



**Cole County R-1 Schools**

**Russellville**

# Newsletter

*Developing Tomorrow's Community by Expecting Excellence Today*

**Volume 17 Issue 2**

**September 2025**

## **Superintendent's Letter**

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

What a fantastic start to the school year! Our first days were filled with energy, collaboration, and excitement, and I am so grateful for all of your hard work in making it such a smooth beginning. A special welcome goes out to all of our new staff members—we are thrilled to have you join the Cole County R-I family!

At our **August 26th Board of Education meeting**, we had a productive evening, including our annual **public tax rate hearing** and the official approval of our **2025–2026 Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) SMART Goals**. These goals will guide our work this year and beyond, and I'm excited for what we will accomplish together.

### **Welcome to Our New Staff**

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to the newest members of our team:

- **Bethany Weber** – Part-Time Gifted Instructor
- **Patty Smith** – Part-Time High School Teacher
- **Maya Iler** – Substitute Teacher (as needed)
- **Jimmy Green** – Paraprofessional
- **Cooper Basnett** – Paraprofessional
- **Denita Jenkins** – Technology Director

And our new coaches:

- **Heather Green** – Assistant Archery Coach
- **Bryce Hale** – Assistant Football Coach

We are so glad to have you here and can't wait to see the impact you will make on our students!

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#### **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 Report Highlights

Here are a few key updates I shared with the Board:

- Back-to-School Success** – Thank you to everyone who made our professional development days meaningful, from the Ministerial Alliance for hosting breakfast to Renee Bungart for capturing our opening day moments.
- Facilities Updates** – The high school gym bleachers have been reattached. The new elementary play-ground (delayed by rain) will now be installed on **September 8th**. Asphalt repairs and parking lot striping are also underway.
- Phase 2 Bond Update** – The outdoor locker room project estimate has increased, and we are exploring cost-saving options.
- Looking Ahead** – Our next Board of Education meeting will be **Thursday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m.**, following a facility walkthrough. Tentative agenda items include the Staff Evaluation Plan, Board training, and performance metrics.

## Russellville School Foundation (RSF): Supporting Teachers & Students

The **Russellville School Foundation (RSF)** plays a vital role in supporting education in our district. Each year, the RSF provides:

- Numerous grants to our teachers** to enhance instruction and fund innovative classroom projects.
- Scholarships for our graduating seniors**, helping them pursue their college and career goals.

This incredible support is made possible through the generosity of our community and fundraising efforts like the annual **RSF Golf Tournament**.

### How you can help:

- Play in the tournament with a team
- Become a hole sponsor
- Spread the word to others who may want to support RSF

Every dollar raised goes back to our students and staff, making a real difference in classrooms and beyond. Flyers and forms are attached if you'd like to be part of this year's event.

[25 Golf Flyer.pdf](#)

[25 Golf Hole Sponsor.pdf](#)

[25 Golf Team Form.pdf](#)

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## Tax Rate Hearing Summary

The Board approved a **tax rate of \$4.7100 per \$100 of assessed valuation**, the same as last year. This balanced rate allows us to meet operational needs, honor voter-approved bond obligations, and fund capital projects while remaining fiscally responsible.

## Our CSIP SMART Goals

### Priority 1: Teaching & Learning

*Goal: By May 2026, 100% of certified teaching staff will design, implement, and evaluate one instructional unit using the PLC process.*

- Kicking off with the **15-Day PLC Challenge book study** on September 11th!

### Priority 2: Collaborative Culture & Staffing

*Goal: By August 2025, the district will implement a district-wide IT Ticketing System, with 100% staff training and monthly usage reports to the Board.*

- Thank you to everyone who joined the August trainings—your participation is helping us streamline communication and support!

### Priority 3: Funding & Facilities

*Goal: By August 30, 2026, complete 100% of Phase 2 Bond projects, grant-funded initiatives, and capital improvements on time and within budget.*

- Projects include the high school gym floor, district parking lots, and the new lower elementary playground.

I am confident that by working together, we will achieve these goals and continue to make Cole County R-I a great place to learn, work, and grow. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our students and community.

## Go Indians!

Sincerely,

**Jeff Jennewein**

Superintendent, Cole County R-I School District

## Board Minutes

Board meeting minutes are posted to the district's website at [coler1indians.socs.net](http://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.





**We are excited to introduce Allie Hillman as the newest Parent Educator joining our P. A. T. Team!**

Allie Hillman, her husband Devin and their three kids, Rowen, Luke and Adalynn, love being part of the Russellville community. They enjoy spending time together, playing outside, swimming and board games. Allie earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Southwest Baptist University in 2013. She has worked in many different social work settings but for the past 7 years has been a stay-at-home mom to her three children.

"I am so excited to be back in the Russellville community and part of this amazing school district. I have received services through Parents As Teachers with my own children and found the support I received and knowledge so beneficial as a new mom. I hope to provide that same support for families in this new role."

