
- Bare backs or spaghetti straps are not permitted. Tank tops are permitted as long as they comply with the other requirements listed within the policy.
- Pants with holes above mid-thigh.
- Visible undergarments.
- No hats, hoods, earmuffs, sweatbands or sunglasses, can be worn outside but must be removed prior to entering the school.
- Bandanas
- Inappropriate illustrations (alcoholic beverages, tobacco, the use of controlled substances, is of a sexual nature, depicts violence, is racist or harassing based on cultural or ethnic differences)
- Improper footwear
- Inside-out, backward, unfastened, or otherwise worn in a fashion other than that which the clothing was designed to be worn
- Any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other items with intent to convey membership or affiliation with a gang.
- Sagging pants are not allowed; pants cannot be worn with the waistband below the hipbone.

Before being punished, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to adjust so that he or she will be in compliance.

Consequences: 1st Offense: Students will be asked to correct inappropriate attire while at school or the parent will be called to come to school and replace the unacceptable clothing. If parents/guardians are unable to come immediately, the student will be required to wear available alternate clothing provided by the school for the remainder of the day. Any further offenses will result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the principal.

Email

Every staff member at Virginia Williamson Elementary has an email address that can be found on our webpage. Email is a great way to communicate with your child's teacher.

Emergency Drills

Virginia Williamson has an Emergency Evacuation Plan if the building needs to be evacuated. The plan is similar to a fire drill. Fire drills are conducted once each month and tornado drills are conducted twice each year. Escape plans are posted beside the door of each classroom. During the tornado drill each classroom goes to a designated area within the building away from the glassed area. All students kneel with their heads covered and faces toward a wall. For fire drills, each class has an escape route to an outside area, a safe distance from the building. Students are taken to designated areas in a safe, quiet, and orderly manner. Lockdown drills are conducted several times a year and are a way to familiarize children and adults with how to conduct themselves in case of an emergency. Our primary goal is to keep all children and adults in the building as safe as possible should a potential emergency ever arise.

EOG Testing

End-of-Grade Tests (EOGs) are state standardized tests administered to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders during the last 10 days of school. The tests provide information on students' progress in their certain grade levels. EOGs are given in ELA and Math for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade. 5th graders are also given an EOG in Science.

Field Trips (BCS Board Policy:3320)

All eligible students are given an opportunity to participate in school trips. No student will be denied participation because of economic hardship or because the student has a disability. Each grade level is allowed two fields that must be curriculum-related.

Chaperones—All chaperones and volunteers accompanying students on trips must meet the standards in Policy Code: 5015 School Volunteers.

Fees—Pursuant to policy 4600, Student Fees imposed for school trips will be waived or reduced for students who demonstrate real economic hardship. The trip sponsor must certify to the school principal that provisions have been made for any students unable to pay the fee.

Medical Assistance—Each student who participates in a school trip must provide a signed parent consent form giving the teacher permission to seek medical assistance in an emergency.

If a student with a known medical problem is to participate in a school trip, the student, his/her parents/ guardians, and school officials must discuss in advance who will keep charge of any required medication and under what circumstances, and by whom, such medication will be administered. The school district will provide other reasonable accommodations to the extent required by law to enable students with disabilities to participate in school trips.

Fundraising

Fundraisers provide the students and teachers an abundance of supplies, materials and resources. The PTA coordinates most of our fundraisers and your support each year is greatly appreciated.

Guidance and Counseling

Virginia Williamson Elementary School has one school counselor, **Mrs. AC Stone**. She offers a comprehensive, developmental program that includes classroom guidance, small group sessions for students with common concerns, and individual counseling. This counseling is based on the belief that each person has the right to respect and dignity as a unique human being, the right to self-direction and self-development, the right to privacy, and the responsibility for decisions reached. Parents can call at any time to set up a phone conference or a conference at school.

Head Lice (Policy: 4235/6135)

BCS policy strives to maintain student confidentiality and will follow the procedures below to protect students and staff from head lice

infestations. If a teacher or other school personnel suspects a student has live lice/nits:

- Trained personnel will inspect the student's hair.
- Students found with live head lice will be allowed to stay in the classroom
- for the remainder of the day, discreetly separated from peers. Every
- attempt will be made to notify parents/guardians and refer to student
- for treatment via phone by school personnel.
- Students will not be allowed to attend school when there are lice
- (live bugs) or nits (eggs) present. Students will be rescreened by staff when returning to school.
- Signed (Head Lice) letters will be sent home to parents/guardians as a precaution along with treatment information.
 - Students are allowed one excused absence for lice treatment.
 - After the 3rd occurrence of live head lice/nits or excessive absence in either case, a referral will be made to the school social worker.

