

Welcome to Apex Elementary Kindergarten ~ Class of 2036!

May 2023



Welcome from our Principal, Ms. Caggia



Expectations and Outcomes

- More about Apex Elementary
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Kindergarten Curriculum
- Registration and Staggered Entry
- Family Resources
- Q&A





MEET OUR KINDERGARTEN STAFF

HEATHER REAGAN

- I have taught for 15 years. I have been teaching kindergarten at AES for 11 years.
- I enjoy watching children develop a love for learning and school! It is amazing to watch them grow and learn.
- I went to Apex Elem (AMS and AHS) as a child! I love spending time with family (my son is 14, daughter is 11), crafting, and watching movies!



EMILY BURROWS

- I've taught Special Education for 17 years in lots of different places: Hawaii (5 years), Arizona (2), New Jersey (1), and North Carolina (9).
- Being the CCK (Cross Categorical Kindergarten) teacher affords me the opportunity to build strong school readiness skills as well as the necessary social and emotional skills to take on any challenge. I want every child to do their best and forget the rest because "I can do it"
- I love hiking and exploring with my husband, 3 crazy boys, and 2 equally wild dogs. I love to build, garden, and be outside in the warm sun whenever possible!



KATIE CARR

- 18 years at AES and 14 years in kindergarten.
- I love watching the students grow and change over the course of the year. I love to see their enthusiasm for learning and life.
- AES has always felt like family and I love that my son and I have both built and maintained life long friendships that started when he was in 1st grade (he is now 24).



SONYA JONES

- 16th year at AES
- I enjoy building relationships with students parents, and staff. I also enjoy teaching students and watching them grow.
- I treasure time spent with family and friends. I enjoy writing poetry, listening to music and making jewelry.



KALYN MCLEAN

- I have taught for 13 years. This year will be my 5th year at AES.
- I enjoy building a strong educational foundation for young minds and developing lifelong learners.
- I love to show children that learning is fun and discovering how they learn best.
- I love to sing, shop and spend quality time with my family.



MELISSA SCHOOLS

- 1 year as a Pre-K assistant, 4 years teaching 2nd grade, 6 years teaching kindergarten - 5th year teaching kindergarten at AES
- I love the joy and excitement for learning that exudes from my students. I enjoy building relationships with my students and their families.
- I enjoy traveling, baking, crafting, and spending time with my family, friends, and dog.





SARA RUIZ MORENO

- I have taught in my home country, Spain, for several years. I have been working in APEX for 3 years as a Pre k assistant, as a substitute and now as a Kindergarten IA.
- I enjoy working with the students every day and witness how they learn and grow!
- I love travelling with my family, going to the beach, hanging out with my friends and playing with my dog.



PAT PUTPRUSH

- I have spent 20 years at AES with 19 years in Kindergarten.
- I love coming to school each day! I want the students to discover that learning is fun!
- I love to read, garden and do crafts. I have 2 daughters who attended AES and a husband who spoils me! We also have 1 big lazy dog who enjoys barking and treats.



PORTIA WILSON

- 8th year at AES
- Few things are more rewarding than witnessing a student's educational growth and knowing I play an integral part of that process.
- I enjoy hiking, coastal vacations, handcrafting jewelry, running events and reading. I especially enjoy quality time with my husband and 3 children.



TONYA GRAEF

- This is my second year at Apex Elementary as an Instructional Assistant and my fourth year in early childhood education.
- I love working with the students and watching their development and love of learning grow.
- I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and like to read, hike, explore, and craft.



CAITLIN RAINES

- This is my 4th year at Apex as an Instructional Assistant.
- I love working with kids and seeing them learn and grow. They also can tell some pretty funny jokes and stories!
- I am a very crafty person! I love to crochet and to make things for my family.



Nellie Valentino

- This is my first year working at AES as an Instructional Assistant and my 10th year working in Special Education.
- I love working with children and watching them achieve their full potential. It puts a smile on my face when they are happy and feel better about themselves.
- I enjoy walking, word search, coloring and golfing with my husband.





MEET YOUR
SPECIALIST
TEAM



SHANNON MCGOWAN

MUSIC TEACHER

- All kids will come and sing, dance, play and have fun! We will be silly and enjoy music together!
- I have my masters and National Boards Certification. I have been teaching for 20 years.
- I love bringing joy to school through music and play!
- I have 2 daughters, 1 is still at Apex ES. We love it here!



