

**Cole County R-1 Schools****Russellville**

Newsletter

*Developing Tomorrow's Community by Expecting Excellence Today***Volume 16 Issue 10****May 2025****Superintendent's Letter****Board of Education**

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A Message from the Superintendent

As we enter the homestretch of the school year, I hope you're feeling as energized as I am! I want to start by saying how incredibly proud I am of our students, staff, and families for everything we've accomplished together this year. With the final day of school set for **Wednesday, May 14**, it's hard to believe we're just a few weeks away from closing out another amazing chapter at Cole County R-1.

This time of year is always filled with excitement, reflection, and celebration. From student successes in the classroom to district wide initiatives that are paving the way for our future, there's so much to be proud of. Your commitment, creativity, and care have made all the difference, and I can't thank you enough for the part you play in making our schools such a positive and inspiring place to learn and grow.

Let's make the most of these final weeks and finish strong!

Priority Area 1: Teaching and Learning**2025–2026 School Calendar Approved!**

At the April 17th Board of Education meeting, the 2025–2026 School Calendar (linked here: [2025-2026 Approved School Calendar](#)) was officially approved! Thank you to everyone who contributed input through the calendar committee—your voice helped shape a calendar that supports student learning, prioritizes staff needs, and aligns with our instructional goals.

Highlights include:

- **159 instructional days**, totaling **1,080.72 hours**
- **School Hours:**
 - Elementary: 7:55am-3:25pm
 - JH/HS: 8:00am-3:30pm
 - PLC Thursday: Elementary: 7:55am-2:25pm
 - JH/HS: 8:00am-2:30pm
- **Snow Days & AMI:** Built-in hours and an AMI plan (pending DESE approval)

Linked here [Alternative Methods of Instruction \(AMI Proposal\)](#) is the AMI plan available for review. Thank you again to everyone who participated in this collaborative process! This will be submitted to DESE for final approval before being implemented.

Sergeant James Flessa Memorial Scholarship Recipients

We're thrilled to announce the 2025 recipients of the Sergeant James Flessa Memorial Scholarship!

- Ethan Strobel
- Joe Stillfield
- Isabel Crews
- Maisie Maier

Congratulations to these outstanding students!

Priority Area 2: Collaborative Culture and Staffing

Honoring Elaine Buschjost

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Elaine Buschjost for her service on the Board of Education from 2022 to 2025. Elaine's impact as a lifelong educator, mentor, and community member will continue to resonate in our district for years to come.

School Board Reorganization Update

Following our April 17th meeting, we're pleased to announce our 2024–2025 Board of Education leadership:

- President** – Adam Weber
- Vice President** – Christina Wood
- Secretary** – Jenifer Seaver
- Treasurer** – Renee Bungart

Full Board Membership:

- Adam Weber
- Christina Wood
- Jenifer Seaver
- Renee Bungart
- Ritchie Jenkins
- Stephen Schnieders
- Kent Shikles

Welcome to our newest member, Kent Shikles! Thank you to all board members for their continued leadership and dedication.

Seasonal Maintenance Staff Ginger Grellner, Cassie Hallman, Laurie Anderson, Matt Witt, Natalie Eickhorst, Jacob Fisher, Ray Eickmeyer, Caleb Sconce, Cooper Basnett, John Witt, and Kaylee Strobel have all been approved by the school board to assist with maintenance over the summer to prepare for the 2025-2026 school year.

2025–2026 New Teacher Hires

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members, and those who will continue to support our students in additional roles within the district!

- Paul Baur, 6-12 Band
- Chris Garstang, HS Math
- Rachel Pittman, K-12 Music
- Kevin Vickers, HS Math
- Cole Edwards, HS Business

New Extra Duty Assignments

- Ray Eickmeyer, HS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
- Jason Kimmenau, HS Assistant Football Coach
- Cooper Basnett, HS Assistant Football Coach
- Cole Edwards, HS Boys Golf Coach, HS Girls Golf Coach, FBLA Sponsor

Priority Area 3: Funding and Facilities

Career Ladder Plan Approved for 2025–2026

The Board approved the 2025–2026 Career Ladder Plan, reinforcing our commitment to recognizing and rewarding the exceptional efforts of our certified staff.

Plan Highlights:

- Stage I (2 years): 50 hours = \$1,500
- Stage II (3 years): 75 hours = \$3,000
- Stage III (5 years): 100 hours = \$5,000

Gym Floor Replacement

Big news! The board approved a full replacement of the high school gym floor due to prior water damage. With major support from our insurance provider, MUSIC, the district will only cover a \$1,000 deductible—saving over \$33,000 compared to earlier sanding plans.