Health Assessment (Policy: 4110)

Within the first 30 days of school entry, all kindergarten students are required to provide proof the student has received a health assessment within the past 12 months. The assessment must include a medical history and physical assessment as well as a vision and hearing screening.

A student who fails to meet this requirement to attend school until the required health assessment form has been presented.

HOMELESS STUDENTS (Policy: 4125)

Admissions for homeless students will not be prohibited or delayed due to the student's inability to provide documentation of immunizations or health assessments. The homeless liaison shall work with the student, parent/guardian, school personnel or other agencies to obtain documentation of immunization and/or the health assessment or to arrange for such immunizations and/or assessments in a timely manner.

AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL ENROLLMENT (Policy: 4100)

The Board of Education requires all students to meet the eligibility requirements for school admission established by the State and the Board, including age. Any parent or guardian who

is unclear whether age requirements are met is encouraged to contact the superintendent's office or the elementary school that the child is likely to attend.

Entitlement to Initial Entry

A child who is presented for enrollment at any time during the first 120 days of a school year will be considered eligible for initial entry in either of the following circumstances:

1. Child reaches or reached the age of 5 on or before August 31 of that school year; or
2. The child resided in another state and was attending school during that school year in accordance with that state's laws or rules prior to moving to North Carolina. (The child does not need to reach the age of 5 on or before August 31 in this circumstance.)
3. The child did not reach the age of 5 on or before August 31st of that school year but would be eligible to attend school during that school year in another state in accordance with the laws or rules of that state, and if all of the following apply:

GRADE LEVEL OF INITIAL ENTRY

The initial point of entry will be the kindergarten level. After initial entry, a principal may move the child to the first grade if the principal determines that by reason of maturity, the child may be served more appropriately in the first grade.

EVIDENCE OF AGE

When a child is presented for admission for the first time, the principal shall require the parent or guardian of the child to furnish a certified copy of the child's birth certificate or other competent and verifiable evidence of the child's date of birth. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- A certified copy of any medical record of the child's birth issued by the treating physician or the hospital in which the child was born; or
- A certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a church, mosque, temple or other religious institution that maintains birth records of its members.

A birth certificate or other satisfactory proof of age issued by a foreign country or institution will be accepted and treated in the same manner as comparable documents issued in the United States. School officials shall use such documents only for the purpose of establishing the age of the child and not to inquire about the citizenship or immigration status of the child, parent or guardian.

For a student who is in foster care or considered homeless, the inability to provide documentation must not prevent immediate enrollment of the student. School officials, or in the case of a homeless student, the homeless liaison shall immediately contact the last school the student attended to obtain relevant enrollment records or other information needed for enrollment. These officials shall work with the student, the parent/guardian, school personnel, and other agencies as necessary to obtain enrollment information in a timely manner.

Enrichment Classes:

Students will attend each Enrichment Class at least one time per week. Please make sure your child comes to school with the necessary items/clothing needed to participate fully.

- Art—Students will attend Art each week receiving instruction based on the NC Essential Standards for Visual Arts.

- Health/PE—Students receive instruction in the gym each week to promote health and physical fitness.
- Media/Guidance—Students visit the media center weekly. Books must be returned to the media center the following week. During guidance, students will work through social emotional learning components.
- Music—Students will attend music classes weekly. The music program is designed as a comprehensive, standards-based course of study that will allow students to become musically literate.
- Collaboration Enrichment-

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REQUIREMENTS (Policy: 3620)

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right, and may be reserved for students in good academic standing who meet established behavior standards. Extracurricular activities may be restricted if a student,

1. Is not performing at grade level as provided in Board policy 3400, Evaluation of Student Progress;
2. Has exceeded the number of absences allowed by Board policy 4400, Attendance;
3. Has violated the code of student conduct in the Board policies found in the 4300 series; or
4. Has violated school rules for conduct.

Individual Support Team (IST)

When a student displays limited or no progress towards intervention goals (academic and/or behavioral), students will be referred to the Individual Support Team (IST). This team includes the teacher, parents/guardians, and any support staff according to the needs of the students. This team will work together to identify strategies to meet the needs of children who are not experiencing success at school. Meetings occur every 30 school days during which time progress towards student goals will be reviewed and next steps are determined.

