



**Cole County R-1 Schools**

**Russellville**

# Newsletter

*Developing Tomorrow's Community by Expecting Excellence Today*

**Volume 16 Issue 8**

**March 2025**

## **Superintendent's Letter**

### **Board of Education**

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Jeff Jennewein

Junior High/High School Principal  
Danielle Greubel

Dean of Students  
Lucas Branson

K-6 Principal  
Tina Kauffman

Director of Special Services  
Lori Clark

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## **A Message from the Superintendent**

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we enter March, I want to share with you my sincere appreciation for the continued support of our parents and families. Your involvement is crucial to the success of our students and our school district, and I am truly grateful for the positive impact you make in the lives of our students every day.

Together, we are creating an environment where our students can thrive and reach their fullest potential. As we look ahead to the rest of the school year, I remain excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our community, and I am grateful for the continued partnership with our parents and families.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our students and district!

## **Priority Area 1: Teaching and Learning**

**Thursday, April 17, 2025, has been approved by the school board for use as a makeup day.**

Due to an unusually high number of weather-related closures during the 2024-2025 school year, the district has exceeded its allotted hours for such absences. Per Missouri state requirements, school districts must make up a total of 60 instructional hours. After the first 36 hours of closures, only half of the remaining missed hours must be made up until reaching the 60-hour threshold.

While our district strategically builds extra instructional hours into the calendar to mitigate weather-related disruptions, the number of closures this year has exceeded those reserves, necessitating the addition of an extra makeup day.

The makeup day will follow a standard PLC early release schedule, ensuring consistency for students, staff, and families:

- High School: 8:00 AM – 2:25 PM
- Elementary School: 8:00 AM – 2:20 PM

## **Priority Area 2: Collaborative Culture and Staffing**

### **Staffing Updates**

Please join us in welcoming the following individuals to the team!

- Ray Eickmeyer, 2025 Assistant Track Coach
- Trinity Riggs, 2025 Assistant Track Coach
- Aaron Young, 2025 Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach
- Doug Anderson, part-time maintenance

## Partnership with MSBA Center for Education Safety

I am excited to announce that our district will be partnering with the **Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) Center for Education Safety** to enhance school safety initiatives. This partnership will provide valuable resources and guidance to ensure a secure and supportive environment for our students and staff.

At our recent Board of Education meeting, Michelle Kruse, the School Safety Academy Program Coordinator, presented on the wealth of resources available through this collaboration. With this partnership, we will be implementing monthly meetings to address MSIP 6 L 10 School Safety Standards and develop strategies to enhance safety throughout our district.

The School Safety Framework we will be working with focuses on six key areas:

- Mental and Behavioral Health – Supporting student and staff well-being
- Health and Wellness – Promoting a healthy school environment
- Physical Safety and Security – Strengthening protective measures
- Culture, Climate, and Community – Fostering a positive school culture
- Leadership and Law – Ensuring compliance and strong governance
- Operations and Emergency Management – Preparing for and responding to emergencies effectively

This initiative is a significant step in our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all. Your participation and engagement are crucial as we work together to implement these safety standards.

## Special Recognitions

We would like to give a huge thank you to **Tina Weber** and our transportation department for their outstanding efforts on January 21st, when we faced extreme cold temperatures. Their proactive approach to pre-treating our school buses ensured all routes ran smoothly. In contrast, a neighboring district had to cancel school due to 40% of their buses failing to start. We deeply appreciate our transportation team's dedication to student safety and reliability.

Additionally, we successfully showcased our new video board, scoreboard, scorer's table, and sound system at recent home basketball games. I received multiple compliments on these improvements.

## Priority Area 3: Funding and Facilities

### Potential Fundraising Activity

Derick Kerr reached out with a request to use the high school parking lot on September 13th for a car show. This event will raise funds to help cover school lunch costs. Details of the event will be announced as the plans are finalized.

### Phase 2 Bond and Facility Projects Updates

- Asbestos inspection required before finalizing plans
- Pre-K expansion feasibility under review
- Bond capacity estimate requested for Spring 2027
- ADA compliance recommendations pending review
- High School Canopy & Sidewalk Repair proposals included in consent agenda

## Potential Stellar Virtual Partnership

There are currently five other school districts in Missouri that host a virtual school setting for students. On February 14th, Mrs. Greubel and I met with representatives from Stellar Virtual to explore a potential partnership for the 2025-2026 school year. This opportunity is being considered as a strategic financial decision to benefit our district while reinforcing our unwavering commitment to in-person learning.

We want to be clear—our district will never promote virtual learning as a replacement for in-seat instruction. We firmly believe that the best educational experience comes from direct engagement with teachers and peers in a traditional classroom setting. This potential partnership would not shift our own students to a virtual platform but would instead allow us to host students from outside our district in a virtual program facilitated by Stellar Virtual.