Timeline: The gym will be unavailable in July for construction.

Stellar Virtual Learning Partnership Approved

Starting 2025–2026, Cole County R-I will partner with Stellar Virtual Learning to serve non-resident students virtually. This will generate approximately \$200,000 in new revenue, helping support staff compensation and student resources without impacting local taxes or in-seat instruction.

Playground Project Underway

Thanks to the 2024 Scrap Tire Grant (\$40,000), we are moving forward with excavation and prep work on our lower elementary playground. This foundational work will enhance accessibility and safety for our youngest learners!

Looking Ahead

Baccalaureate: Sunday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m.

High School Graduation: Friday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, May 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Tentative Agenda Items:

- School Year 2025–2026 EGS Policy Adoption
- Fiscal Year 2023–2024 Audit Review
- Fiscal Year 2023–2024 ASBR Review
- Consider a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Food Services
- Classified Staff Evaluations (Closed Session)

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and enthusiasm. Together, we are creating a thriving, innovative, and inclusive school environment where every student can shine. Let's finish the year strong!

Respectfully,

Dr. Jeff Jennewein

Superintendent

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.



Dear Russellville Community,

We just wanted to say a huge thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You've been amazing with all the love, support, and generosity you've shown us during this tough time. Your donations, prayers, and thoughtful gestures have really lifted our spirits. We're so touched by how this community comes together. Every kind act and word of encouragement has meant the world to us. Thanks for being there and reminding us we're not alone. We feel so lucky to be part of such a caring community.

With lots of appreciation,
The Bondurant Family

IMPORTANT REMINDERS from the Nurse *Christie Murphy, RN*

Following are some reminders for the 2025-2026 school year affecting certain grade levels and all students due to current Missouri state laws.

8th Grade: Tdap and MCV4 Vaccinations: Tdap (tetanus booster with pertussis) and MCV4 (Meningococcal in the form of Menactra or Menveo) vaccines are required for students enrolled in 8th grade. **The deadline to submit proof of Tdap and MCV4 vaccines is the 1st day of school in August.** If your child needs this immunization, contact your physician or clinic. Once he/she receives the Tdap and MCV4, please forward a copy of the official record from your health care provider to the school office. The vaccines may also be received at the Cole County Health Department. Bring your child's immunization record with you. For more information, their phone number is 573-636-2181.

12th Grade: MCV4 vaccinations (2 doses): Two doses of MCV4 (Meningococcal in the form of Menactra or Menveo) are required for students enrolled in 12th grade. If the first dose was administered at age 16 years or older, then only one dose is required. **The deadline to submit proof of MCV4 vaccines is the 1st day of school in August.**

Kindergarten Immunizations: A current and updated immunization record must be provided to the school before they can attend. The final set of vaccinations that Kindergarten enrollees must receive **after** their 4th birthday and before entering Kindergarten include: another Dtap, polio, a 2nd MMR, and a 2nd Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. If the child has had chickenpox disease, proof of disease must be provided in the form of a written statement signed by a physician documenting the month and year the child had chickenpox. Parental verification is not accepted. Immunizations can be obtained through the child's physician or by appt. at the Cole Co. Health Dept. For more information, call 573-636-2181.

Preschool Immunizations: A current and updated immunization record must be provided to the school before they can attend.

District-wide Medication policy reminder for all grades: Medication must be delivered to and picked up from school by a parent or designated adult. Long-term daily prescription medications given during school hours require a written physician authorization with pharmacy-labeled container. **New authorization is required for the new school year even if there was no change to your child's prescription.** If the dosage changes during the school year, an updated authorization is also required. Additional rules to the medication policy are in the school handbooks. For clarification, call Christie Murphy at 782-4814.

Student health history forms: In August, your child will bring home a new Student Health Information form. All students **must** return this form each school year. Please ensure that the pain reliever and cough drop permission line is marked according to your preference to be administered to your child as needed from the nurse's supply.

Food substitutions: If your child will require food substitutions due to a medically diagnosed condition, a specific form entitled **"Medical Statement for Student Requiring Special Meals"** will need to be completed by their physician. Copies of the form are available in the school nurse's office or on the school website. Note: *This form must be in place before dietary accommodations can be made.

Nurse's section website: Check out the **Nurse and Wellness** link on the school district website home page to find medication forms, health condition forms, and the food substitution form.

Have a safe and active summer!

FACS Club

The FACS Club had the opportunity to tour Blooms & Blossoms Greenhouse on Curtman Road, not far from school, which is owned and operated by Sheila Thomas. The students learned about the different types of ferns and which ones are heat resistant. They saw how the plants are started from seeds on warming pads and then transferred to larger containers for sale to the public. Thomas enjoyed answering the students' questions and told them she started the greenhouse because she wanted a job that didn't require her to sit behind a desk all day. She has been expanding her operation for the past three years and plans to keep on going. After the tour, the students had a chance to create their own hanging arrangements with supervision on how much dirt, fertilizer, water, and flowers to use. They turned out beautiful!

Thank you, Mrs. Thomas, for a great afternoon!

(Photographed below: Aria Willard, Sadie Corum, Ella Willard, and Sheila Thomas)



Archery

The 2024-2025 archery season was a tremendous success, with many personal records set and perfect 50's shot. This season, we had 103 archers from 4th to 12th grade competing. Russellville Archery hosted two tournaments: bullseye and 3D, attracting multiple teams and hundreds of archers to our school. We also participated in tournaments at St. Martins, Helias, Capital City, Eldon, and Calvary Lutheran. A highlight was our Elementary team taking 1st overall at the Border Wars Tournament hosted at the Linc, earning a \$1500 cash prize for our program. We capped off the season by attending the State Tournament from March 20-22 in Branson, where five of our six teams finished in the top 10 in the state. Notably, Ethan Strobel and Grant Smith tied for 9th in the state in 3D out of 433 archers! We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our seniors, Maisie Maier, Meredith Benne, Ethan Strobel, Addy Harris, and KayLynn Shipp, for their dedication to the archery program. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



National Junior Honor Society

On April 6, fourteen seventh grade students were inducted into National Junior Honor Society in our high school gym. These students have a cumulative GPA of 3.33 or higher and display service, leadership and great character. Congratulations to the following students for their achievement! Lillian Briot, Aubrey Brizendine, Jacie Dick, James Ehrhardt, Juliet Grayson, Greyson Jenkins, Adler Kautsch, Grayson Kautsch, Ellie McKinney, Hadley Murrell, Easton Parker, Lucas Plochberger, Caleb Rulo, and Ella Willard.

From April 7 through 11, National Junior Honor Society conducted a fundraiser to benefit Mrs. Bondurant and her family as they face their upcoming medical challenges. A penny war was held at the elementary building, and the high school had a collection can for anyone who wanted to donate. Students raised \$1933.95 to assist this family in our community! What an amazing and supportive community that we live in! Thank you for all of your support!

Missouri Art Education Association Award

Ms. Amy Potts, retired Russellville Elementary art teacher, was recently awarded the 2025 MAEA Retired Art Educator of the Year Award! According to the MAEA website, the award honors those who display dedication to art education. For retired teachers, this includes retirement from full-time art education, a nomination for the award, a list of contributions and services to art education beyond retirement and at least 2 letters supporting the nomination.

Ms. Potts taught elementary and middle school art at Russellville for many years prior to her retirement from teaching, and guided students in the fundamentals and more advanced techniques of various art media.

Congratulations to Ms. Potts on a well-deserved award. We thank her for her years of service to Cole County R-I Schools!



RUSSELLVILLE INDIAN STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Timothy Rulo ~ Head Strength Coach ~ trulo@coler1indians.org ~ (314) 210 - 0209