The ultimate goal of the team is to allow each student to find success. IST meetings will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during the teacher's planning time. Due to the need for documentation of the effectiveness of interventions, meetings will be held when scheduled. If a student has or has not met their goals, new goals will be set for the student and progress will be reviewed in 30 school days. Documentation of meetings will be sent home for parent review. If there are any questions, please contact VWES Student Support Specialist.

INTEGRITY AND CIVILITY (Policy: 4310)

All students are expected to demonstrate integrity, civility, responsibility, and self-control. This expectation is directly related to the Board's educational objectives for students to learn to be responsible for and accept the consequences of their behavior and for students to respect cultural diversity and ideological differences. Integrity, civility, responsibility, and self-control

are also critical for establishing and maintaining a safe, orderly, and inviting learning environment.

Prohibited Behavior

- A. Cheating—giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of an unfair advantage on any academic work.
- B. Plagiarism—Copying language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and representing it as one's own original work.
- C. Falsification—Verbal or written statement of any untruth.
- D. Violation of Copyright Laws—Unauthorized reproduction, duplication and/or use of printed or electronic work, computer software, or other copyrighted material.
- E. Profane Speech—Cursing or using vulgar, abusive or demeaning language towards another person.
- F. Abusive Behavior—Playing abusive or dangerous tricks or otherwise subjecting a student or employee to personal indignity.
- G. Cyber Bullying—Using any form of electronics with hostile behavior with the intent of harming an individual or group.
- H. Forgery—Written misrepresentation, as for a signature, etc.
- I. Computer Violations—Willfully, directly or indirectly causing to be accessed without proper authorization any computer, computer network or any part thereof or otherwise violating the Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Consequences

Disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the principal, which may result in out-of-school suspension.

Internet

The Internet gives students access to information that allows your child to communicate with people throughout the world and assists in preparing your child for success in life and in the 21st Century and beyond. BCS' Technology Acceptable Use Policy restricts access to inappropriate material in the school environment and technology is in place to prevent access; however, there is no guarantee that your child will not gain access to inappropriate material. There may be additional kinds of material on the Internet that are not in accordance with your family values. We encourage you to have a discussion with your child about family values and your expectations about how these values should guide your child's activities while they are on the Internet.

Medications (Policy: 6125)

Students shall not take medications whether prescription or other drugs, including aspirin, while at school unless such medication is given to them by designated school personnel acting under special written request of the parent or guardian and the written directions of the student's personal physician (forms available at the main office).

No medication will be given without the medication release form completed by parent and doctor. All medication must be in correctly labeled prescription bottles that must indicate specific times to be given during school hours. Parents must bring all medication to the main office. Do not send by the student or bus driver. No medication of any type will be given without these documents.

Parents will be called for any child who is ill with a high fever, nausea and vomiting or any injury requiring a doctor's attention. If the parent cannot be reached, 911 services will be called to transport seriously ill or injured students to the hospital. Any expenses related to 911 services and transportation will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

Office

Please be sure to sign in at our office and get a visitor's badge when visiting or volunteering. It is important to report to the office at the end of your visit and sign out. For the safety of our learning community, everyone on campus must have proper Identification visible.

Parking

Our school has a limited number of parking spaces for staff and visitors. **The bus parking lot is for buses only.** Do not park in the handicapped parking spaces unless you are displaying the appropriate decal.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

A child has the best opportunity to achieve in all areas of development when good communication and positive relationships are established between the parent and other adults who work with the child in the school and community settings. The Virginia Williamson Elementary School Staff is very proud of our Parent Volunteer Program. Parent volunteers provide invaluable service to our students and staff in the form of tutorial assistance to students and other general volunteerism as grade parents. We readily invite and encourage parents to continue to participate in the Volunteer Program. We always need volunteers to work with students, listen to them read, eat lunch with a student, run copies, or help with events. Volunteers who work with students without the supervision of school staff, will be asked to pay for their background check. The cost is approximately \$22.

1. In addition, no later than the end of the first quarter or after the teacher has had up to nine weeks of instructional time with a student, an At-Risk Intervention Plan (ARIP) with focused intervention and performance benchmarks for academic improvement must be developed or updated for each student at risk of academic failure who is not performing at least at grade level. Teachers will notify the student's parent or guardian that the student has an ARIP and provide the parent or guardian with a copy of the plan. Parents/guardians should be included in the implementation and ongoing review of intervention plans.
2. Parents are expected to communicate with their child's teacher regularly concerning their progress.
3. Parents will receive periodic reports on the student's progress. Benchmark tests and End-Of-Grade tests in Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade will be used to assess proficiency levels.
4. Parents are invited and encouraged to volunteer in our school as tutors, or in other capacities to assist the school with special projects and activities. Parents can contact **Teresa Christopher at 910-756-6010 ext. 23023** to sign up to volunteer.
5. Parents of all students attending our school are required to sign a learning agreement.
6. Parent conferences are scheduled throughout the year. A parent may request a conference at any time.
7. Parent meetings, workshops, and other special events and celebrations will be scheduled throughout the year. Notices will be sent prior to the event. Opportunities for the participation of parents with Limited English Proficiency or disabilities will be provided as needed.

8. Newsletters and other important school announcements will be sent home on Fridays. These publications will provide parents with information about school programs, as well as tips for parents on ways to help children succeed.
9. Parents have the right to see information that is kept on file about their child. All information in these files is confidential. Parents must sign a release form before any information concerning their child can be given to another agency.
10. There is a Parent Advisory Committee which meets 5 times per year to discuss issues/concerns/good news.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW STATEMENT

As required by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, information is available at our school to include but is not limited to the following:

- The School Improvement Plan
- Qualifications of your child's teacher
- Professional development opportunities for teachers and assistants to ensure highly qualified personnel
- Opportunities for parent involvement and input
- The Brunswick County Schools Improvement Plan
- The Brunswick County Title I Parent Involvement Plan and School Parent Involvement Plan
- Brunswick County System Report Card
- School Report Card

Please contact our school and we will be glad to provide you with this information upon request.

BCS Parent Guide to Student Achievement

Please use the link above and/or pages 26-36 of the family/student handbook to view the Parent Guide to Student Achievement.

Please contact our school and we will be glad to provide you with this information upon request.

Report Cards/Parent Conferences

Parents are encouraged to contact teachers directly should a teacher-parent conference be needed. Report Cards will be issued on the following dates:

November 1st 2024, January 17th 2025, March 21st 2025, May 28th 2025

Report Card Pick Up Nights will be on the following dates:

Oct. 30th 2024, January 16th 2025, & March 20th 2025

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Parents and guardians have access to PowerSchool where they can see their Student's schoolwork, assignments, attendance, progress reports, and any important announcements. Security and privacy measures are in place to protect personal information for you and for students. Please see the school **Data Manager Ms. Hadley** for more information.

[Link to PowerSchool information](#)

Students at Risk (Policy: 3405)

School administrators and teachers shall address the needs of students identified as at risk of academic failure through the supports available in the MTSS and/or another process. The student's parent (s)/guardian(s) will be included in the implementation and review of academic and/or behavioral interventions for their student. Identification of students at risk for academic failure must occur as early as possible and may be done, beginning in kindergarten.

Supply List



VWES SUPPLY LIST



All students will need a Bookbag, Water Bottle, Colored Pencils (12 Or 24 Count), 2 Crayons (24 Count), Dry Erase Markers (2 total), Elmers Glue Sticks (6 total), Over the Head Headphones, Pencils #2, and Scissors

Additional items for each grade level are listed below.

KINDERGARTEN <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pencil Pouch (No Boxes)• Scissors: <i>Blunt Tip</i>	1ST GRADE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pencil Pouch (No Boxes)• Elmers Glue 6 sticks• Crayola Markers• Tissues• Pencil Top Erasers• Composition Notebooks• Zip Lock Bags	2ND GRADE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pencil Box• Stickers• Black/White• Composition book• Pencil Top Erasers• Clorox Wipes• Tissues• Paper Towels• Zip Lock Bags
3RD GRADE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlighters• Loose Leaf Paper• Pencil Pouch• 4 plastic, pocket folders• Dry Erase Markers• Pencils• Top erasers	4TH GRADE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 Composition Books• 4 Plastic Folders• 4 Highlighters• Wide ruled notebook paper	5TH GRADE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single Subject Notebooks• Highlighters• Pencil Pouch• Pencil Sharpener• Card Stock• Sticky Notes

Questions? Contact US

How do I express concerns? First, contact your child's teacher. Second, make an appointment with the school counselor, principal, or assistant principal.