Stellar Virtual currently provides virtual learning services in three other states and is looking to expand into Missouri. By partnering with our district, Stellar Virtual would establish a presence in the state while generating additional revenue to support our schools.

Potential Benefits to the District:

- **Generating over \$200,000 annually** in additional state revenue on an annual basis
- **Enhancing teacher salaries** by allocating these additional funds to increase teacher's salaries and address the financial impact of Senate Bill 727

This proposal will be reviewed by the Board at the March 20th board meeting for further discussion and potential approval.

## Looking Ahead

Next Board Meeting: March 20, 2025, at 5:30 PM

Agenda Highlights:

- Stellar Virtual Partnership Presentation
- District Employee Health Insurance
- Superintendent's & Principal Reports
- 2024-2025 MCE Updated Policies
- Certified Staff Evaluations conducted in Closed Session

Thank you for your continued dedication to our students, staff, and community. Together, we are building a stronger, more innovative learning environment!

## Board Minutes

Board meeting minutes are posted to the district's website at [coler1indians.socs.net](http://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.

## How Sick is Too Sick for School?

We are committed to the safety and health of our students and staff. To prevent the spread of germs in our schools, we ask for your help in keeping your child home when they are sick. **Please keep your child home if they have any symptoms below:**

Symptom	STAY HOME	MAY RETURN
Generally feeling ill	If your child does not feel well and cannot participate in school activities	When your child is feeling better, does not have symptoms, and can participate in school activities
Concern for severe illness	If your child is unusually tired or irritable, has uncontrolled coughing, difficulty breathing, or there is a concern for severe illness	When your child is feeling better or has been cleared to return by a healthcare provider
Fever	If fever is 100.4°F or higher, including a fever accompanied by a new rash	The child has not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication. When the fever accompanied by a new rash was evaluated by a healthcare provider, and the fever has since resolved.
Diarrhea	Diarrhea that leads to accidents, is bloody, or causes more than two bowel movements beyond what the child normally has in a 24-hour period	The child's diarrhea has improved. They are no longer having accidents and have no more than two bowel movements above normal each day. If there is any bloody diarrhea, a healthcare provider must evaluate the child before they can return to school.
Vomiting	If your child vomits, unrelated to a medication side effect	Vomiting has resolved overnight, and the child can keep food and liquids down in the morning.
Mouth sores with drooling	If your child has mouth sores AND they are drooling (no need to stay home if your child is not drooling)	When sores have healed or if child is cleared to return by a healthcare provider
Skin sores	Fluid-draining skin sores on an uncovered area of the body that cannot be covered with a bandage.	The child has uncovered skin sores that are crusting over and is currently receiving treatment from a healthcare provider.
Respiratory Virus Symptoms	Worsening or unchanging respiratory virus symptoms not caused by seasonal allergies.	Respiratory virus symptoms have improved within the last 24 hours. It is recommended that students and staff take additional steps to minimize the spread before returning to school after a respiratory illness.
Eye drainage	If your child has pus in their eyes or eye pain	Until pus clears or child is cleared to return by a healthcare provider

In addition to the symptoms above, children may be required to stay home if the public health department requires it. Please follow your healthcare provider's recommendations for returning to school or consult with the school nurse. Thank you for keeping our students and our school community healthy. *Resource: Missouri Kids Infection Prevention Control Toolkit*





## Special Olympics Unified Basketball

On February 5, Russellville Schools hosted the Special Olympics of Missouri Unified Basketball event. Joining Russellville were students from 6 area schools (South Callaway, Camdenton, California, Linn, Tipton and New Bloomfield) for team skills competitions and 3-on-3 basketball games. Student helpers and Russellville staff put in hours of work and many smiles to ensure the event went successfully and that every participant had a terrific day!

Thank you to the following business and individuals for your generous sponsorship! Hitachi—Jefferson City, James Stratton, Kaiser Electric of Central Missouri, California Eagles #4027, Keith Bias, Coca-Cola—Jefferson City, Graves Foods, Double X Speedway, Community Point Bank, and Tara Turpin





### **FBLA District Leadership Conference**

On February 14, FBLA's 22 members competed in the FBLA District Leadership Conference at Eugene High School. Overall, they earned four 1st place medals and 13 Russellville students are advancing to the state competition across 8 different categories.

Congratulations to the following students for their excellent performances at the FBLA District Leadership Conference!