CHARLENE GRAHAM

ART TEACHER

- This is my third year teaching Art Education. I've been working in Wake County Public School System for over 23 years as an Instructional Assistant. Teaching students is a joy and a privilege that I love. Art is where students can explore, create and use their imagination.
- I enjoy drawing, painting, making jewelry, couponing, watching Food Network channel, cooking and reading my bible.
- My favorite vacation place is the beach with my family and friends.





JEFF VIAU

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

- All children will develop physical skills and the confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity.
- I have been teaching PE since 1998 and have been at AES since 2003.
- I enjoy teaching confidence, cooperation, and sportsmanship.
- I am originally from Northern New York. I have 2 kids that have attended AES



Check out the [P.E. website!](#)

HANNAH WILSON

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

- I help students explore different print and digital resources to support learning within the classroom.
- I taught 3rd grade for 14 years before beginning as a media coordinator.
- It is a joy to see students grow and change as readers and learners.
- I enjoy reading, crafting, and spending time outdoors. I live with my husband and two daughters on a small farm.



Check out the [Library website!](https://tinyurl.com/apexelemlibrary)

tinyurl.com/apexelemlibrary



REESE BUFFALOE

TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

- This is my first year officially on the Apex staff. I have been working at Apex Elementary since 2019 as a staff member of the YMCA
- I love spending time with all my classes and seeing the different personalities in each student
- The kids never fail to bring me a lot of joy and laughter
- I am a HUGE carolina hurricanes fan.





MEET YOUR ADMINISTRATORS

KATIE CAGGIA

PRINCIPAL

- 15 years in the classroom; 11 years as an Administrator.
- I believe that all children are capable & uniquely brilliant.
- I am an Apex girl! As a student, I attended Apex ES, Apex MS and Apex HS.
- I live in Apex with my husband, Pete. We have two adult sons.





MEET YOUR
SUPPORT
STAFF

DINA ANDRADE

RECEPTIONIST

- This is my 7th year working at Apex Elementary as the Receptionist.
- I'm here to help our students and their families with any questions they may have. I'm bilingual (English/Spanish).
- Parents will most likely contact me with information or changes regarding daily transportation, attendance or messages for the student or teacher. Families can contact me via email at aandrade@wcpss.net or phone (919) 387-2150.
- I love my job! Everyday is a new challenge, multitasking has been elevated to a new level. Our students smiles, sweet notes, and thank yous are my daily reward.
- My husband and I moved to North Carolina from Illinois about 15 years ago. We have 3 sons ages 24, 23 and 21 and a canine daughter named Matilda who is 8. We love living here in the beautiful state of North Carolina!



TONYA OLIVER

DATA MANAGER

- I handle student registrations & student records. Address, phone number/email changes & contact information need to be sent to me to update the student record as they occur. toliver@wcpss.net
- I am a graduate of WCPSS, & NCSU. Apex ES is my second career. I have been a parent, volunteer, tutor, substitute, Instructional Assistant (2nd & K) & receptionist.
- I LOVE sharing the Apex ES experience with new families and each of our students! Knowing we can make a difference in each others lives is what keeps me coming to school everyday!
- I have a wonderful husband, 2 grown daughters, a granddaughter & grandson as well as a grand beagle!





ANDRIA ZAWISTOWSKI

SCHOOL NURSE

- WCPSS nurses serve 2-3 schools each.
- If your child has a chronic illness requiring a health plan at school such as asthma, diabetes, seizures, or severe allergies, please contact me azawistowski@wcpss.net and provide medical documentation of the diagnosis.
- I am a second career nurse. My first career was pharmaceutical research. I worked on an inpatient pediatrics floor at Duke Hospital for 8+ years before becoming a school nurse in 2015.
- I love building relationships and helping my students become more independent in managing their chronic illness.
- I enjoy photography, beach time with my husband and 2 daughters, and cheering for Duke.