Ways to communicate with us: Class Dojo, school email address or phone (910) 756.6010

Brunswick County Schools: Parents' Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)

Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106

We hope you find this tool helpful in supporting your student's growth and achievement while enrolled in Brunswick County Schools. If printed copies of any part of the plan are needed, please contact Central Services at 910-406-5100

Section Requirements	Response
How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	<p>The following are the relevant state and local requirements for a child to be promoted to the next grade level:</p> <p>BCS Policy 3420: Student Promotion and Accountability</p> <p>NC Statute The relevant part of this link is found in Part 1A (pp. 15-28) regarding retention, promotion, alternatives to show reading proficiency, etc.</p>
What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?	<p>In North Carolina, all schools use the same Standard Course of Study, determined by the State Board of Education. These standards are the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade/course. The standards can be found on the NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website. There are standards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Education, • Career Technical Education, • Computer Science, • English Language Arts, • English Language Development, • Student Success Standards, • Healthful Living, • Information and Technology, • Mathematics, • Science, • Social Studies, and • World Language. <p>Local districts, schools and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, etc. In Brunswick County Schools, Policy 3210 Review of Instructional Resources, Media and Supplementary Materials explains the process for selection and review of materials details the process.</p> <p>Each district must also have a Literacy Intervention Plan (LIP). The plan must include Reading Camps as an extension of what occurs during the school year. Parents and caregivers may view the 2023-2024 BCS Literacy Intervention Plan HERE.</p> <p>Brunswick County Schools also offers a diverse range of courses in Career and Technical Education (CTE). These courses allow students the opportunity to explore various careers, earn credentials, and experience work-based learning opportunities. CTE Career Clusters, Pathways, Course Information, Credentials, and Course Standards may be found at this link: Course Management System</p>

<p>How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?</p>	<p>Brunswick County Schools shares progress of students through a variety of ways, including quarterly report cards, progress reports, and assignment/test feedback. Feedback on conduct is also included.</p> <p>Parent Portal (PowerSchool): Parents can access support documents in English and Spanish from THIS website. The documents provide information on how to access the online Parent Portal.</p> <p>State Assessments: Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) are accessible in the parent portal of the NC-SIS (PowerSchool).</p> <p>In NC, all students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. In high school, students take end-of-course assessments in English II, Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3.</p> <p>Students in Grade 10 take the Pre-ACT. Students in grade 11 take the ACT. Eligible students who are CTE Concentrators take the ACT Workkeys. Those results are shared by ACT.</p> <p>An Individual Reading Plan (IRP) shall be developed for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading. An IRP will have specific strategies/ideas that can be done at home.</p> <p>Parents and caregivers may view Brunswick County Schools' aligned literacy resources by contacting their child's school to view or check out materials. There is a link on each school's website to schedule a resource review. Additionally, many teachers will share newsletters that include resources for upcoming lessons.</p> <p>For students in elementary school the Literacy at Home: Digital Children's Reading Initiative may be useful. This digital resource provides literacy activities at each grade level, pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Families and communities may access this resource for activities that specifically target the literacy skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and oral language. When children grow in each of these foundational areas they are well on their way to becoming proficient readers.</p> <p>North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) selected mCLASS DIBELS® 8th Edition as the state's K-3 Literacy Assessment. mCLASS is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading. mCLASS has been revised and upgraded from the assessment NC districts have used in the past, based on the latest research and the Science of Reading. It is a valid and reliable assessment, supporting universal literacy screening, screening for risk of dyslexia, and progress monitoring</p>
<p>What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?</p>	<p>Parents may look up their child's teacher licensure status at THIS website.</p> <p>The licensure look up webpage does not include current employment information. Parents may need additional information (i.e., middle name or license number) to identify the teacher accurately. Substitute teachers (either short or long term) may not hold a NC teaching license.</p> <p>Please contact the district's Human Resources office to verify an educator's licensure status at 910-406-5100.</p>