Tanner Trinklein—4th Place, Agribusiness

Ian Larison, Joe Stillfield, and Tanner Trinklein—2nd Place, Digital Video Production

Samantha Stotts, Meredith Benne and Maegan Hildebrand—4th Place, Graphic Design

Cori Stewart—4th Place, Introduction to Event Planning

Conlan Hildebrand—3rd Place, Marketing

Isabel Crews—1st Place, Organizational Leadership

Joshua Dick, Kate Oligschlaeger, Jenna Schulte, Danessa Strobel, Tanner Trinklein—1st Place, Parliamentary Procedure

Isabel Crews—4th Place, Public Policy & Advocacy

Claire Eickhoff, Karleigh Grayson—1st Place, Social Media Strategies

Ryan Brown, Braedyn Bryant—4th Place, Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Isabel Crews, Maisie Maier, and Danessa Strobel—1st Place, Visual Design

Alexis Lewis-Petty—2nd Place, Website Design




## BETA State Convention


Russellville High School BETA Club traveled to Branson in January for the annual State BETA convention. Twenty-five students from Russellville participated in various competitions. We are proud of each of our BETAs!

Congratulations to Megan Eickhorst, Bayley Graham, and Maisie Maier. Each of these students placed in the top 5 of their individual competitions and are eligible to attend National BETA Convention this summer.





# COLE R-1 ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN SCREENING 2025-2026



## WHAT TO BRING:

- \* Birth Certificate
- \* Immunization Record
- \* Proof of Residency


## REGISTER NOW

Call Cole R-1  
Elementary School to  
make an appointment  
(573) 782-4814

## SCREENINGS:

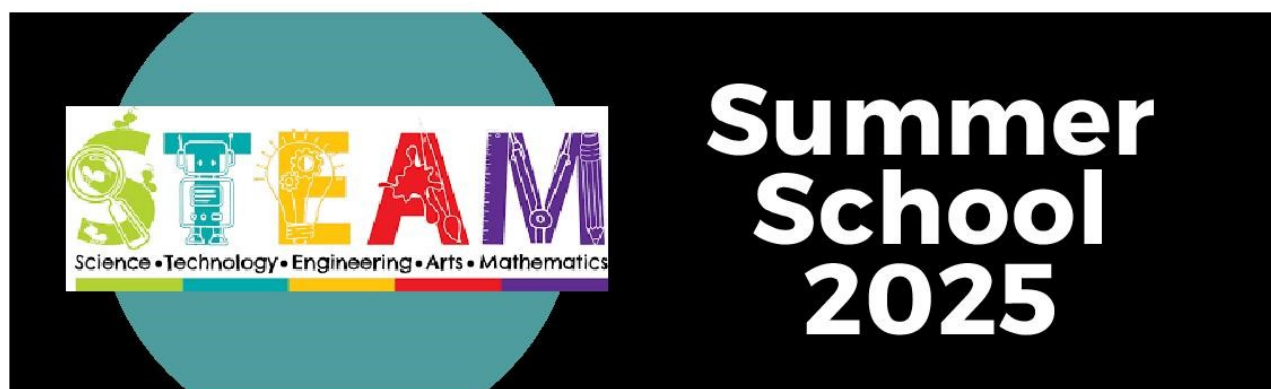
**Monday, March 17th: 8AM-3PM**  
**Tuesday, March 18th: 8AM-3PM**  
**Wednesday March 19th: 8AM-3PM**  
**Thursday, March 27th: 8AM-3PM**  
**Friday, March 28th: 8AM-3PM**

Screening held at Cole R-1 Elementary  
PAT Play Center



Current Pre-K students will be scheduled and tested throughout their school day.  
Screening is open to children who will be 5-years-old on or before August 1, 2025.





## Program Overview

DATE	May 21st - June 6th (No School Memorial Day - May 26th)
TIME	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
PLACE	Cole R-I Elementary
GRADE LEVELS	Students entering Kindergarten - 6th grade
TRANSPORTATION	Limited bus routes
MEALS	Free breakfast and lunch
CHILD CARE	After school child care provided at a minimal cost

## Program Highlights

- Enriching curriculum focused on S.T.E.A.M education
- Small group interventions to support student growth in reading and math
- Daily special classes
- Field Trip Finale

The high school will provide credit recovery opportunities for summer school.

## 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



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[Coler1indians.socs.net](http://Coler1indians.socs.net)

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

### CALENDAR CHANGE

Due to the unusually high number of weather-related closures, the Cole County R-I School Board has approved **Thursday, April 17, 2025**, as a makeup day. The makeup day will follow a standard PLC early release schedule, ensuring consistency for students, staff, and families.

Elementary School: 8:00am-2:20pm

High School: 8:00am-2:25pm

### Important Dates

**March 17-19**—Kindergarten Screening

8:00am-3:00pm

**March 20-24**—Spring Break—NO  
SCHOOL

**March 27-28**—Kindergarten Screening

8:00am-3:00pm

**April 5**—Prom @ Wasserlauf; 8:00pm

Project Prom—HS Gym; 12:30am-  
4:00am

**April 17**—Makeup Day—IN SESSION

### SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS AND SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

**Sub bus drivers needed**—Please contact Tina Weber 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](http://coler1indians.socs.net)), or you may pick up an application at the Superintendent's office. Any questions, please contact Rachel Brizendine at 573-782-3534.