

# Cole County R-I School District

January 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,**

Happy New Year, and welcome back to the second half of the school year at Cole County R-I! I hope your family enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday season. As we return from winter break, it has been encouraging to see the renewed energy in our classrooms and across our district. January is a natural time to reset, refocus, and continue building on the great work already underway.

### Board of Education Update

The filing period for the April 7, 2026, Board of Education election has officially closed. With three candidates filing for the three open seats, an election will not be necessary this spring. Adam Weber, Christina Wood, and Dwayne Blackwell will each begin new three-year terms, and the Board will reorganize during the April Board of Education meeting.

I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to Ritchie Jenkins for his dedicated service on the Board of Education. His leadership, commitment, and support have had a lasting impact on our students, staff, and community, and we are grateful for his time and service.

## Current Topics & Updates

- **Stellar Virtual School:** Due to delays in the state curriculum approval process through DESE, the launch of Stellar Virtual has been shifted to the 2026–2027 school year. We will continue to monitor progress and provide updates as additional courses receive approval.
- **4-Day School Week:** A staff committee has been researching the 4-day school week model and will share informational findings with the Board of Education at the January meeting. This presentation is intended to support discussion and understanding only. No decisions have been made, and any future consideration would include community input.
- **School Chaplain:** In response to a new Missouri statute (RSMo 160.2505), the district is reviewing information related to a potential school chaplain role. These conversations are exploratory and include consultation with legal counsel to ensure compliance. At this time, this topic is for discussion only, and no action has been taken.

## Financial Transparency and Accountability

During the December Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Annual Secretary of the Board Report (ASBR) as well as the district’s annual audit. These reports confirm that Cole County R-I remains financially stable, compliant with state requirements, and committed to transparency.

While districts across the state continue to face financial challenges, we are taking deliberate steps to refine budgeting practices, strengthen long-term financial planning, and ensure district resources remain focused on student learning and future sustainability.

## Looking Ahead

The Board of Education will meet on **Thursday, January 15 at 5:30 PM**. The meeting will include an informational presentation on the school calendar, a budget amendment for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, consideration of the student tuition rate for the 2026–2027 school year, and regular administrative reports.

## Thank You

Cole County R-I is strong because of the partnership between our schools and our community. Your support, trust, and involvement make a meaningful difference for our students each and every day. As we move through 2026, we remain committed to open communication, thoughtful planning, and providing a high-quality educational experience for every student.

Thank you for being an important part of our school community.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Jeff Jennewein**

Superintendent

**Cole County R-I School District**

## Athletic Enhancement

We are excited to begin Phase 2 of our Winter Athletic Enhancement Program! Starting January 12, we will be opening the weight room after school on Mondays and Wednesdays! Come join us!

#WeAreAllIndians

# **2025-2025 WINTER ATHLETIC ENHANCEMENT**

**#EARN THE RIGHT 2 WIN**  
**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 YOU TO JOIN US THIS WINTER!!!**

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

# 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

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## Russellville High School 2026 Courtwarming

*Russellville Courtwarming*

*2026*

*Russellville Indians*

*vs*

*New Bloomfield Wildcats*

*Friday, January 23, 2026 - 5:00pm*

Join us Friday, January 23, 2026 for Russellville High School's Courtwarming games versus the New Bloomfield 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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### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

The spring Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, February 5, 2026. We will dismiss at 12:30pm; there will be no After School Care!

Conferences will be held from 1:00-4:00pm, and from 4:30-7:00pm. There will be a break from 4:00pm-4:30pm for staff dinner.

There will be no school on Friday, February 6!

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*Save The Date*

PTO presents:  
**Russellville Elementary School  
V.I.P. Dance**

**MORE DETAILS  
COMING SOON!**

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### Important Dates

**January 6** - Spring Semester Begins

**January 19** - NO SCHOOL - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**January 23** - Courtwarming - Games begin at 5pm; Coronation following Varsity girls game

**January 30** - Progress Reports

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

**February 6** - NO SCHOOL

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

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



**Jeff Jennewein**

Jeff is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters