



Newsletter

Developing Tomorrow's Community by Expecting Excellence Today

Volume 15 Issue 1

September 2023

Board of Education

President
Ritchie Jenkins

Renee Bungart
Vice-President

Jenifer Seaver
Secretary

Elaine Buschjost
Member

Stephen Schnieders
Member

Adam Weber
Member

Christina Wood
Member

Administration

Superintendent
Jeff Jennewein

Junior High/High School Principal
Danielle Greubel

Junior High/High School Asst. Principal
Ryan Hedrick

K-6 Principal
Tina Kauffman

Director of Special Services
Lori Clark

Inside This Issue

Item 1 Letter from Superintendent	1-2
Item 2 Board Meeting Minutes	2
Item 3 Back-to-School news	3-4
Item 4 Events	4-5
Item 5 Important Dates	6
Item 6 Employment	6

Superintendent's Letter

Priority Area #1 (Teaching and Learning)

On August 15, our new teachers were welcomed to the District with cinnamon rolls and a welcome basket from CTA. Mrs. Mehmert reviewed our new teacher mentor program. We participated in a "Who You Are in Pictures" activity to get to know each other better. I had the opportunity to model two high-yield instructional strategies (Carousel brainstorming and JigSaw) as we learned more about our district's mission and professional learning communities. We finished with a productive discussion on Hattie's 250 influences on student achievement. They all did a tremendous job and I look forward to working with them this year!

Priority Area #2 (Collaborative Culture/Staffing)

We are excited to add more friendly, new faces to our district and to see our existing staff supporting students in other areas! Please welcome our new staff! Vonnie Strobel - bus monitor; Kendall Koffer - paraprofessional; Barbie Green - bus driver; Greg Hentges - bus driver; Kayleigh Campbell - Full-time Sub; Brian Bishop - Baseball Assistant Coach; Nik Ferri - Assistant Track Coach; Ashley Onstott - Cheerleading Sponsor; Amber Minton - Cook

District Media Promotion

The nation is currently experiencing a teacher shortage. According to NPR, 45% of U.S. public schools had at least one teacher vacancy. According to Education Weekly, between the 2008-09 and the 2018-19 academic years, the number of people completing a teacher education program declined by almost a third. Traditional teacher-preparation programs saw the largest decline—35 percent—but alternative programs experienced drops, too. **We need your help!** It is more important now than ever to lift each other up, take care of one another, and to be a part of the solution!

Our district's mission is to expect excellence every day. Excellence is the quality of being outstanding or extremely good. If you witness a staff member exhibiting excellent work, please take 5 minutes and let us know! The Google form for recognizing our staff is attached here <https://forms.gle/8ASdPpGVYHPp6qFt8> and will be made available on our school district website. We will recognize our Exhibiting Excellence Award winners each month on our District Facebook page, newsletter, and monthly Board of Education meetings. Just as we recognize our excellent students, we would like to recognize our excellent staff.

August Exhibiting Excellence Award Winners

- A big shout out to our new director of maintenance, David Coplin, and his crew for all of their hard work in preparing our facilities for the new school year!
- Sheri Koestner and Stephanie Marr did a wonderful job planning and executing the scavenger hunt on Friday! What a fun team building activity!!
- Tina Kauffman partnered with food trucks for our open house. This really brought lots of excitement and an even more inviting atmosphere!!
- Denise Crider partnered with Andrea Holloway from CDFY for open house. Another successful partnership in providing pertinent information for our families!

New Conference Update

The Tipton R-VI Board of Education voted for their district to join the new conference. More information on the way.

(continued)

Priority Area #3 (Funding/Facilities)

Tax Rate

The tax rate was set by our Board of Education for 2023-2024 at \$3.51 incidental fund, \$0.95 debt service fund. The tax rate is required to be set by September 1st each year, and the process followed to calculate the tax rates is provided by the State Auditor's Office using data provided by Cole County and Moniteau County. The process followed is in compliance with Missouri Statute 67.110 and Board Policy P 3320, and notifications were posted at the Elementary building, JH/HS building, Post Office, and City Hall seven days prior to the tax rate hearing. The notification was also uploaded on our school website.

