



Cole County R-1 Schools

Russellville

Newsletter

Developing Tomorrow's Community by Expecting Excellence Today

Volume 16 Issue 5

December 2024

Superintendent's Letter

Board of Education

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, we are excited to bring you the December edition of our newsletter! This month, we reflect on the achievements and milestones we've reached together, celebrate the spirit of the season, and look forward to the opportunities that the new year will bring. In this issue, you will find highlights from our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, exciting new partnerships, and several people donating their time and resources to make our district a better place.

Priority Area 2: Collaborative Culture and Staffing Updates

Large Canopy Donation Appreciation

We are incredibly grateful to Community Point Bank for their generous donation of a customized canopy to our district! This wonderful addition will provide our students with shade and shelter during outdoor events, practices, and gatherings, making a positive impact on our school community.

Fall Season Concession Stand Appreciation

We officially finished all of our fall sports concession stand responsibilities. I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to Renee Bungart, Jenifer Seaver, Lucas Branson, and Rachel Brizendine for stepping up to help take care of our concession stand responsibilities. Your willingness to pitch in during this busy time has made a significant difference, and I truly appreciate your teamwork and dedication. Managing the concession stand can be quite a task, and your support has ensured that everything runs smoothly.

Counseling Services Appreciation

A heartfelt thank you to Anne Rulo, Chris Brizendine, and Jason Fisher for their incredible generosity and support during a difficult time for our district. Their dedication to providing additional counseling services for our students following the tragic loss of one of our former students is truly commendable. By donating their time and resources, they are helping to create a safe space for our students to process their grief and find the support they need. Their compassion and commitment to our community makes a significant difference, and I am deeply grateful for their efforts. I appreciate them being with us when our students need it the most!

WE Time Activity

I am excited to share some highlights from our WE time activity session on October 31st, where Sheri Koestner and Stacie Strobel facilitated a fun-filled hour of engaging activities and Halloween-themed treats! The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement as faculty and students participated in a variety of activities designed to foster teamwork, creativity, and fun. From karaoke to a paper airplane contest, everyone had a chance to showcase their skills and enjoy the spirit of the season. One of the standout features of the hour was the involvement of several students in handing out trick-or-treat candy to our staff. Their enthusiasm and well-behaved nature truly enhanced the experience for all participants. It was heartwarming to see them take on this responsibility, adding a personal touch to the festivities.

Morenet Conference

Cathy Trigg had the opportunity on October 24th to discuss the ins and outs of the daily activities and technology planning of a one-person tech department at the Morenet Conference. The discussion topics included planning, challenges, success stories, budgeting, sharing strategies, and implementing new technology. This was an incredible opportunity to showcase her expertise and passion as the director of technology of a small school district.

PLC Centralized Google Drive

Shout out to Denita Jenkins for her fantastic work in creating a Google Drive for the PLC leadership team! This innovative solution allows us to store all PLC information in one centralized location, ensuring that we won't lose valuable data due to staff turnover. It's great to know that anyone on staff can contribute to this drive, fostering collaboration and effective power standard development. By having all PLC information stored in one accessible location, team members can easily reference past discussions, resources, and documents, which will enhance collaboration and continuity in our work.

Staffing Updates

We are pleased to welcome the following staff to our district!

- Cassie Hallman, Full time Cook
- Doug Naros, Substitute
- Patricia Stegemann, Full time Cook
- Carol Carter, Administrative Assistant Substitute
- Kambry Pistel, Substitute

District September Membership Update**Information**

September membership count is done in core data the last week in September. Another count is done in January and the average between the two counts is the District's average membership for the school year. This is not a head count, but a membership count. For example, a half time student is a .5 and a full time student is 1.

Importance

This gives us a good 30,000 foot view of the number of students, enrollment trends in our district, and an indicator of future state revenue. The foundation formula and Prop C allocation is impacted by this number. In other words, more memberships will create more funding and fewer memberships will create less funding. Please keep in mind other factors, such as the State Adequacy Target, factor into the foundation formula, and collected state sales tax factors into Prop C funding.