2025 Summer Athletic Enhancement Schedule

DATE(S)	ACTIVITY	DAY(S)	TIMES
Week of 5/20	7th - 12th Grade Optional Weightlifting	M, T, W, Th	8:00a - 9:00a 5:30p - 6:30p
Week of 5/26	Athletic Enhancement	T, W, Th	6:00-7:30a (High School Boys & Girls) 7:30-9:00a (High School Boys & Girls) 9:00-10:00a (4th-8th Grade Boys & Girls) 5:30-6:45p (4th-12th Grade Boys & Girls)
Week of 6/2	Athletic Enhancement	M, T, W, Th	6:00-7:30a (High School Boys & Girls) 7:30-9:00a (High School Boys & Girls) 9:00-10:00a (4th-8th Grade Boys & Girls) 5:30-6:45p (4th-12th Grade Boys & Girls)
Week of 6/9	Athletic Enhancement	M, T, W, Th	6:00-7:30a (High School Boys & Girls) 7:30-9:00a (High School Boys & Girls) 9:00-10:00a (4th-8th Grade Boys & Girls) 5:30-6:45p (4th-12th Grade Boys & Girls)
Week of 6/16	Athletic Enhancement	M, T, W, Th	6:00-7:30a (High School Boys & Girls) 7:30-9:00a (High School Boys & Girls) 9:00-10:00a (4th-8th Grade Boys & Girls) 5:30-6:45p (4th-12th Grade Boys & Girls)
Week of 6/23	Athletic Enhancement	M, T, W, Th	6:00-7:30a (High School Boys & Girls) 7:30-9:00a (High School Boys & Girls) 9:00-10:00a (4th-8th Grade Boys & Girls) 5:30-6:45p (4th-12th Grade Boys & Girls)
Week of 6/30	Russellville Dead Period (June 28th – July 6th) There will be NO weightlifting activities during this time!		
Week of 7/7	Athletic Enhancement	M, T, W, Th	6:00-7:30a (High School Boys & Girls) 7:30-9:00a (High School Boys & Girls) 9:00-10:00a (4th-8th Grade Boys & Girls) 5:30-6:45p (4th-12th Grade Boys & Girls)
Week of 7/14	Athletic Enhancement	M, T, W, Th	6:00-7:30a (High School Boys & Girls) 7:30-9:00a (High School Boys & Girls) 9:00-10:00a (4th-8th Grade Boys & Girls) 5:30-6:45p (4th-12th Grade Boys & Girls)
Week of 7/21	Athletic Enhancement	M, T, W	6:00-7:30a (High School Boys & Girls) 7:30-9:00a (High School Boys & Girls) 9:00-10:00a (4th-8th Grade Boys & Girls) 5:30-6:45p (4th-12th Grade Boys & Girls)

OTHER NOTES:

- We are here to help you become the best athlete and young person you can be. We will adjust workouts according to ability, schedule and experience.
- If these times do not work, please contact Coach Rulo. We can make something work!

2025 Summer Athletic Enhancement is here! We are excited to host our 5th annual Summer Athletic Enhancement. Please see the above schedule with the times and sessions for boys and girls entering 4th - 12th grade next fall. It is our goal to help each person attending to become the best athlete and young person they can be. We will adjust workouts according to ability, schedule, and experience. If these times do not work, or if you have any questions, please contact Coach Rulo. #WeAreAllIndians

Russellville Alumni Banquet



June 7, 2025



Please join us for the 2025 Russellville Alumni Banquet this year.
Reunite with old friends and make new ones!

When: June 7, 2025

Where: Russellville Middle School Gymnasium

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$20 per person at the door
(2025 Graduates are FREE*)

RSVP: by Tuesday, May 27, 2025

E-Mail to rsf@coler1indians.org or

Call Lucille Rosenmiller (573) 645-6527 or Vicky Scott (573) 338-4534

Be sure to include the **name(s) of those in your party** and the **year(s) of graduation** with the RSVP!

Celebrating Graduating Class of 2025

25th Class Reunion
Class of 2000

50th Class Reunion
Class of 1975

Let us know if you are interested in reserving a classroom for a meeting place prior to the banquet or taking a tour of the building.

**Those 2025 RHS Graduates who RSVP and attend the banquet will receive a free meal and will also be entered into a \$500 scholarship drawing. Up to five 2025 graduates will receive scholarships. Scholarship moneys will be awarded in the form of a check made out to the recipient and the school/university to be attended.*

This event is hosted on behalf of the Russellville Alumni Association by the Russellville School Foundation.

RSVP – Alumni Banquet
573-645-6527 – Lucille
573-338-4534 – Vicky
rsf@coler1indians.org

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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>

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

It's not too late to apply for scholarships! Seniors, if you need money for college, you can still apply after graduation!

For more information or to download scholarships, visit Mr. Luke Morris's counselor's page and the scholarship website.

(<https://rhscounselor.weebly.com/scholarships.html>)

Important Dates

May 4—Baccalaureate—6:30pm—HS Gym

May 9—Graduation—7pm — HS Gym

May 14— Last Day of School—12:30pm dismissal—NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE

May 21—Summer School Begins

May 26—Memorial Day—No Summer School

June 6—Summer School Ends

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), or you may pick up an application at the Superintendent's office. Any questions, please contact Rachel Brizendine at 573-782-3534.