

# Cole County R-I School District

February 2026 Newsletter

## Board of Education

President - Adam Weber; Christina Wood - Vice-President

Jenifer Seaver - Secretary; Renee Bungart - Treasurer

Ritchie Jenkins - Member; Stephen Schnieders - Member; Kent Shikles - Member

## Administration

Superintendent - 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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## Superintendent's Letter

**Dear Cole County R-I Families and Community,**

As we reach the end of January and move deeper into the second semester, I want to take a moment to share a few highlights and updates from across the Cole County R-I School District. This time of year offers an important opportunity to reflect on our progress, celebrate successes, and stay focused on the work ahead—all while keeping students at the center of everything we do.

First, I am incredibly proud of the outstanding learning taking place in our schools. Earlier this month, Cole R-1 Elementary School was featured in the *Jefferson City News Tribune* for the launch of our new elementary gifted program. This recognition reflects the innovative, student-centered instruction happening in our classrooms and the strong momentum already building within the program. I want to thank Special Services Director Lori Clark for her leadership in bringing this vision to life, along with Bethany Weber, our gifted teacher, who has done an exceptional job engaging students through rigorous and meaningful learning experiences.

Our students also continue to represent Russellville with pride beyond the classroom. Recently, we received a compliment from a visiting patron who attended a JV basketball game and was highly

impressed with our cheer program. The feedback highlighted our students' professionalism, teamwork, and school pride—qualities that speak volumes about our culture. I appreciate the dedication of cheer sponsors Ashley Onstott and Jenna Dick and the positive example our student-athletes provide for the entire community.

Supporting high-quality instruction remains a top priority for our district. This month, our staff continued meaningful professional learning focused on PLC and RTI growth. I want to thank Chris Garstang for leading our most recent professional development session and helping staff stay focused on collaboration, data, and instructional improvement. This work directly supports our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan and ensures our instruction remains aligned to Missouri Learning Standards and the rigor expected on state assessments.

I want to keep you informed as we head into the rest of the winter season. The district has officially used all of our allotted snow days for the 2025–2026 school year. Moving forward, the next five weather-related closures will transition to Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) so that learning can continue safely from home. We remain committed to clear communication and will notify you immediately if weather conditions require us to shift to an AMI day.

### **Looking Ahead**

The next meeting of the Cole County R-I Board of Education is scheduled for **Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** Tentative agenda items include an informational presentation regarding a school chaplain interest, a review of the district's 2024–2025 Annual Performance Report (APR), a fiscal year 2025–2026 budget amendment, approval of the 2026 summer school calendar and salary schedule, and administrative evaluations in closed session.

Thank you for your continued support of Cole County R-I Schools. Our success is made possible by the strong partnership between our staff, families, and community. I am grateful for the trust you place in us and look forward to the opportunities ahead as we continue working together to support student learning and growth.

Warm regards,

**Jeff Jennewein**

Superintendent, Cole County R-I School District

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## **Important Immunization Requirements for 2026–2027**

### **IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR INCOMING 8TH GRADERS OF 2026-2027**

The Nurse's office would like to inform parents/guardians of TWO vaccine requirements for the 2026-2027 school year. Before your student can start 8th grade, he/she will need to have the following additional immunizations:

1. A 'Tdap' vaccine (a tetanus booster with pertussis) is required for students enrolled in grade 8.
2. Students entering the 8th and 12th grade will be required to receive the Meningococcal (MCV) vaccine.

NOTE: For Grade 8, one dose of MCV is required. Dose must be given after 10 years of age. By the time they enter 12th grade, a second dose will also be required.

These immunizations can be administered by your child's healthcare provider or pharmacy. Also, the Cole County Health Department accepts most private insurances and administers vaccines. The Cole Co. Health Dept. is located at 3400 W Truman Blvd, Jefferson City, MO-phone # is 573-636-2181 for more information on their hours. An immunization record is necessary in order to receive vaccines.

Once he/she receives the Tdap and MCV, please forward a copy of the official record from your health care provider to Kaylyn Henson, LPN.

