



Newsletter

Developing Tomorrow's Community by Expecting Excellence Today

Volume 15 Issue 8

March 2024

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Inside This Issue

Item 1 Letter from Superintendent	1-2
Item 2 Board Meeting Minutes	2
Item 3 Contact information	2
Item 4 Student News	3-7
Item 5 Events/Announcements	8
Item 6 Important Dates	9
Item 7 Employment Opportunities	9

Superintendent's Letter

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

With the anticipated arrival of spring, our schools are buzzing with excitement for the new season. We look forward to the blooming flowers, warmer weather, and that sense of renewal that spring brings. On a personal note, March Madness, which is the NCAA Division I men's college basketball single elimination tournament, is one of my favorite things to watch every year! Other important events that are commonly observed or celebrated in the month of March include Women's History Month, National Nutrition Month, Read Across America Day (March 2nd), St. Patrick's Day (March 17th), National Pi Day (March 14th), and Spring Break. We have exciting updates and events to share with you:

Priority Area #1 (Teaching/Learning)

Snow make up days- Due to the amount of used snow days this school year, we currently need to make up 2.26 hours of instructional time. Therefore, we plan to be in session on March 28th for a half day with a dismissal time of 12:30. There will be no After School Care on this day.

2024 Summer School Information

Dates: May 15th- May 31st (No school on Monday, May 27th-Memorial Day)

Hours: 8:00am-3:00pm

Grades: Entering Kindergarten-6th grade

- STEM Centered Activities
- Daily Specials Classes (Art, PE)
- Reading Interventions
- Field Trip on last day
- After School Care Program
- Limited Bus Routes

The High School will provide credit recovery opportunities.

Information and registration for elementary summer school will be sent out soon!

Priority Area #2 (Collaborative Culture/Staffing)

Central State 8 Conference Update:

In the executive meeting on February 13th, the following decisions were made regarding our new Conference for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Conference passes will be made for every Board of Education member.
- Staff must show their employee ID at games for conference pass.
- District banners will be each school district's responsibility.
- Conference plaques at the High School level will be paid for by the conference fund.
- Gate fees for all conference games will be \$5.00 for adults. All students and senior citizens will get into all conference games for free.

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District Social Media Promotion for January:

We had 50 district Facebook posts for the month of January.

Priority Area #3 (Funding/Facilities)**Potential District Grant Writing Team:**

Susie Epperson, founder of Grants 4 Schools Network, has agreed to do a 6-hour workshop for our district. I attended her Grants 4 Schools Conference a few months ago. It was very informative on ways to secure funding for schools. We will have applied for over 1 million dollars of additional grant funding by the end of this school year. I believe we can increase this amount for next year and feel there is a need for additional resources for our staff and students. This service would cost the district \$2,250. This workshop would be available for anyone who is interested in helping our district secure additional funding. If you are interested, please submit your name and contact information on the Google form attachment located here: [Grant Writing Professional Development Sign up form](#).

Pilot Yealink Meeting Boards

In the upcoming days, Tech Electronics will deliver one 65-inch Yealink meeting board to the High School building and one 86-inch Yealink meeting board to the Elementary building. Tech Electronics will let the district use both boards for the remainder of the school year. They have graciously donated the 65-inch board to the school district to use until we secure additional funding to purchase more!

High School Addition Bond Construction Project Update:

The masons have mobilized to the west face of the new addition, and are roughly 90% complete with the brick veneer on the west side. The masons have started the north face and are roughly 25% complete. The painters mobilized Wednesday, February 7th, and they have installed one finish coat on the south half of the addition and block filler & primer on the north half.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Jennewein

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.

Contact Information Updates

The installation of our new phone systems is complete. Please take note of the following changes to our contact information.

When using the District line (573-782-3534), press 3 for the high school, or press 4 for the elementary school. You may also call each building directly: [High School](#)—573-782-3313, [Elementary School](#)—573-782-4814.

The district fax number is 573-782-3775.

Student News



The Russellville Indians football team had a great time celebrating a Chiefs victory at the Super Bowl Team Social! The team enjoyed lots of fun, games and laughs, and the coaches are grateful to be able to provide a great opportunity for the team to grow together!



The Winter Athletic Enhancement session is drawing to a close and the athletes are enjoying the warmer weather so they can take their workouts outdoors!

Senior BETA

Senior BETA will be attending the Senior State BETA Convention in Branson, MO, on March 1st and 2nd. Twenty-eight members will be competing in 24 different events this year. The top 5 competitors in each event will qualify to compete in nationals in Savannah, GA, in June.

Russellville FFA Christmas

By: Ava Nilges

2023-2024 Russellville FFA Reporter

On December 13, 2023, all FFA members joined together in the Russellville Ag Department to have the monthly meeting that usually consists of having a meal and a fun activity after school. During the meeting, FFA members discussed various business needs during the meeting to then enjoy a fun game along with some food. This year the Russellville FFA had pizza followed by our annual saran wrap game, white elephant, and family feud.

Russellville FFA's Annual Turkey Supper

By: Ava Nilges

2023-2024 Russellville FFA Reporter

On Saturday, November 18, 2023, at the Russellville Elementary Cafeteria, FFA members, advisors, and Russellville community members joined together for the annual turkey supper. The 56th Annual Turkey Supper, served nearly 800 people. Eighty-five FFA members worked and had 40 FFA supporter volunteers. This supper is the oldest fundraiser for our chapter to pay for things such as Career Development Event Contests, educational agricultural trips, and to provide funds to serve in our community. It is a great opportunity for the community to come together to enjoy supporting our FFA chapter. The Economic Development Committee, consisting of 12 upperclassmen, spend dozens of hours in class planning the food menu, obtaining supplies, finding food donors, marketing the event to all avenues, getting FFA members and volunteers to work, etc.



Left: FFA members making to-go orders during the annual turkey supper.

Right: FFA members sending guests through to to-go line.



Russellville FFA Degree Ceremony

By: Ava Nilges

2023-2024 Russellville FFA Reporter

On November 7th, 2023, at the Russellville Elementary Cafeteria, Russellville held the 2023 Degree Ceremony. Many students received awards like the Greenhand FFA Degree and Chapter Degree. Receiving awards like the Greenhand FFA Degree and Chapter Degree, Fundraising Awards as well as recognizing Junior FFA Officers. The degree ceremony recognizes members for all of their hard work so far in the Russellville FFA.



2023-2024 first year FFA members receive their Greenhand FFA Degree



2023-2024 second year Russellville FFA members receive their Chapter FFA Degree.

National FFA Convention

By Ava Nilges

2023-2024 Russellville FFA Reporter

On November 1st-4th of 2023, sixteen students and two advisors attended the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Students work hard all year to be able to make the cut to go to convention. Our chapter runs off of a points chart. In order to get points, students have to participate in FFA activities throughout the summer and fall, and participate in fundraising. This year at convention, the students attended leadership season, FFA's Career Show, assisted on a service project in Indianapolis, watched a rodeo, and toured Louisville Slugger and Churchill Downs. Four FFA members also received their American FFA Degree on Saturday. Students attend the National Convention because it is a three day student conference to build students for potential leadership, personal growth, and career success.



Russellville FFA members attend the 2023 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

Front row; L to R; Tanner Trinklein, Ava Nilges, Ellysa Schweer, Ethan Strobel, Shelby Morrow, Bailey Wineland, Bella Maharas, Bayley Graham, Audra Whittle.

Back row L to R; Marshal Schroeder, Grant Smith, Hunter Harris, Jillian Schmidt, Jada Schmidt, Chase Prenger, Meredith Benne and Peyton Stubinger.



Greenhand conference
By: Ava Nilges
Russellville FFA Reporter 2023-2024

On October 11, 2023, multiple individuals from the Russellville High School freshman class went to Eldon to attend the Annual Greenhand Conference. Students arrived and filled the auditorium for the opening ceremony then split into rooms. In each room, an Area VIII Officer was there to talk to the students about the stations that they went through, CDE's, LDE's, WLC, National Convention, being an officer, SAE's, and lastly getting the most out of their high school career. After going through the stations the students filled the auditorium for the closing ceremonies. Before they closed the Annual Greenhand Ceremony they invited a keynote speaker to the stage to give an amazing speech that would teach a life lesson to all of these Greenhands who now have started their great journey into FFA.

Above: Madalyn Benne, Ryleigh Case, Melanie Loesch and Paige Randolph receive their American FFA Degree at the 2023 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

National FFA Week will be celebrated at Russellville High School February 15-23, 2024. The FFA chapter has many events planned including our FFA Blood Drive from 2pm to 6pm in the Russellville High School Cafeteria February 15th, Church Day at Corticelli Baptist Church on February 18th, our annual Community Breakfast free to members of our Russellville School District community at The Agriculture Department Tuesday February 20th from 6am to 8:30am, Drive Your Tractor to School Day Thursday February 22nd, our annual FFA Week Reward Trip to Springfield, MO as well as many dress up days and events for FFA members.



Cole County R-I School District



KINDERGARTEN

SCREENING and REGISTRATION

March 18-20, 2024

8:30am-2:30pm

Russellville Baptist Church

5209 Simpson St.

(use back entrance by playground)

Please bring a copy of your child's current
immunization record.

Contact the elementary office at (573) 782-4814
to schedule a screening time.

School Carnival

After much consideration, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the school carnival for this year. The school carnival is a long-standing tradition at Russellville and we understand any disappointment this may cause. Over the years, so many students and their families have enjoyed the family-oriented fun, games, and festivities. With this spirit of community and family fun in mind, in the coming weeks, we will begin exploring other options for family and community activities, and hope to be able to announce the event soon.

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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Find us on the web at
Coler1indians.socs.net

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

Important Dates

March 1—End of 3rd Quarter

**March 4—Teachers' Workday—NO
SCHOOL**

March 21-22—Spring Break—NO SCHOOL

**March 28—MAKE-UP DAY—Early dismissal
12:30pm—No After School Care**

**March 29-April 2—Easter Break—NO
SCHOOL**

April 2—Teachers' Workday—NO SCHOOL

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.