<p>What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?</p>	<p>Enrollment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy Code: 4100 Age Requirements for Initial Entry ● Policy Code: 4120 Domicile or Residence Requirements <p>Immunizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brunswick County Schools: Immunization Requirement Quick Reference <p>The following are statutory school entry requirements, this includes required immunizations:</p> <p>Admission requirements: GS 115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immunization records: GS 130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov) - Immunization requirements: GS 130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) (*this law was amended but is not reflected on the current GA page; see SL2023-134.pdf (ncleg.gov), Section 5.8(e) on page 64") <p>Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).</p> <p>NCDHHS Immunizations Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommended Immunization Schedules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements - Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements - Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements
<p>How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?</p>	<p>Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask questions daily about your child's school day. ● Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning. ● Connect with teachers to understand your child's progress. ● Ask the teachers how you can help your child learn. ● Attend different events at your child's school to stay connected and learn how to support them. <p>Kindergarten Resource</p> <p>Let's Get Ready! - A Family's Guide for Supporting Kindergarten Readiness (Spanish)</p> <p>Let's Get Ready! - A Family's Guide for Supporting Kindergarten Readiness (English)</p> <p>Parent Guides for Academic Standards:</p> <p>The following grade level guides contain information to support parents and caregivers with understanding the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The purpose of these guides is to inform parents about the standards, as well as provide useful strategies to incorporate at home.</p> <p>ELA Parent Guides</p> <p>ELD Parent Guide</p> <p>Math Parent Guides: K-5, 6-8</p> <p>Social Studies Parent Guides (coming soon)</p> <p>Science Parent Guide (coming soon)</p>

	<p>Reading and Literacy Support: This following site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children who are being assessed with mCLASS reading assessments: Amplify Parent Resources Home activities, printables, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at North Carolina's Digital Children's Reading Initiative (DCRI). These activities include the following topics, Pre-K-Grade 5: (1) Phonemic awareness (2) Phonics (3) Vocabulary (4) Fluency (5) Comprehension (6) Oral language</p> <p>Printable activities will be made available for students who do not have digital access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources. For paper copies, please contact (<i>Insert contact name and contact information</i>). DCRI Printables for Families</p>
<p>How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</p>	<p>Brunswick County Schools will embed Portrait of a Graduate skills in many classroom settings. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and will support a child's understanding of citizenship, social skills and respect for others. Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repository NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills.</p> <p>Parent Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports: Family Resources • Brunswick County Schools Bullying Incident Reporting • NC DPI Character Education (Parent Resources)
<p>How can a parent help their child rise to high expectations and set lifelong learning goals?</p>	<p>Career Development Plans: Empowering Future Success Brunswick County Schools is committed to guiding students through a meaningful exploration of their future career and academic potentials. In alignment with the G.S. 115C-158.10 requirements, we ensure every middle and high school student actively participates in creating and revising a comprehensive career development plan. This initiative is crucial for fostering self-awareness, goal-setting, and strategic academic planning, paving the way for our students' long-term success.</p> <p>What is a Career Development Plan? A Career Development Plan is a personalized document that helps students navigate their educational and career journey. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Assessment: Students evaluate their aptitudes, skills, values, personality, and career interests. • Career Pathways Exploration: Identification and exploration of potential careers, including necessary education, training, certifications, and a cost-efficient path to entry. • School Opportunities: A guide to school-based opportunities for career exploration and preparation. • Academic and Extracurricular Alignment: A strategic alignment of courses and activities with career interests. • Career Portfolio Creation: Development of a portfolio showcasing achievements, experiences, and goals.

	<p>MajorClarity: A Gateway to Informed Decisions MajorClarity is not just a tool; it's a student-centric career exploration platform that connects academic learning with future aspirations. It offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Fit Career Matching: Helps students find careers that match their interests and learning styles. • Pathway-Aligned Course Selection: Enables personalized academic planning. • Interactive Career Tests: Engage students with real-world scenarios and expert interviews. • Academic and Career Planning Tools: Facilitate organization and planning. <p>Getting Started - Major Clarity's Platform Parents and students can begin this journey by visiting Major Clarity's Platform (https://app.paper.co/majorclarity/). Sign in with your BCS Google email and password, and let Major Clarity guide you through discovering your strengths, interests, and potential career paths.</p> <p>School Attendance Resources for Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Works - Importance in Early Grades (English, Spanish) • Attendance Works PreK-K (English, Spanish) • Attendance Works Elementary (English, Spanish) • Attendance Works Middle & High (English, Spanish)
<p>How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?</p>	<p>BCS uses the following platforms for communication between home/school such as Parent Squared/Remind and Class Dojo</p> <p>The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building strong relationships with your child's teacher and supporting communication between home and school.</p> <p>Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher (NC Rethink Education Program)</p> <p>How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning (NC Rethink Education Program)</p> <p>Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the following website.</p> <p>Brunswick County Schools Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy 1320</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to specific schools for additional Parent and Family Engagement opportunities
<p>What services are available for parents and their children?</p>	<p>Multi-tiered services for academics and behavior/social development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-Risk Intervention Plans • Individual Student Team <p>Programs offered to High School Students (Academics/Career Planning) - Brunswick County Schools</p> <p>Course Selection Guide for 2024-2025 (English, Spanish)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elementary - Harmony, Second Step ○ Middle - Second Step ○ Restorative Practices through EverFi

	<p>Tutoring: NCVPS EdVantage Tutoring offers virtual statewide wraparound support to middle and high school students in NC public schools. Tutoring is available in Math, Science and ELA, and is offered via a personalized partnership with district/school leadership to best meet the needs of selected students each semester.</p>
<p>What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?</p>	<p>Opportunities for parental participation, such as parenting classes, adult education, school advisory councils, and school volunteer programs are coordinated through each school. Please go to your schools' webpage and review opportunities at your school campus.</p> <p>Brunswick County Schools Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy 1320</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to specific schools for additional Parent and Family Engagement opportunities
<p>What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?</p>	<p>BCS offers a variety of options for students to pursue their interests and skills at their academic level.</p> <p>Career and Technical Education (CTE): NC has made a significant investment in developing students and programs to meet the needs of the future workforce. Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Public Schools offer opportunities for students to develop career awareness in 5th grade, explore careers in grades 6-8, and experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content in grades 9-12.</p> <p>In BCS, students are able to explore career pathways, experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content from grades 6-12. For more information, visit the Brunswick County Schools Career and Technical Education webpage.</p> <p>For more information on CTE in NC, and to learn about Career Clusters, Pathways, and Course Information, Standards, and applicable Credentials please visit: Course Management System.</p> <p>In our district, there are the following programs available that are more rigorous and challenging than the standard content for students:</p> <p>Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG): In NC, school districts must identify and serve academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) K-12 students. These are students who are performing, or have the potential of performing, at high levels of accomplishment in intellectual and/or specific academic areas, such as reading and/or math when compared with other students of their age, or in their grade level, experience, or environment.</p> <p>The BCS Local AIG Plan outlines specific opportunities for differentiated, rigorous instruction and accelerated programs. You can find the plan HERE</p> <p>BCS has developed an AIG Webpage to help parents better understand the AIG program. This describes how students will be identified and served across grades K-12. Visit THIS link for more information.</p> <p>In BCS, students are often provided the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups; • Accelerated opportunities (subject and/or grade acceleration, credit by

- demonstrated mastery (CDM), AP courses, dual enrollment courses;
- Enrichment experiences, which may be during the school day or beyond, and may be within the regular calendar year or may include summer opportunities; and
- Other opportunities for extension of content standard.
- Nurturing

Services for AIG students may be provided by AIG personnel or within the regular classroom by teachers trained to meet the needs of gifted students. Contact the district/school AIG Coordinator with questions: mbennett@bcswan.net

Honors Level Courses In BCS, students have access to a variety of honors level courses in high school. These courses are available in the Brunswick County Schools

Course Selection Guide for 2024-2025 ([English](#), [Spanish](#)). Honors level courses typically have a faster pace than standard level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity and creativity than standard level courses.

Career and College Promise (CCP) at Brunswick County Schools

Brunswick County Schools offers a dual enrollment opportunity through the Career and College Promise (CCP) program, allowing high school students to earn both high school and college credits by taking community college courses. This program is a valuable pathway for students aiming to get ahead in their college education or to gain specialized career and technical skills before graduating high school.

Key Highlights:

- **Two Pathways:** Choose from the College Transfer pathway for general education credits transferable to NC universities or the Career and Technical Education pathway for skills and training in specific careers.
- **No Tuition Cost:** Tuition for CCP courses is free, providing a cost-effective way for families to kickstart their child's higher education.
- **Earn Dual Credits:** Successfully completed courses count towards both high school graduation and college credit requirements.
- **Eligibility and Application:** Students interested in CCP should speak with their high school counselor to discuss eligibility and the application process.

Brunswick County Early College High School:

BCS also supports students through [Brunswick County Early College High School](#), offering unique programs that blend high school and college coursework for a head start on college credits.

Learn More:

For more information on the CCP program, pathways, eligibility, and application details, please visit [BCC/BCS Career and College Promise Information](#) or consult your high school counselor.

Additional information is available on the [NCDPI CIHS Website](#)

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses: These courses are available in the Brunswick County Schools Course Selection Guide for 2024-2025 ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program developed by the College Board to offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.

In NC, 40 Advanced Placement courses are offered in public high schools. BCS offers a number of AP courses in every tradition high school. More information can be found here: [Brunswick County Schools Advanced Studies - High School \(9-12\)](#)

Several AP courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in [State Board policy](#).