Completion of this requirement early rather than later will reduce congestion of clinics normally occurring during the summer rush. An updated copy of your child's immunization record, including the current 'Tdap' and 'MCV', must be submitted to the nurse's office no later than the 1st day of school in August.

Missouri Immunization Law states "All students must present documentation of up-to-date immunization status, including month, day, and year for each immunization before they can attend school." ([www.health.mo.gov](http://www.health.mo.gov))

Again: All students entering 8th grade are required to receive a Tdap' and 'MCV before school starts in August 2026. If you would like clarification of your child's current record, please call the Jr./Sr. High nurse, Kaylyn Henson 573-782-3313.

### **IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR INCOMING 12TH GRADERS OF 2026-2027**

The Nurse's office would like to inform parents/guardians of a vaccine requirement for the 2026-2027 school year affecting all incoming SENIORS. Before your student can start 12th grade, he/she will need to have the following immunizations:

**\*\*Two doses of the Meningococcal (MCV) vaccine are required unless the first dose was administered to a student who was 16 years of age or older, in which case only one dose is required. At least one dose must be given after 16 years of age.**

These immunizations can be administered by your child's healthcare provider or pharmacy. Also, the Cole County Health Department accepts most private insurances and administers vaccines. The Cole Co. Health Dept. is located at 3400 W Truman Blvd, Jefferson City, MO-phone # is 573-636-2181 for more information on their hours. An immunization record is necessary in order to receive vaccines.

Once he/she receives the MCV, please forward a copy of the official record from your health care provider to Kaylyn Henson, LPN.

Completion of this requirement early rather than later will reduce congestion of clinics normally occurring during the summer rush. An updated copy of your child's immunization record, including the current 'MCV', must be submitted to the nurse's office no later than the 1st day of school in August.

Missouri Immunization Law states "All students must present documentation of up-to-date immunization status, including month, day, and year for each immunization before they can attend school." (www.health.mo.gov)

Again: All students entering 12th grade are required to receive two doses of 'MCV before school starts in August 2026. If you would like clarification of your child's current record, please call the Jr./Sr. High nurse, Kaylyn Henson 573-782-3313.

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## Local Scholarships Released

### Lohman Lion's Scholarship

**Due Date: Mar 31, 2026**

**Amount: \$200**

Application requires listing school, church, community activities, organizations a member of, honors awarded, intended major and/or career goal.

Download application off scholarship website.

[https://rhscounselor.weebly.com/uploads/8/6/2/0/8620457/lohman\\_lions\\_club\\_app.pdf](https://rhscounselor.weebly.com/uploads/8/6/2/0/8620457/lohman_lions_club_app.pdf)

### Cole R-1 Jacquelin S (Gibler) Tinsley Scholarship

**Due: Mar 31, 2026**

**Amount: \$1500**

Minimum Qualifications: Graduating seniors from Cole County R-1, Russellville High School; Student has attended Russellville High School for at least two school years; Has maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0; Has an intent to pursue a bachelor's degree at any accredited college or university; Student demonstrates some financial need to attending college or university

Download application off scholarship website.

[https://rhscounselor.weebly.com/uploads/8/6/2/0/8620457/jacqueline\\_s.\\_gibler\\_tinsley\\_scholarship.pdf](https://rhscounselor.weebly.com/uploads/8/6/2/0/8620457/jacqueline_s._gibler_tinsley_scholarship.pdf)

### Cole R-1 Celia McIlwain Memorial Scholarship

**Due Date: Mar 31, 2026**

**Amount: \$300 per semester for two semesters**

For graduating seniors from Cole County R-1, Russellville High School. Eligibility: Rank in upper 50% of graduating class, Financial need, Show proof of acceptance and enrollment in college, university, or technical college, Write a 1 page essay detailing your educational and career goals and financial need.

Download application off scholarship website.

[https://rhscounselor.weebly.com/uploads/8/6/2/0/8620457/celia\\_mcilwain\\_memorial\\_scholarship.pdf](https://rhscounselor.weebly.com/uploads/8/6/2/0/8620457/celia_mcilwain_memorial_scholarship.pdf)

These can all be found on the scholarship website or the scholarship list.

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

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## SAE Reward Trip

SAE Reward Trip

By: Callee Smith FFA Reporter 2025-2026

On October 3rd, Russellville FFA members that held a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) visit in the summer with FFA Advisors Nathan Strobel and Ellen Romero went on the annual SAE Reward Trip. This year, the group traveled to the Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield, MO to attend their annual Farm Fest. Highlights of the festival include livestock exhibits, large machinery displays, and shopping vendors. FFA members commented how it was very fun and educational.

Russellville FFA members that attended include: Front Row L to R: Silas Ellis, Erin Whittle, Bailey Wineland, Lydia Tripp, Bayley Graham, Audra Whittle, Lyssa Nix, Dane Fisher, Caleb Knoche, Brodie Scheperle, Kaylee Strobel, Brooklyn Wood, Aaryn Bunch, Callee Smith, Abby Foresee, Mason Bias and Miles Ellis.

Back Row L to R: Jada Schmidt, Grant Smith, Hunter Harris, Brady Kauffman, Konner Hagenhoff, Luke Stillfield, Cole Mack, Braden Schad, Levi Parker, Max Weber, Zeke Mertens, Lyla Blackwell, Gabby Stamp and Alex Maier.



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## Russellville High School 2026 Courtwarming

Courtwarming has been rescheduled!

Join us Friday, February 20, 2026 for Russellville High School's Courtwarming games versus the Linn Wildcats!

Please note the updated game time and order of events:

**5:00pm** - Junior Varsity boys vs. Wildcats

Varsity Girls vs Lady Wildcats

Coronation

Varsity Boys vs Wildcats

We look forward to seeing you there!



### **Introducing the 2026 Courwarming Candidates!**

**Senior class:** Jackson Smith & Bella Maharas

**Junior class:** Matthew Carlton & Olivia Schaffer

**Sophomore class:** Mason Bias & Katelyn Farris

**Freshman class:** Andrew Eickhoff & Ava Beckel

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### **Winter Athletic Enhancement**

Winter Athletic Enhancement Program Phase 2 Has Begun!

Please see the flyer and calendar for phase 2 of our Winter Athletic Enhancement program. Come join us! #WeAreAllIndians

# 2025 - 2026 WINTER ATHLETIC ENHANCEMENT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 11 <b>PHASE 2</b>	12 W.A.E. #5 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	13	14 W.A.E. #6 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	15	16	17
18	19 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	20 W.A.E. #7 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	21 W.A.E. #8 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	22	23	24
25	26 W.A.E. #9 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	27	28 W.A.E. #10 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	29	30	31
February 1	February 2 W.A.E. #11 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	3	4 W.A.E. #12 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	5	6 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	7
8	9 W.A.E. #13 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	10	11 W.A.E. #14 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	12	13	14
15	16 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	17 W.A.E. #15 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	18 W.A.E. #16 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	19	20	21
22	23 W.A.E. #17 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	24	25 W.A.E. #18 3:30p - 5:00p -T-Shirts & Shorts -Meet in Weight Room	26	27	28

# 2025-2025 WINTER ATHLETIC ENHANCEMENT

**#EARN THERIGHT2WIN**  
**HAVE FUN & GET BETTER TOGETHER!**



**MONDAY & WEDNESDAY**  
**3:30p to 5:00p**

**BRING WORKOUT**  
**CLOTHES!**

**MEET IN THE WEIGHT**  
**ROOM!!**

**PHASE 2 OF W.A.E. IS OPEN TO ALL 7TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS NOT PARTICIPATING IN BASKETBALL**

**EXCITED FOR YOU TO JOIN US THIS WINTER!!!**

**PLEASE CONTACT COACH RULO OR COACH FERRI IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!**

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## Important Dates

**February 5** - Parent/Teacher Conferences - Dismiss at 12:30; NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE

**February 6** - NO SCHOOL

**February 16** - Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL

**February 20** - Courtwarming vs Linn; Games begin at 5pm; Coronation following Varsity girls game

**March 2** - Teacher Workday - NO SCHOOL

**March 6** - End of 3rd Quarter

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## Employment Opportunities

**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.

### COLE COUNTY R-1 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](http://Coler1indians.socs.net)

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



**Jeff Jennewein**

Jeff is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters