



Newsletter

April 2026

Developing Tomorrow's Community by Expecting Excellence Today

Volume 17 Issue 9

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Dear Parents, Families, and Community Members,

Welcome back! I hope you and your families had a restful and joyful Easter Break. It is hard to believe, but as we settle back into our routines, we are officially in the home stretch of the academic year with only 24 instructional days left (as of April 9)!

April also brings MAP and End-of-Course (EOC) testing. These assessments provide valuable insights into our students' learning and help us measure the progress of our district's instructional goals. Let's make every single one of these remaining days count! We ask for your partnership at home to encourage our students to get plenty of rest, eat a good breakfast, and do their absolute best.

As we look toward the end of the year, I want to share some exciting updates, facility improvements, and points of pride from across our district:

Student Highlights & Campus Culture

I want to send a massive thank you to our Special Education teachers for their outstanding leadership in planning last month's Special Olympics event at the Lions Club fields. It was a fantastic day of kickball, music, and dancing. A special shoutout goes to our student helpers who participated right alongside our Special Olympians—your inclusion truly enhanced the environment for everyone.

Additionally, our FFA Agriculture Advocacy Committee is doing great work on campus! They will soon be removing an invasive Bradford Pear tree and replacing it with a native species through the state buyback program.

On a personal note, I recently had the opportunity to serve as a substitute teacher for our Pre-K program. It was incredibly rewarding to be a part of those early-learning experiences for the day! The students were kind, respectful, and eager to learn. It is clear that our youngest learners are incredibly well supported, and it is a joy to see the positive classroom culture building the foundation for our district's future.

Continued

Upcoming Parent Convenience: Online Enrollment

We are thrilled to announce that our new online enrollment system will officially roll out from April 20th through September 4th for the 2026-2027 school year. While traditional paper enrollment forms will still be available for those who prefer them, this new platform provides a faster, more convenient, and tech-friendly way for families to enroll their children for the upcoming school year. Please note that online enrollment is only available for students who are currently enrolled. Families who are new to the district for the 2026-2027 school year, or enrolling a Kindergarten student who was not enrolled in PreK will need to complete paper copies of the enrollment forms. A huge shoutout goes to Denita Jenkins for her hard work in getting this system ready for our community!

Phase 2 Bond Facility Improvements & Safety Upgrades

Thanks to the continued support of our community, the Board of Education has authorized an exciting package of Phase 2 Bond projects to tackle priority facility improvements this summer. These upgrades heavily focus on student safety, infrastructure, and long-term asset preservation.

Upcoming summer improvements include the final phase of asbestos abatement at the Elementary school, district-wide parking lot sealcoating to improve safety, and major flooring modernizations in the High School cafeteria and Elementary hallways. Additionally, our athletics program will receive a permanent, weather-resistant roof for the batting cage facility. Finally, we are thrilled to announce that the Elementary school will be getting a brand-new LED display board—a fantastic project made possible through a partnership between bond funds, our PTA, and generous local business contributions!

Looking Ahead to 2026-2027

The Board of Education has officially approved the school calendar for next year! As part of our commitment to providing excellent educational pathways, we have also officially renewed our annual agreement with the Nichols Career Center for the 2026–2027 school year, ensuring our high schoolers maintain access to outstanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities.

If you would like to stay involved, our next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th at 5:30 PM, where we will be certifying the recent BOE election results and reorganizing the Board.

Thank you for your continued dedication, support, and partnership in making our district a wonderful place for our students to grow. Let's finish this school year strong!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Jennewein
Superintendent of Schools



Have you ever wanted to high-five a T-Rex or build a robot in the year 3000? Pack your bags, because this summer, we're leaving 2026 behind! The past is waiting, the future is calling, and the adventure of a lifetime is just one "warp speed" away!

Location: Russellville Elementary

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Grade Levels: Entering Kindergarten - 6th

◆ **Academic Enrichment**

◆ **Engaging Activities**

◆ **Field Trip Finale**

◆ **Free Breakfast and Lunch**

After School Care available until 5:00 p.m. for a minimal fee.

Contact: Larissa Mehmert
lmehmert@coler1indians.org
573.782.4814

Registration
forms are due
by April 17th!

Summer School Enrollment

May 19th - June 4th, 2026

Please complete and return the form below to the Elementary Office by **Friday, April 17th**. This date allows us to plan and coordinate the program to ensure the best experience possible for our students.

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE SHEET FOR EACH STUDENT ATTENDING (Entering grades 1-6)

Student Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone # _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone # _____

Primary Email: _____

Transportation Information

NOTE: We cannot guarantee bus transportation if the form is received after May 9th.

_____ Ride bus () Both AM/PM () Morning Only () Afternoon Only

A.M. Pick-up address: _____

P.M. Drop-off address: _____

(if different from above)

_____ Car Rider () Both AM/PM () Morning Only () Afternoon Only

_____ Walk () Both AM/PM () Morning Only () Afternoon Only

_____ After School Care (Available until 5:00 p.m. for a fee)

* An ASC enrollment packet will be sent home to complete if a student is new to the program.

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone #: _____

Special Olympics Track Meet

The Cole County R-I School District is proud to host a Special Olympics track meet on Friday, April 18, 2026. The meet will take place at the Russellville High School track beginning at 9am. All are welcome!



Spring Band Concert and Art Show

Join us Wednesday, April 22, 2026, for the Russellville Junior High/High School Spring Band Concert and Art Show.

Artwork will be on display in the cafeteria from 4:00pm-6:00pm, with the Junior High/High School Spring Band concert beginning in the gym at 6pm.



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 64074

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

13600 Rt. C
Russellville, MO 65074



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by Expecting Excellence Today

Find us on the web at
Coler1indians.socs.net

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

Graduation Events



Baccalaureate - Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 6:30pm in the high school gym

Graduation - Friday, May 8, 2026 at 7:00pm in the high school gym



Important Dates

April 10 - Progress Reports

April 18 - Prom

April 20 - NO SCHOOL

May 3 - Baccalaureate - 6:30pm - HS Gym

May 8 - Graduation - 7:00pm - HS gym

May 13 - Last Day of School - Dismiss at 12:30pm

SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS & SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Sub bus drivers needed—Please contact Tina Weber at 573-690-3256. The current rate is \$21 per hour, guaranteed 4 hours/day when school is in session.

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.