# Russellville Homecoming

**Friday, September 19, 2025  
Kickoff 7:00pm**



## Russellville vs. Affton

**Coronation during halftime**

# **Russellville Homecoming 2025**

Homecoming Spirit Week—September 15-19, 2025

Early Release (12:30pm) on Friday, September 19

~~HOMECOMING GAME—Friday, September 19

7:00pm vs Affton~~

Homecoming Dance—Saturday, September 20 at 7:00pm

## **Russellville Homecoming** **Spirit Week 2025**

**September 15-19, 2025**

**“Battle of the Bests”**

Grades 7, 9 and 11 will battle grades 8, 10, and 12 in the following categories for dress-up days!

**Monday—Athletes vs Nerds**

Tuesday—Country Club vs Country

**Wednesday—Surfer vs Biker**

Thursday—Young vs Old

**Friday—Blue vs White**



## PUBLIC RELEASE

July 2025

**Cole County R-1 School District** announced its revised free and reduced price policy for school children unable to pay the full price of meals served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,345	\$1,696	\$392	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$557
2	27,495	2,292	529	39,128	3,261	753
3	34,645	2,888	667	49,303	4,109	949
4	41,795	3,483	804	59,478	4,957	1,144
5	48,945	4,079	942	69,653	5,805	1,340
6	56,095	4,675	1,079	79,828	6,653	1,536
7	63,245	5,271	1,217	90,003	7,501	1,731
8	70,395	5,867	1,354	100,178	8,349	1,927
Each add'l member	+7,150	+596	+138	+10,175	+848	+196

Children from families whose current income is at or below those shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available at the school office. To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application and return it to the school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/TANF case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number or indication of no social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income or other information provided on the application at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Households with children who are eligible under the foster, Head Start, homeless, migrant, or runaway programs should contact the school for assistance in receiving meal benefits. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Children who are members of households currently certified as receiving Food Stamps, TANF or FDPIR are eligible for free meals. To complete an application, the household must provide the names of the children, a statement that the household receives the qualifying benefits, the Food Stamps/TANF/FDPIR case number, and the signature of the adult household member making application. When known by the school that members of a household are receiving assistance from Food Stamps, TANF or FDPIR, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free school meals. If any children in the household were not listed on the eligibility notice or not listed on the application, the household should contact the school to have benefits extended to all children in the household.

If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for these benefits.

Under the provisions of the policy, the Central Office Administrative Assistant will review the applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the Superintendent. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the central office where any interested party may review it.

(Information follows on the reverse side.)

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**USDA Non-discrimination Statement:**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, [AD-3027](#), found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Free and Reduced Applications

Applications for free and reduced meals may be printed from the district website under the Schools tab—Enrollment Forms, or by following this link. <https://coler1indians.socs.net/vimages/shared/vnews/stories/649d96b33f68a/Free%20&%20Reduced%20meal%20application%202025-2026.pdf>

Applications are also available for pick-up at the elementary and junior high/high school offices, and may be dropped off at the offices or mailed to Cole County R-I School District, 13600 Route C, Russellville, MO 65074.

## 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>

# Need some new spirit gear?

Visit the PTO Spear-It Wear Store!

[https://stores.inksoft.com/russellville\\_elementary\\_/shop/home?](https://stores.inksoft.com/russellville_elementary_/shop/home?fbclid=IwY2xjawMueAVleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFSoXhzaUlBTlBnbWtCQ3pEAR5NyBuRf5slce6hLywgNtc94CjgUoq5VmA_TxDDMNvYEHbsbZrAjMfNcS5HLw_aem__A3TTIy27oSsxyZoWkw_Zw)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawMueAVleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFSoXhzaUlBTlBnbWtCQ3pEAR5NyBuRf5slce6hLywgNtc94CjgUoq5VmA\\_TxDDMNvYEHbsbZrAjMfNcS5HLw\\_aem\\_\\_A3TTIy27oSsxyZoWkw\\_Zw](https://stores.inksoft.com/russellville_elementary_/shop/home?fbclid=IwY2xjawMueAVleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFSoXhzaUlBTlBnbWtCQ3pEAR5NyBuRf5slce6hLywgNtc94CjgUoq5VmA_TxDDMNvYEHbsbZrAjMfNcS5HLw_aem__A3TTIy27oSsxyZoWkw_Zw)

A portion of the sales will go to help fund the Elementary PTO!

## Important Dates

**September 12**—Picture Day

**September 19**—Progress Reports

**September 19**—Homecoming—Dismiss  
at 12:30pm—NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE

**September 20**—Homecoming Dance,  
7:00pm

**September 22**—Staff PD Day—NO  
SCHOOL

**October 13**—Staff PD Day—NO SCHOOL

## 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](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.