Changes from previous year's report

There are several changes from the previous year's report. We narrowed the number of years in the spreadsheet. I believe prior to the school year 2023 isn't valid due to COVID. The following are the other changes:

- Added Pre-K membership count
- Changed the Kindergarten projected enrollment from 41 to 43, based on the average of Kindergarten September membership past three years
- Added September Membership per building for 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25. I also added the difference in membership per building between present and the 2022-2023 school year

Emphasis on report

- 42 fewer K-12 student memberships in the District since 2022-2023 school year.
- Based on historical data, we are projected to have a 4.1% decrease in the 2025-2026 school year.
- We increased our Pre-K count by 13 memberships from the 2023-2024 school year.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, over the last decade, public school enrollment dropped from 49.8 million in 2012 to 49.6 million in 2022, and projected another drop enrollment, from 49.6 million in 2022 to just above 49 million in 2023.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP				Proj	Proj
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
K	47	38	44	43	43
1	39	51	40	46	45
2	40	37	48	38	44
3	32	37	36	46	36
4	51	35	36	37	47
5	57	49	32	34	35
6	42	56	49	32	33
7	47	44	55	50	32
8	41	47	40	53	47
9	50	44	49	42	56
10	66	47	36	43	37
11	40	55	43	31	38
12	48	39	50	41	30
TTL	600	579	558	535	523
% Chg		-3.5%	-3.6%	-4.1%	-2.2%
# Chg		(21)	(21)	(23)	(12)
PK	-	26	39		
Elem (K-6)	308	303	285	(23)	
HS (7-12)	292	276	273	(19)	
ADA as % of Sept Memb	92.0%	92.7%	92.5%	92.5%	

Board of Education Updates

Linked here: [November 21st, 2024 Agenda \(2\).pdf](#) is the November 21st Board of Education Meeting agenda. According to our perpetual calendar, the following are the tentative items for the December 19th BOE regular meeting starting at 5:30pm:

- Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Secretary of the Board Report (ASBR)
- Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit
- Superintendent's Report
- High School Principal's Report
- Elementary Principal's Report
- Athletic Director's Report
- Based on the recommendation of one of our employees, I met with Brad Smith with Empower Financial Group regarding supplemental benefit plans and life insurance. The meeting went very well and I believe their services would provide significant value to our employees benefits by enhancing their overall compensation package and offering additional financial security. I reached out to a Superintendent that currently has their services to assess the legitimacy and effectiveness of the services. Based on the feedback, I have extended an invitation for Brad to present at the December meeting. Linked here: <https://empowerfinancialgrp.net/> is the company's website for your reference.

Priority Area 3: Funding and Facilities Updates

Introducing our Sponsors for new High School Scoreboard and Video Board

We are thrilled to share some exciting news that will greatly benefit our school community. As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing the educational experience for our students, we are launching new donating sponsorship opportunities!

We are proud to announce partnerships with several local businesses and organizations that are eager to support our district. These sponsorships will help fund the recent purchase of the 2 new scoreboards, scorer's table, video board, gym floor services and new sound system in the high school gym. We offer 4 Anchor Partners (who will be displayed around the video board), 5 Founding Partners (who will be displayed at the bottom of the scoreboard), and 10 Premier Partners (who will be displayed on a rotating logo on the video board).

Anchor Partners

- Jefferson City Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Russellville Athletic Booster Club
- Community Point Bank
- Linn Technical College

Founding Partners

- Jefferson City Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Tech Electronics
- Hitachi Energy
- Farmer's Bank of Lohman
- GFI Digital

Premier Partners:

- Jefferson City Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Russellville School Foundation
- Pro Powder Coating
- We still have 7 more available spots for our Premier Partners

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our current sponsors and all community members who support our school. Their generosity and commitment to education make a world of difference in the lives of our students.

If you have any questions or would like more information about our new sponsorship opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Jeff Jennewein at jjennewein@coler1indians.org or 573-782-3534.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Update

According to numbers that were retrieved from SISFIN on 11/13/2024, our expenditure updated report is linked here: [FY 24-25 Expense Report.xlsx - Major Object Codes-YTD.pdf](#) and our updated revenue report is attached here: [FY 24-25 Revenue Report.xlsx - Major Object Codes-YTD \(2\).pdf](#). The reports project the following:

FY 2024-2025 Expenditures

- Salaries (6100s): Projected \$276,504 over budget
- Benefits (6200s): Projected \$23,240 under budget
- Purchased Services (6300s): Projected \$233,073 over budget
- Supplies (6400s): Projected \$419,014 over budget
- Capital Projects (6500s): Projected \$239,255 over budget
- Total expenditures without 6500s: \$905,352 over budget

FY 2024-2025 Revenue

- Local (5100s): Projected \$678,414 over budget
- County (5200s): Projected \$25,410 under budget
- State (5300s): Projected \$52,324 under budget
- Federal (5400s): Projected \$211,109 over budget
- Other (5800s): Projected \$41,193 under budget
- Total Revenues, except 5600s: \$770,596 over budget

GFI Digital Copier/Printing Services Upgrade

On November 21st, our Board of Education accepted the proposal for a district wide copier/printer upgrade that was presented by Tony Miller. The tentative plan is to have the upgraded copiers ready to go when we return from Christmas Break.

Durham Transportation Services

Our Board of Education accepted the proposal from Durham Transportation to continue transportation services for regular routes and activity trips for our district through the 2029-2030 school year.

Mold Remediation, Pre-K Classroom

I wanted to inform you about an important update regarding our classroom arrangements due to mold remediation work that took place in our current Pre-K classroom space.

To ensure the safety and comfort of our students, we temporarily relocated the Pre-K classroom to a classroom off the elementary cafeteria on Friday, November 8th. This move was necessary to facilitate the mold remediation, which is aimed at improving our facilities and ensuring a healthy learning environment for all students. The district decided to request Tape Lift samples and Industrial Hygiene sampling services in the Pre-K classroom by Roth Environmental Consultants, once we became aware of a leak in the roof. As a result, recent assessments indicated that the indoor air quality is good, with no significant health risks associated with the mold measured in the sample. This is a reassuring finding, indicating that our environment is safe for occupants. However, we wanted to be proactive in ensuring the continued well-being of our students and staff. Based on the recommendation of Roth, ARSI conducted mold remediation on November 15th. Based on ARSI's recommendation, we moved the students back into the classroom on November 19th. I would like to extend a special thanks to Amy Steenbergen, Tina Kauffman, Larissa Mehmert, Lori Clark, David Coplin, Deputy Knotts, Ginger Grellner, and Becca Edwards for the invaluable help in moving the furniture back into the classroom. Their teamwork and dedication have made this process much smoother.

Exterior Gas Leak, Elementary Campus

I also want to provide you with an important update regarding a gas leak we discovered outside on the elementary campus. We have identified the source of the leak, and as a result, parts of the elementary building were without heat for the first week of November while repairs were being made.

I requested that Harold G. Butzer Inc. work on the pipe, based on the recommendation of Ameren. Upon the evaluation, the recommendation was to replace the entire pipe due to its age. I made the decision to request a price not to exceed the quote from Butzer. I gave them permission to order the necessary parts due to the upcoming weather and did not want to put the district in a position to cancel school. Butzer began work on November 19th. We proactively adjusted our meal menu to ensure that students had nutritious options available during the challenging time. We also rented out space heaters to address temperature concerns until work is completed. The project will be completed before the students return from Thanksgiving break.

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to Tina Kauffman and her entire Elementary staff for the patience, grace, and flexibility as we work through these logistical challenges. Their dedication to our students is truly commendable.

Grants Update

- Worked on the Land and Water Conservation Grant application and plan to submit it at the beginning of December.
- I received notification in October that we did not receive the SVPP COPS Grant we previously applied for. However, I received a second email that the grant had reopened, and a new application was submitted on November 1.

Thank you for being a valued part of our community. Your support and engagement make all the difference, and we can't wait to continue this journey with you in the year ahead.

Wishing you joy, peace, and warmth this December!

Warm regards,

Dr. Jeff Jennewein
Superintendent
Cole County R-1 School District

Board Minutes

Board meeting minutes are posted to the district's website at coler1indians.socs.net under the Board of Education tab. Agendas and meeting minutes for previous school years may be found under Archived Agendas in the Board of Education tab.

THANK YOU!!

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for your support at our annual book fair! Every year, I wonder if we can top the previous year, and each year, I am truly amazed at our record numbers. Yes, again, we set an all-time record! This year's fair raised over \$3,700 for our elementary school library, which will be used to buy new books for the library and replace older titles with new books. I also used some of the money to complete the teachers' wish lists of books they requested for their classroom libraries.