ALISON BOWMAN

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

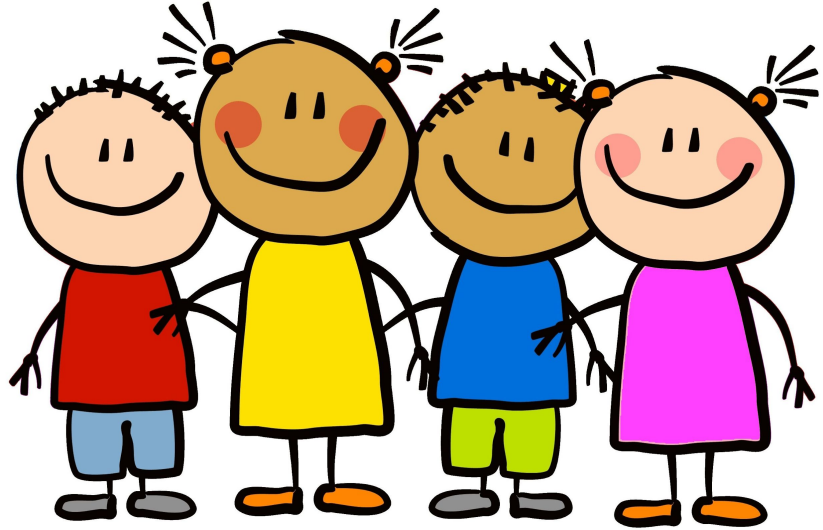
- This is my 17th year as an elementary school counselor and my 2nd year at AES. I love getting to serve the community I've called home my entire life.
- Here are a few things I do as a school counselor:
 - Individual Counseling (parent, teacher, or student referrals)
 - Group Counseling (variety of topics-social skills, divorce group, grief group, etc.)
 - Classroom Guidance (for all students; developmental in nature)
- I have a 3rd grader at AES and an 8th grader at Apex Middle School. In my spare time, I enjoy exercising, savoring a good cup of coffee, traveling, and cuddling with my dogs!



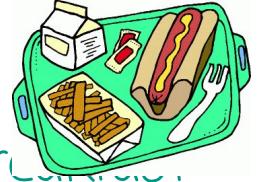
If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, don't hesitate to email me at abowman@wcpss.net.

Typical Day in Kindergarten

- Reading
- Writing
- Math
- Social Studies
- Science
- Developmental Centers



Daily Activities


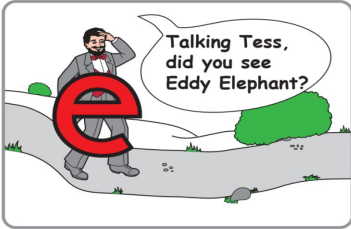


- Breakfast can be purchased in the cafeteria before school. Breakfast and lunch menus are posted online.
- Lunch- your child may bring a lunch from home or purchase a lunch in the cafeteria. Each child will have an assigned lunch number so that money (cash, check or pay online) can remain in an account if you choose. You are welcome to join your child for lunch after 1st Quarter is completed. Treats may be purchased only on Fridays.
- Snack- Please provide 1 small daily snack for your child. We prefer healthy snacks that are labeled **separate** from your child's lunch along with water.
- Recess (30 minutes each day)



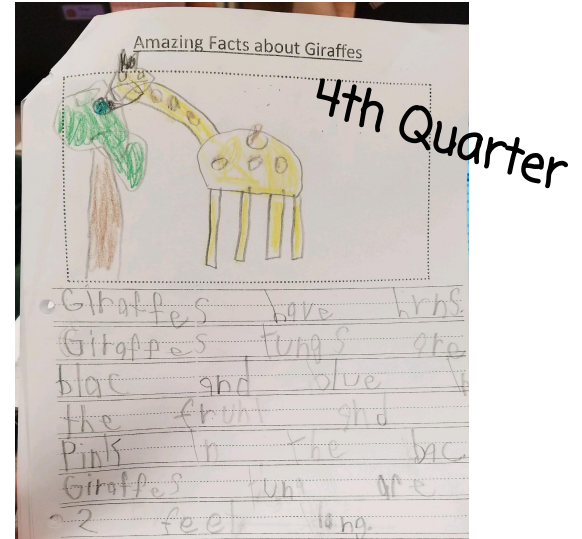
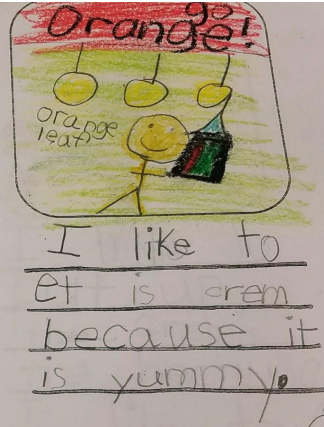
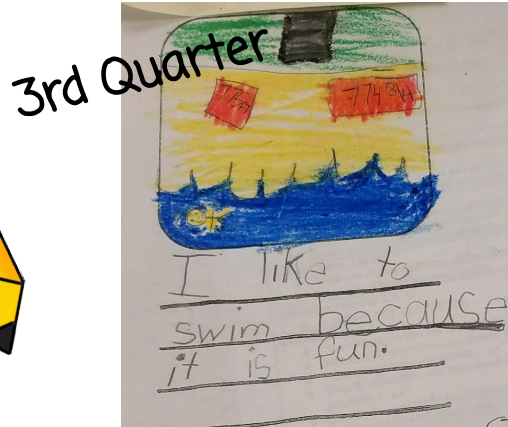
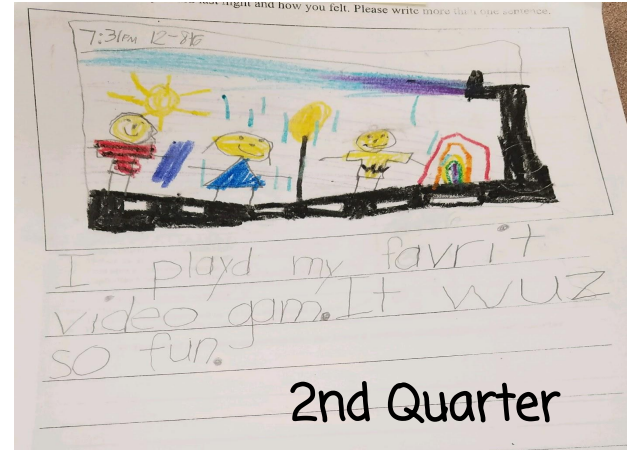
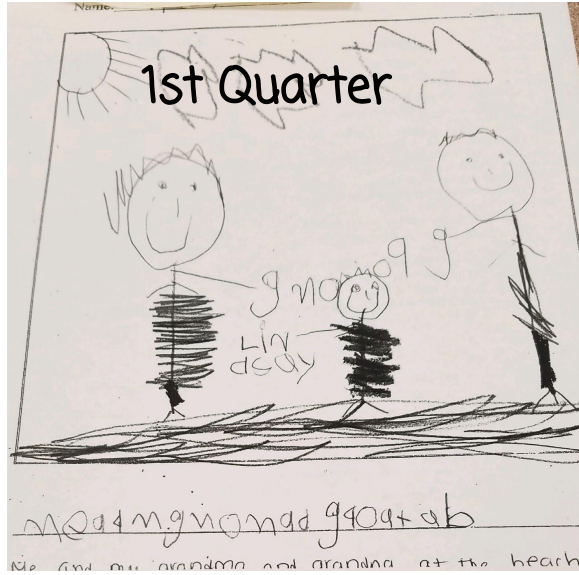
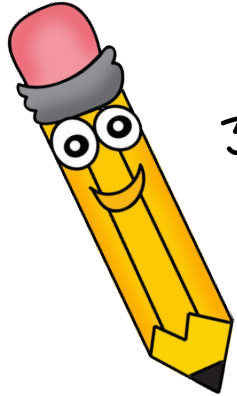
Reading



<p>End of 1st Quarter <u>Sight Words</u> Know all <u>letters and sounds</u></p>	<p>End of 2nd Quarter <u>Sight Words</u> Letter sounds, digraphs, and blends</p>	<p>End of 3rd Quarter <u>Sight Words</u> Word families: at, en, ot, ug, etc.</p>	<p>End of 4th Quarter <u>Sight Words</u> Long Vowel Words: cake, cone, tube Vowel Teams, ea, oi, etc</p>
<p>Print concepts Letterland Phonics (all quarters) Heggerty Phonemic Awareness (all quarters) Language Comprehension (all quarters)</p>	<p>Identify beginning, middle, and ending in CVC words</p>	<p>Begin reading decodable readers</p>  <p>7</p>	<p>Read decodable readers independently</p>  <p>2</p>

Writing

Conventions:
capital letters,
periods, finger
spaces



Math



1st Quarter

- Counts to 20
- Write numbers 1-5
- Greater than, less than, equal to
- Measurement

2nd Quarter

- Count to 50 1's and 10's
- Write numbers 1-10
- Count to answer "how many?"
- Recognize name 2D/3D shapes

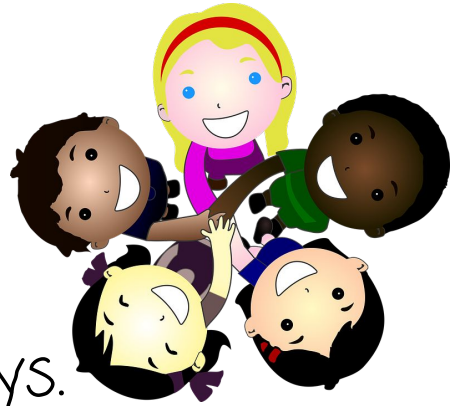
3rd Quarter

- Count to 70 by 1's and 10's
- write numbers 1-20
- Compose and decompose within 10
- Solve addition and subtraction word problems (within 10)

4th Quarter

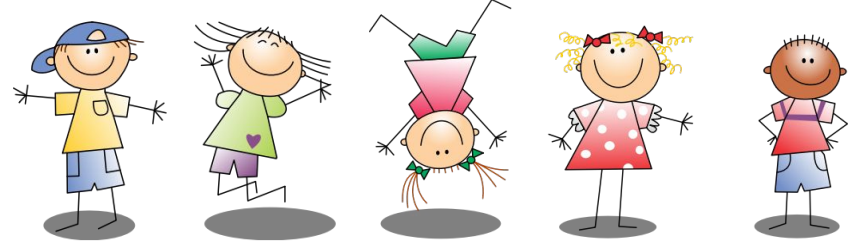
- Count to 100 by 1's and 10's
- Fluently add and subtract within 10
- Solve addition and subtraction word problems (within 10)
- Composing Teen Numbers (11, 12, 13)

Meeting Each Child's Needs



- As a team, we work diligently to meet the needs of all diverse learners in a variety of ways.
- We look at the whole child (academic, emotional, social, physical) in creating developmentally appropriate learning activities and experiences.
- Our expectation is that each child will make growth and enjoy their kindergarten experience, as they begin their elementary school experience.

Staggered Entry



On your child's staggered entry day, we will be completing the Wake County Kindergarten Entry Assessments.

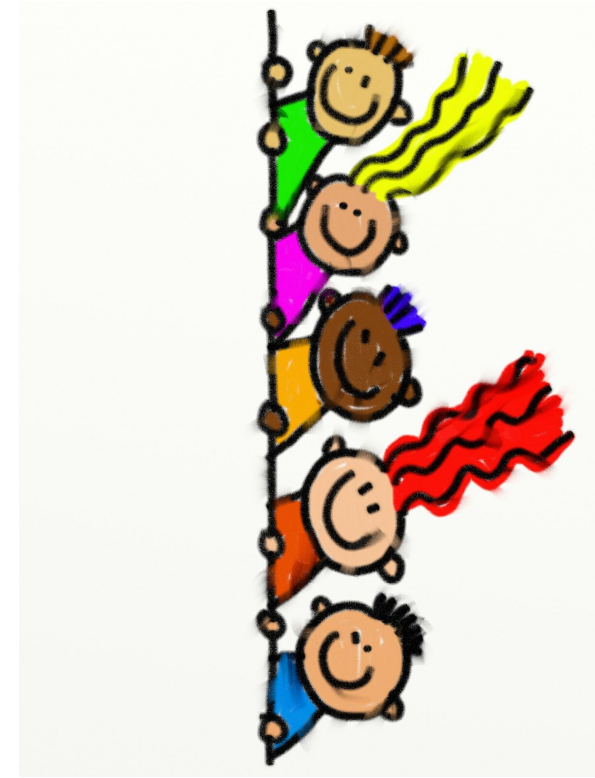
What are we assessing?

- Social interaction/development, letter/sound identification, phonological awareness skills, number sense, math readiness, early print awareness/reading readiness, fine and gross motor skills, name recognition
- We use these assessments to begin planning your child's instruction. *We will share the results with you at your first quarter conference.*

We are excited to meet your child in a small group setting!

Staggered Entry

- 9:30-10:00 am: Check-In at the cafeteria
 - Students will be dropped off by parent/guardian
 - Check in with staff
 - Take picture with your Cougar cub
 - Drop off school supplies if you have them
- During the day:
 - Students will eat lunch (pack a lunch or send money)
 - Students will visit specials
 - Students will eat snack (pack a healthy snack)
 - Students will play at recess
- 3:45pm: Dismissal
 - Students will be picked up in carpool.
 - Each student will have a tag attached to their backpack that shows how they will go home (bus, carpool, daycare van, walk, YMCA) at the end of each day starting September 5, 2023..



Staggered Entry

- Attend ONLY one day during this first week
- Full school day *including lunch and snack*
- Your child's designated staggered entry date will be emailed to you & posted, by last name alphabet, on our website *early to mid August*
- Teacher Assignments shared via email the evening of August 31, 2023 - your child's teacher might not be the same teacher they had at staggered entry teacher
- Meet the Teacher: **September 1, 2023**
- ALL kindergarten students will return to school **September 5, 2023**

Meet the Teacher

September 1, 2023

8:00-8:40am



Meet your child's teacher and see the classroom during this window. **You do not have to attend for the whole time.**

A digital presentation will be sent out!

Supply List

- o 1 large book bag- large enough to hold a 9 x 12 folder (no wheels)
- o Lunch box with their name written on it: if your child brings lunch from home
- o Change of clothes in a labeled Ziploc bag
- o 1 primary composition notebook
- o 1 pencil box
- o Headphones
- o 2 boxes of 24 Crayola crayons
- o 1 box of Ticonderoga pencils
- o 1 box of tissues
- o 6-12 glue sticks
- o 1 pair of scissors



- o 1 box of gallon size Ziploc baggies
- o 1 box of Quart size Ziploc baggies
- o Baby wipes



Classroom Wishlist

- Hand Sanitizer
- Sandwich bags
- Snack size bags
- Thin dry erase Expo markers
- Cardstock paper (color and white)
- Colored copy paper
- Play Dough
- Magic Erasers
- Thermal laminating pouches
- Lysol or Clorox wipes



Volunteer Opportunities

- Field Trips
- Room Parent
- PTA Opportunities
- Classroom Volunteer



All classroom volunteers must be registered with WCPSS. You will have an opportunity to complete the [volunteer registration](#) at Meet the Teacher.

If you are a current registered volunteer, you must re-register by October.

Ways to Help Your Child



Ways to Help Your Child



Practice self-help skills:

- Flushing the toilet (Boys need to be familiar with the urinal) and personal hygiene (wiping themselves)
- Washing hands with soap
- Buttoning, zipping, and snapping pants
- If you choose to put your child in a belt, he/she should be able to unbuckle and buckle the belt independently.
- Tying shoes (**We love velcro**)
- Put on and zip/button coat
- Opening and closing lunch bags/containers

Ways to Help Your Child



- Read to your child EVERY day! 😊
- Encourage your child to use conventional speech patterns. ("May I go to the bathroom?" rather than "I go potty.")
- Model and encourage correct production of letter sounds and words ("horse" instead of "horsey" and "like" instead of "wike")
- Practice putting things in and out of his/her backpack . As a grade level, we do not check backpacks after the first full week of school. We expect your child to take his/her daily materials out independently each day with reminders.
- Talk with your child about his/her lunch (do you have a lunch bag?, are you buying?) and snack (where is it?, etc)
- Help your child look forward to school and talk about it in a friendly way to help your child be excited.

Technology

We are so fortunate to have so many technology resources!

Each class will have a classroom set of chromebooks that will be kept at school. .



Transportation

- Transportation / Bus Rider Registration
- Bus Rules and Expectations
- Childcare Transport
- Transportation Tags
 - Make sure to request a carpool number!
- Carpool
- Walkers
- Transportation Changes

It is important to communicate transportation plans with your child's teacher.



Transportation

- If you would like your child to ride the bus, please go onto the [transportation website](#) to complete the [bus rider registration](#). This registration must be filled out and processed before your child will be eligible for bus service.
- **What do you do if there is a change in transportation?**
 - If you know about the change in advance, please send a written note or email to your child's teacher.
 - For same day changes, call the school (919-387-2150) and let the office know your child's name, teacher's name, and the change in transportation. These requests must be made by 2:45 P.M.
 - Contact the office if you have a permanent transportation change.



Before/After School Care

These facilities offer before and/or after school care with transportation.

- [Creative Schools of Apex](#) 919-355-4944
- [Growing Years](#) 919-387-8189
- [Primrose School of Apex](#) 919-339-3874
- [YMCA](#) 919-249-1422 or 919-667-9622 (on site program at AES)

These facilities offer after school care only with transportation.

- [Apex Peace Montessori](#) 919-363-2461
- [Bright Beginnings](#) 919-367-0009
- [Kids R Kids](#) 919-467-1112
- [Knowledge Beginnings](#) 919-466-8684
- [Triangle Children's Academy](#) 919-367-7758

Meals and Snacks

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Free-and-Reduced Application
- Student ID numbers
- Snacks

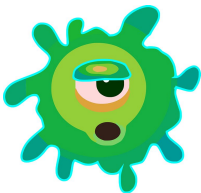


You can prepare at home by allowing your child to open containers, encouraging independence while cleaning up, and establishing regular meal times for your family.

Health



- All required Immunizations and the Kindergarten Health Assessment form (English, Spanish) are due by the first day of school.
- If your child has regular or emergency medication that needs to be administered at school, the medication must be brought to the school by the parent with the 1702 form (English, Spanish) filled out by the doctor.
- Wake County policy indicates that students should be fever free without the aid of medication for 24 hours before returning to school. Please help us keep all of our Cougars safe and healthy!



Have you registered?

Part 1:

Online enrollment

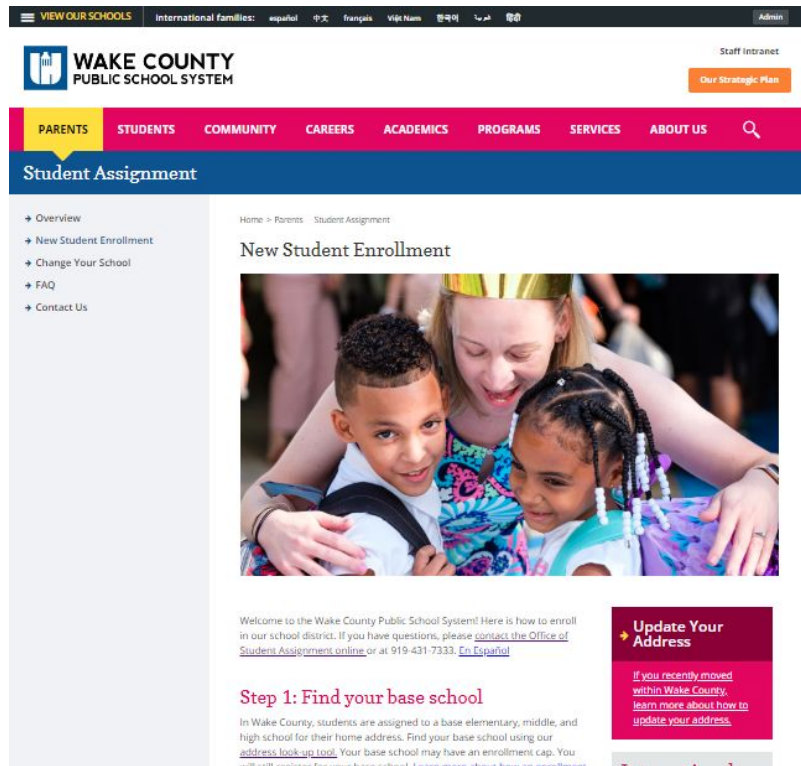
Part 2:

Presenting documents at your child's school.

Part 3:

Obtain and submit proof of immunizations and NC Health Assessment

**You must enroll at your base school first prior to requesting a transfer.*



The screenshot displays the Wake County Public School System website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'VIEW OUR SCHOOLS', 'International Families', and various language options (español, 中文, français, Việt Nam, 한국어, العربية, বাংলা). Below this is the 'WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM' logo and a 'Staff Intranet' link. A red navigation bar contains links for 'PARENTS', 'STUDENTS', 'COMMUNITY', 'CAREERS', 'ACADEMICS', 'PROGRAMS', 'SERVICES', and 'ABOUT US'. The 'PARENTS' link is highlighted. Below the navigation bar is a blue header for 'Student Assignment'. On the left, a sidebar lists links: 'Overview', 'New Student Enrollment', 'Change Your School', 'FAQ', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area features a 'New Student Enrollment' section with a photo of a smiling woman holding two children. Below the photo, text welcomes parents and provides instructions on how to enroll, including a link to the 'Students Assignment online' and a phone number. A red box on the right side of the page contains the text 'Update Your Address' and a link to learn more about how to update an address.

Questions?

[Click here to send us any questions you may have!](#)

