



Newsletter

March 2026

Developing Tomorrow's Community by Expecting Excellence Today

Volume 17 Issue 8

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Dear Cole R-1 Families and Community Members,

As we move through the final stretch of winter and begin looking toward spring, there is a great deal of positive momentum across the Cole County R-1 School District. February has been filled with meaningful progress—strengthening our facilities, enhancing student safety, planning responsibly for the future, and celebrating the academic success of our students.

I'm grateful for the continued partnership between our staff, Board of Education, families, and community. Together, we are making steady progress toward our goal of becoming a premier learning organization.

Investing in Our Facilities

Thanks to voter-approved Phase 2 bond funds, several important projects are moving forward:

- **Batting Cage Improvements:** Work is underway, enhancing our athletic facilities while remaining within the approved allocation.
- **Elementary Access Control:** Additional security measures are being installed at the elementary entrance to further strengthen building safety.
- **Gym HVAC Review:** After a heater issue was identified during a recent basketball game, the unit was immediately shut down and inspected. As we evaluate repair and replacement options, the Board will consider a comprehensive solution that addresses both heating and air conditioning needs to ensure safety and protect our facilities long-term.

These projects reflect careful planning, responsible spending, and a commitment to providing safe, high-quality environments for our students.

Strengthening Technology & Student Safety

Our primary server is scheduled for replacement to maintain reliability and avoid rising maintenance costs. We are exploring installation through MOREnet and reviewing E-Rate eligibility to reduce the financial impact.

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In addition, Bark monitoring has been implemented for students in grades 5–12. This digital safety system helps block inappropriate content and provides alerts when urgent concerns arise. Student safety—both physical and digital—remains a top priority, and we are proud to implement tools that proactively support that goal.

Responsible Financial Stewardship

We continue to plan carefully for the future. Updated revenue and expenditure projections are guiding proactive decision-making, and we are collaborating with staff leadership to prepare for potential budget adjustments in 2026–2027.

Cost containment efforts are also underway, including supply purchasing reviews and evaluation of building-level subscriptions. These steps allow us to protect classroom instruction while working toward long-term financial stability.

Our goal remains clear: maintain strong programming for students while eliminating deficit spending and strengthening the district's financial position.

Summer School 2026 – Approved

The Board of Education approved the 2026 Summer School program, which will run May 19 – June 4 (adjusted for Memorial Day).

Elementary (Grades K–6): Students will participate in a S.T.E.A.M.-focused enrichment model while receiving targeted reading and math support. The program includes daily specials, a celebratory field trip, transportation options, and free meals.

High School (Grades 7–12): The focus will be structured credit recovery and remediation to ensure students remain on track for graduation.

Summer school remains an important extension of our mission—meeting students where they are and providing meaningful opportunities for growth.

2025 APR Report – Strong & Stable Performance

In February, we presented our district's 2025 MSIP 6 Annual Performance Report (APR) to the Board of Education.

The district earned **76.8% of total possible points**, with a **Composite APR of 75.4%** across the reporting cycle—reflecting consistent and stable performance.

Notable highlights include:

- 100% of points earned in Improvement Planning, Climate & Culture Survey, and Kindergarten Entry Assessment
- 100% of points in 4-Year Graduation Rate

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- 100% of points in College & Career Readiness Assessments
- 100% of points in Graduate Follow-Up

Our graduation outcomes and college-and-career readiness indicators remain strong. At the same time, we are taking targeted steps to strengthen academic growth and advanced credit performance.

Currently:

- 56% of seniors are enrolled in at least one AP course
- 14 seniors are completing an Industry-Recognized Credential
- 17 seniors are enrolled in dual credit coursework

These efforts reflect our commitment to preparing every student for success beyond high school.

Community Development

A public hearing was recently held regarding development near the elementary school. A Casey's gas station is planned for the vacant lot in front of the building. Traffic flow during arrival and dismissal was discussed, and we will continue working closely with city officials to ensure student safety remains the priority.

Growth in our community is exciting, and we will remain proactive in monitoring any impact on our schools.

Welcoming New Team Members

Please join us in welcoming:

- Sarah Henson – Substitute (as needed basis)
- Alex Baur – Substitute (as needed basis)

We are thankful for individuals who step forward to support our students and staff.

Looking Ahead

Our next Board of Education meeting will be held March 19 at 5:30 p.m. Key items include consideration of health insurance for 2026–2027, the 2026–2027 school calendar, a contract amendment related to virtual programming, and discussion of budget priorities aligned with our SMART goal of reducing operating expenditures.

As always, thank you for your continued trust and support of our schools. The progress we are making is the result of strong collaboration, thoughtful leadership, and a shared belief in the potential of every student. Together, we will continue building a district our students are proud to attend and our community is proud to support.

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.

Special Olympics Unified Basketball

On February 4, 2026, we hosted our Annual Special Olympics Unified Basketball Event. We had 6 other local schools attend: California, Camdenton, Eldon, Linn, South Callaway, and Tipton.

Our sponsors were:

Gold Level

Kaiser Electric
Bias Lawncare & Landscaping

Silver Level

California Fraternal Order of Eagles

Bronze Level

RHS Boosters
Community Point Bank
Double X Speedway
Coca-Cola of Jefferson City
Trinity Lutheran Church
Jefferson Bank



Our athletes demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship, improved technical skills, and high levels of teamwork. We are proud to announce that the delegation returned with both Silver and Bronze honors.

Our athletes competed in two distinct categories, designed to test both individual technical proficiency and team strategy:

- **Team Skills Competition: Silver Medal** The Team Skills event evaluates athletes on fundamental mechanics including chest or bounce pass and spot shot. Our athletes' consistent performance in these drills reflects the hard work put in during practice sessions this season.
- **3v3 Team Competition: Bronze Medal** Competing in the half-court 3v3 division, our team showed great endurance. This format is high-intensity and requires quick transitions; securing a podium finish is a testament to the team's growth in communication and on-court positioning.





FACS Club Supports Local Animal Shelter

The FACS Club, in partnership with TRIBE time, successfully collected 40-50 items for the Animal Shelter in Jefferson City. Members also crafted toys from old t-shirts to donate. On February 18, the club visited the shelter to deliver the donations and tour the facility. Following the visit, students enjoyed a sweet treat from Dairy Queen. A big thank you to everyone who contributed!



Russellville Indians Track

We are excited for the upcoming track season! We would always love to have more athletes join us. Please look at the following schedule and let Coach Rulo or Coach Sconce know if you have any questions!

Middle School Information

Remind Messages:

Please text the message @rmsindians to 81010
 Coach Caleb Sconce: csconce@coler1indians.org
 Cell: (573-544-8607)

Tentative Meet Schedule 2026

(Bus Leave/Field Event Start Time)

3/24 - Linn Open (1:30p/3:00p)
 3/26 - RHS Open (work)
 3/27 - Blair Oaks Invitational (2:15p/3:00p)
 4/8 - Hallsville Invitational (1:30p/3:30p)
 4/10 - Eldon Invitational (2:15p/3:00p)
 4/11 - RHS Invitational (work) 10:00a
 4/13 - Harrisburg Invitational (12:15p/2:00p)
 4/16 - South Callaway Invitational (2:00/3:00p)
 4/20 - Linn Invitational (11:30a/1:00p)
 4/27 - RMS War-Tribe Relays Invitational (2:00p)
 5/1 - Central State 8 Conference
 @ New Bloomfield (2:00p/3:00p)
 5/2 - Missouri MS Track and Field Championship (7:00a/9:30a)

High School Information

Remind Messages:

Please text the message @rhsindians to 81010
 Coach Tim Rulo: trulo@coler1indians.org
 Cell: (314) 210-0209

Tentative Meet Schedule 2026

(Bus Leave/Field Event Start Time)

3/26 - RHS Open (NA/3:30)
 3/31 - California Open (2:30/4:00)
 4/2 - Monroe City Invitational (12:00/3:00)
 4/11 - Russellville Invitational (10:00)
 4/14 - Salisbury Open (12:00/2:30)
 4/17 - Smith Cotton Invitational (12:00/2:00)
 4/20 - Van Far Track Meet (1:30/4:00)
 4/22 - Harrisburg Spike Classic (1:45/4:00)
 4/23 - Hermann Relays (1:45/4:00)
 4/27 - RMS War-Tribe Relays Invitational (work) (2:00p)
 5/1 - Central State 8 Conference Meet
 @ South Callaway (1:45/3:00)
 5/6 - Sedalia Smith Cotton (2:00/4:00)
 5/9 - Districts (TBA)
 5/16 - Sectionals (TBA)
 5/22-5/23 - State (Jefferson City)

Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten screenings are currently open for the 2026-2027 school year for Cole R-1 Elementary School. If you have a child who will be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2026, we want to know about them!

Please call Russellville Elementary School at (573) 782-4814 to schedule a Kindergarten Screening appointment. *Current Pre-K students will be scheduled and tested throughout their school day.

Kindergarten screenings will be March 16th, 17th, and 18th from 8am-2pm at Russellville Baptist Church 5209 Simpson Street, Russellville, MO. Please allow for an hour to an hour and a half per screening.

The following documents for new students will be required at the screening:

- Proof of Residency (property tax statement, legal property description, utility bill/agreement, rental agreement/receipt, or real estate contract)
- Proof of legal name/age (example: Birth Certificate, Legal Document, Passport, etc.)
- Current Immunizations Record
- Proof of guardianship court documents (if needed)

If you have any questions, please contact the Elementary school at 573-782-4814.

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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Find us on the web at
Coler1indians.socs.net

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

Important Dates

March 2 - Teacher PD Day - NO SCHOOL

March 6 - End of 3rd Quarter

March 16-18 - Kindergarten Screenings

March 19-23 - Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

April 2-6 - Easter Break - NO SCHOOL

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.