My favorite part of the book fair is watching how excited our students get about books (and yes, even the pencils and other things)!

Again, I greatly appreciate your support each and every year! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Amy Pavely

High School BETA Club

The High School BETA Club will be traveling to Branson in January to compete at the 75th Annual Senior BETA Convention. The club has 28 members competing in 26 separate events against other BETA members from across the state. Members who place in the top 5 in each category at the state convention will be eligible to compete at the national convention in Orlando, Florida in June.

Good luck, BETAs!

FACS After School Club Activities

We have met several times this school year, and although our membership is small, we have been learning a lot. We are always looking forward to new members.

In our initial meetings, we focused on organizing and cleaning the Indian Closet, which provides clothes, coats, and hygiene products for students in need. We've also collected formal wear for Homecoming, including several dresses and suits available for any student who wishes to "shop" in the Indian Closet.

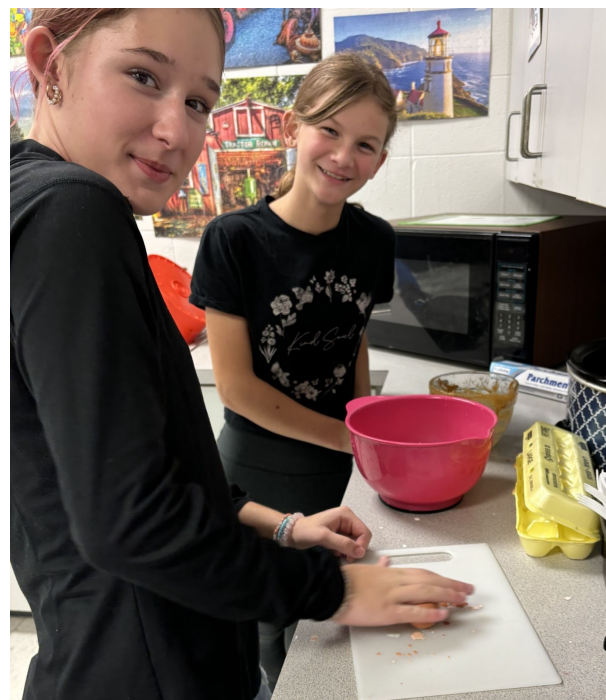
Before heading into the kitchen, we completed a safety course and then conducted an egg experiment. We purchased eggs from both the store and a local farmer, exploring different boiling methods and peeling techniques. Our findings showed that while the source and boiling method didn't matter, older eggs were indeed easier to peel. We used our boiled eggs to make delicious deviled eggs!

During our Halloween meeting, we tried a unique cookie recipe suggested by a former student: Pumpkin Snickerdoodles! The students measured the ingredients and baked the cookies, which turned out delicious. We also learned the purpose of cream of tartar and what it is made from. We were surprised when we discovered it is the white powder made from tartaric acid, which is a byproduct of winemaking. While waiting for the cookies to chill, we again worked on the Indian Closet.

If you would like to donate clothes, shoes, coats, or hygiene products to the Indian Closet, please reach out to Sheri Koestner (skoestner@coler1indians.org) or Stacie Strobel ([sstrobel@coler1indians.org](mailto:ssstrobel@coler1indians.org)) at the JH/HS building. Donations can be dropped off at the High School office, and we kindly ask that all items be laundered.



Alexis Lewis-Petty carefully peels a hard-boiled egg.



Aleah Vining and Aria Willard

The PTO Presents
Pancake Breakfast with
THE GRINCH



• **DECEMBER 7TH 2024** •

**Russellville
Elementary Cafeteria**

please join us before the parade | 8-10am

PANCAKES

SAUSAGE

COFFEE

Kids 3 & Under Free | Kids 4-9 \$9 | 10 & Up \$12

The CARNIVAL is BACK!!!!

Join us for a
Holiday Palooza
with
Reindeer Games

Saturday, December 7, 2024
12-4 pm
at Russellville JH/HS

Tickets will be sold at the door. There will be plenty of fun for everyone. Snacks will also be available for purchase. The carnival is a fundraiser for the Junior Class to pay for the cost of hosting Prom and Project Prom.



2024 - 2025 WINTER ATHLETIC ENHANCEMENT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 1 PHASE 1	December 2 <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	December 3 W.A.E. #1 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	4 W.A.E. #2 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	5	6	7
8	9 W.A.E. #3 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	10	11 W.A.E. #4 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	12	13	14
15	16 W.A.E. #5 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	17	18 W.A.E. #6 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	19	20 <u>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</u>	21

DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

We are excited to begin our first phase of Winter Athletic Enhancement. This month's opportunity is for all JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL non-Winter sport athletes who would like to improve their athletic ability and/or prepare for their Spring sport. Russellville coaches will be designing and implementing these workouts with the athletes. The more an athlete attends these workout sessions the more positive results they will see. Please contact Coach Rulo if you have any questions (trulo@coler1indians.org).

Phase 2 of our Winter Athletic Enhancement will start on January 13th.

"SLEIGH BELLE"

COURTWARMING DEC. 9-13

COURTWARMING GAME - DEC. 13

6:00 p.m. vs. Belle



MONDAY: 25 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS MOVIES

DRESS AS A CHRISTMAS MOVIE CHARACTER



TUESDAY: CHRISTMAS IN JULY

DRESS AS IF ITS A CHRISTMAS ON THE BEACH

WEDNESDAY: SANTAS SHOWDOWN

JH: SNOWMAN

FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE'S: REINDEER

JUNIORS & SENIORS: ELVES

THURSDAY: TWAS' THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS PJS

FRIDAY: HAVE A BLUE CHRISTMAS

WEAR YOUR BLUE AND WHITE CHRISTMAS OUTFIT



13600 Rt. C
Russellville, MO 65074
Phone: 573.782.3534
Fax: 573.782.3545

Dr. Jeff Jennewein, Superintendent

School Board Elections

The Cole R-1 School District encourages qualified persons interested in running for a position on the School Board to file to be a candidate in the April 8th, 2025 election. Interested persons may file at the central office located at 13600 Route C, Russellville, MO 65074. For more information contact Dr. Jeff Jennewein or Mrs. Rachel Brizendine at 573-782-3534.

Filing will begin on December 10th, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. and will continue during the district's regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m. Except for the first and last days of filing, filing will not occur on days that the school district's central offices are closed due to inclement weather. Filing will also not occur on the following holidays and breaks when the school district's central offices are closed: December 25th. Filing will end on December 31st, 2024, at 5:00pm

There are 2 positions available with three year terms.

Jenifer Seaver

Secretary, Board of Education

Cole County R-1 School District

13600 Route C

Russellville MO. 65074

Administration: Danielle Gruebel (High School Principal), Tina Kauffman (Elementary Principal), Lori Clark (Special Services Director), Lucas Branson (Dean of Students) **Board of Education:** Adam Weber (President), Christina Wood (Vice President), Jenifer Seaver (Secretary), Renee Bungart, Elaine Buschjost, Ritchie Jenkins, Stephen Schnieders

Cole R-I School District
Acceptable Use Policy Continued

COLE COUNTY R-I SCHOOL DISTRICT

13600 Route C
Russellville, MO 65074

Superintendent's Office—(573) 782-3534

Elementary Office—(573) 782-4814

13111 Park St.
Russellville, MO 65074

Junior High/High School Office—(573) 782-3313

13600 Rt. C
Russellville, MO 65074



Developing Tomorrow's Community
by Expecting Excellence Today

Find us on the web at
Coler1indians.socs.net

Find us on Facebook at
<http://goo.gl/tWEzE>

Important Dates

December 2— NO SCHOOL—Teacher
workday

December 7—Carnival—12pm-4pm

December 20—EARLY RELEASE at 12:30-
No After School Care

December 23-January 7—NO SCHOOL—
Christmas Break

January 3-4—Archery Tourney—Bullseye
State Qualifier—HS Gym — 8am

January 8—2nd Semester Begins

SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS AND SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Sub bus drivers needed—Please contact Tina We-
ber at 573-690-3256.

Substitute Teachers—The Cole County R-1 School
District is in need of Substitute Teachers. Must have
Substitute Certification from DESE. The pay is \$100
per day. The Cole County R-1 School District is an
Equal Opportunity Employer. Download and print the
Classified application from our website
(coler1indians.socs.net), or you may pick up an appli-
cation at the Superintendent's office. Any questions,
please contact Rachel Brizendine at 573-782-3534.