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Bullock Creek Jumps Into Kindergarten

By: Amber Miles

Next year, incoming kindergartners in the Bullock Creek School District will have an opportunity to experience an academic boot camp before they jump into the school year.

Jump Into Kindergarten, designed to help children improve the skills they need in the classroom, was one of the items discussed at Monday night's board meeting. BC and the Legacy Center for Student Success, will coordinate the three-week program to take place during the summer prior to the 2007-08 school year.

Combined grants from Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, The Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation and the Midland Area Community Foundation have paid for the program in Midland County. Further details about the pilot program will be discussed in March during the district's Kindergarten Round-up.

"It's something new, and it will give the kids kind of a boot camp for kindergarten," said BC Elementary Principal Todd Gorsuch. "It will introduce some skills important to kindergarten, and the more exposure to those skills, hopefully the more successful students will be."

The program is expected to cover seven physical dimensions of learning, including hand-eye coordination and audio receptive/expressive language. There will be 60 slots available for those already registered in the district, and both Floyd and BC Elementary students are eligible.

One of the biggest advantages of the project is the follow-up, Gorsuch said.

There will be testing afterward to see if it made an impact," he said. "To me, the more you can do for kids, the better off they are."

The program was first implemented within Midland County through Midland Public Schools in August. MPS students went to Longview Elementary School, where they were immersed in skills throughout their day.