AP exams are free for NC public high school students enrolled in these courses. *Students are not eligible for exam fee funding for courses taken more than once.*

Colleges and universities may likely offer college credit for these courses if your child scores a 3 or above on the exam. All of the colleges in the UNC System offer credit.

(Insert local resources)

More information is available on the [NCDPI AP website](#).

More information is available on the [NCDPI Advanced Coursework website](#)

Accelerated Access

NCVPS:

[North Carolina Virtual Public School \(NCVPS\)](#) is NC's state supplemental program and leader in online education, providing inclusive learning opportunities for students across the state. Founded in 2007, with a strong commitment to ensuring quality education for all students, regardless of location, NCVPS has years of experience serving diverse learners.

Students may enroll in NCVPS courses when a course is not offered in person in our district. If interested in taking NCVPS courses, please work with the school counselor to find out about the registration process.

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM):

BCS offers opportunities for students to earn credit for a high school course without enrolling in the course. All high school courses, with a few exceptions as noted by the state, are available for students to try to CDM. There are two phases of assessments that a student must go through to earn credit for the course. Visit [HERE](#) for more information.

Governor's School: Each summer, NC Governor's School offers a unique opportunity for high-achieving rising juniors and seniors to learn with their peers from across the state in an 4-week residential program at two college campus sites.

For more information on eligibility and the application process, contact Inewman@bcswan.net or visit the Governor's School website, www.ncgovschool.org.

<p>What school choices are available for my child?</p>	<p>Students in public school districts are assigned to certain schools based on a local assignment plan approved by Local Board of Education. To find the attendance district for your family, enter your address HERE.</p> <p>BCS offers these additional school choice options for students/families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early College High School (ECHS): This program enables students to take high school and college-level courses concurrently, allowing them to graduate with both a high school diploma and up to two years of college credits or an associate degree. For more information, visit the ECHS page. • The Center of Applied Science and Technology (COAST): COAST offers a project-based learning environment where students engage in real-world applications of science and technology. This innovative approach prepares students for both college and career success. Learn more about COAST here. • The Achieve Academy at The COAST <p>There are other options for families to choose for their education:</p> <p>Charter Schools Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system. If you are interested in NC charter schools, visit NC charter school for information, resources, and contacts.</p> <p>Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration. For a list of private schools, visit this NC Private Schools. For information on how to start a homeschool visit: Homeschool Information Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority.</p>
<p>What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?</p>	<p>For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education.</p> <p>Brunswick County Schools: Exceptional Children</p> <p>Child Find</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunswick County Schools: Child Find • Project Child Find <p>Parent Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Rights Handbook • Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) • IDEA Dispute Resolution <p>Surrogate Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education Surrogate Parents <p>Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECAC <p>Brunswick County Schools Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Code: 3520 Special Education Programs/Rights of Students with Disabilities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Code: 4307 Disciplinary Action for Exceptional Children/Students with Disabilities • Policy Code: 4700 Student Records
What is the contact information for the schools and district office?	<p>School contact information can be found HERE District contact information can be found HERE</p>
What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?	<p>Brunswick County Schools: Student Support Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCS Student Support Services Webpage <p>Brunswick County Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunswick County: Local Resources and Supports • Local Mental Health Provider List English • Lista de proveedores locales de salud mental Español • Novant Telehealth English • Novant Telesalud Española <p>General Family Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports: Family Resources • Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for Families <p>Bullying (each school has a bullying incident reporting form that can be accessed from the school webpage)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying is defined by StopBullying.gov as “unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.” Bullying behaviors are categorized in three primary types: verbal bullying, social bullying, and physical bullying. “Actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose” are all examples of bullying. • Per Board Policy 1710/4021/7230, Brunswick County Schools and the Board acknowledge the dignity and worth of all students and employees and strives to create a safe, order, caring and inviting school environment to facilitate student learning and achievement. Brunswick County Schools and the Board prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability and will provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by law. Brunswick County Schools and the Board will not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment or bullying in any of its educational or employment activities or programs. • Additional Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Center for Disease Control and Prevention - Bullying Research ○ StopBullying.gov - What is Bullying? ○ StopBullying.gov - Warning Signs for Bullying ○ StopBullying.gov - What is Cyberbullying? ○ StopBullying.gov - Prevention ○ StopBullying.gov - Resources

	<p>Immunization Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunswick County Schools: Immunization Requirement Quick Reference • Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immunizations <p>Health Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Assessment • Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting
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