Every year the district submits to the State Auditor its tax forms for the review and approval of the operating levy (which includes the Incidental Fund, Teachers Funds and Capital Projects Fund) and the debt service levy.

Operating Levy

There are two adjustments to the operating tax rate ceiling that are reviewed by the State Auditor.

- First is any adjustments due to increases in State Assessed Railroad and Utility (SARRU) revenue.
- Second is changes to the tax rate based on movement up or down to the local assessed valuation.

As the district experiences changes in SARRU revenue, the Auditor will lower or raise your local tax ceiling to offset the changes. Our SARRU revenue increased this past year. Our prior year ceiling stayed the same at 3.7248, which is something to consider utilizing in 2024.

If the district's local assessed valuation changes, the Auditor will also adjust the levy accordingly. In general, if the local assessed valuation is growing above the Consumer Price Index (CPI) after subtracting growth from new construction and personal property, it will push the operating levy down. If the district is losing assessed valuation, it will drive the operating levy up, but never above the voter approved maximum authorized levy. Our current year CPI is 6.5%, but legally capped at 5%.

Summary:

Prior Year Assessed Valuation: 65,647,366
 Current Year Assessed Valuation: 67,879,733
 Difference: 2,232,367, a 3.40% Change
 Subtract New Construction: 784,880
 Net Difference: 1,447,487
 This number represents an increase or decrease of 2.2049%
 Prior year operating ceiling 3.7248
 Prior year operating ceiling adjusted 3.5100

Debt Service Levy:

The Auditor mainly bases the debt service levy on the next two years bond payments, current assessed valuation, and the existing account balance. With a bond issue, the voters of the district approved the amount of money that could be borrowed. The Board of Education is legally obligated to levy a sufficient amount in the debt service fund to meet the bond payments. If the assessed valuation significantly decreases, the debt service levy would need to be adjusted higher. The current tax rate ceiling on the State Auditor Form C is 0.9500, which is sufficient to meet the District's obligations.

Addition at High School Update

The new 8-inch water main is now complete and is routed around the west parking lot. The existing waterline went through the footprint of the new addition and was unfortunately pierced over the summer. With assistance from the city, the final connections were completed. The city was involved throughout the entire installation, and all lines were pressure tested. All engineered fill except for the drainage course under the new slab is complete. ES&S was present to test compaction during installation. All of the aggregate piers under the footings have been completed and compaction test reports submitted. Exterior windows facing the new addition were removed, infilled with cmu block, and painted in the existing classrooms, and the construction crew began digging, rebar installation, and pouring footings just before school began.

Sincerely,
 Dr. Jeff Jennewein,
 Superintendent

Board Minutes

Board meeting minutes are posted to the district's website at coler1indians.org 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.



Infinite Campus Parent Portal Instructions

Parents and Guardians, the Cole County R-I School District has moved its student information system from TylerSIS to Infinite Campus.

Please check your email for details and instructions for setting up your parent portal with Infinite Campus. There is a link included in the email that must be used, or you may follow the step-by-step instructions. Please note that the links and activation keys are randomly generated by Infinite Campus and are unique to each parent or guardian. District staff cannot forward a new link to you or provide you with an alternate activation key.

If you have already set up your parent portal, you will not receive additional emails to set up your account. If you have not set up your parent portal account you will continue to receive activation emails until your account is set up. Please note that the links and activation keys expire and are only valid for a one-time use. If you have not received an email to set up your account, please contact your child's building office for assistance.

Free and reduced meal applications are available at your child's school office and online at coler1indians.socs.net (Resources, Family Links).

Staff Scavenger Hunt

One of our goals as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) is to work together collaboratively to improve student learning. In order to do this, teachers must know each other and build trusting relationships. To kick off the school year, our teachers and administrators were sent as teams to navigate a scavenger hunt throughout our district. This gave our new and veteran teachers the opportunity to see parts of our community that they may not have been to before (i.e. Enon, Lohman). Staff worked together to solve clues in order to find each stop, complete tasks to receive a piece to their final clue and had the chance to earn bonus points. We had some very positive feedback from those who participated, including several of our local businesses. We also learned about our fellow staff members, like who is a pool shark, who is good at math, who can solve riddles in no time flat and who has the best dad jokes. Once the teams received all of the clues to their final destination, they had to unscramble the letters to find that they were going to Tres Agaves for lunch. While eating lunch together as a staff, we were able to share our experiences and found that our staff is quite competitive, resourceful and a lot of fun! We even learned that the winning team helped the other teams. That is true teamwork! The winning team was team #8; Tina Kauffman, Tim Rulo, Lucas Branson, Amber Shepherd and Abby Schnieders.

We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their participation and assistance in our scavenger hunt:

Lohman Producers Exchange - MFA
Bea's Place
Lohman Eagle Stop
Pass-N-Gas
Humpy's Bar and Grill
Covered Bridge Market
Tres Agaves Mexican Restaurant
Kelly Coombs, Paraprofessional
Ginger Grellner, Paraprofessional
Tasha Jess, Paraprofessional
Matt Witt, Paraprofessional

Homecoming 2023

Friday, October 6th

Order your Russellville Homecoming apparel online at

<https://russellvilleboosterclub.itemorder.com>

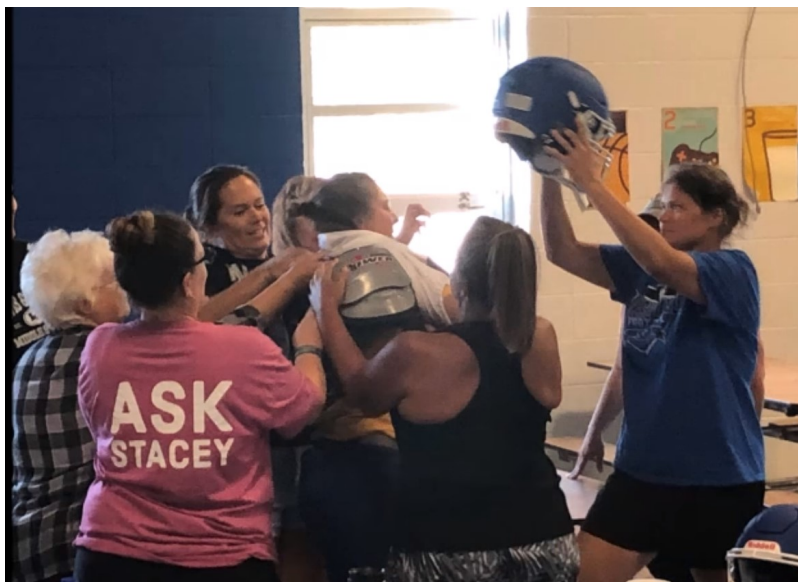
The Homecoming store will close

Monday, September 11, 2023 at noon!



Russellville Indians Football

Gosh, sure do wish these ladies had some eligibility left! Thanks to all the moms who were able to join us for our Football Moms' 101 event. It was a great evening of yummy treats, learning about football, a visit from the legendary Roger McPheeters, and drills and spills with their sons.



13600 Route C
Russellville, MO 65074

Developing Tomorrow's Community
by Expecting Excellence Today

Find us on the web at
Coler1indians.socs.net

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Russellville, MO 65074

Box Holder
Russellville, MO 65074

Important Dates

September 4— Labor Day—NO SCHOOL

September 15—Mid Quarter

September 20—Picture Day

October 6—Homecoming (Early Release
12:30pm)

October 9—NO SCHOOL—Teacher P/D Day

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.