



13600 Rt. C
Russellville, MO 65074
Phone: 573.782.3534
Fax: 573.782.3545

Dr. Jeff Jennewein, Superintendent

COLE COUNTY R-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES EIGHT CLASSROOM ADDITION WITH GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

RUSSELLVILLE, MO, JUNE 7, 2023 – The Cole County R-1 School District held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate a \$5 million capital improvement project beginning with an eight-classroom addition at the Jr./Sr. high school. District administration, staff, board members, students and community members gathered for the ceremony.

Both the elementary and the Jr./Sr. high school buildings are currently at full capacity. The district's total enrollment has increased 15% from 556 students in 2017 to 647 students in the 2021-22 school year. At this growth rate, the district anticipates another 90 students in the next five years.

To continue planning for the district's future, the school board hired PWA Architects Inc. in March 2021 to complete an assessment of the school district facilities. The assessment determined significant repairs were needed to both the elementary and Jr./Sr. high school buildings. The Cole County R-1 School Board determined the following highest priority projects for both buildings.

Jr./Sr. High School Building

- Construct eight additional classrooms on the west side of the building
- Add and upgrade security cameras
- Complete masonry repairs along the gymnasium wall to prevent further leaks
- Replace connector between Ag. and main buildings to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements

Elementary Building

- Regrade existing playground
- Purchase new playground equipment and install new surface material for accessibility
- Install new HVAC system for two rooms
- Purchase new speaker system for gymnasium

Last November, voters approved Proposition K.I.D.S. - Keep Improving District Schools bond issue by 71%. The district worked with L.J. Hart & Company to borrow \$5 million in bond funding for the capital improvement projects. The district obtained the bond funding without a tax levy increase over the current .95 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation debt service fund levy.

"I am delighted to serve as the superintendent during this necessary expansion and grateful the community continues to support the enrichment and growth of our district," said

Dr. Jeff Jennewein, Superintendent, Cole County R-1 School District.

The playground project will begin this summer and is anticipated to be completed by October 2023. The eight classroom addition at the Jr./Sr. High school is estimated to be complete in the summer of 2024.

The community is encouraged to follow the construction process through the district's website at [Cole R1 School District \(socs.net\)](http://ColeR1SchoolDistrict(socs.net)) For more information, contact Dr. Jeff Jennewein, Superintendent, Cole County R-1 School District at 573-782-3534.

Administration: Amy Scroggins (High School Principal), Tina Kauffman (K-6 Principal), Lori Clark (Special Services Director), Brian Knight (High School Assistant Principal) **Board of Education:** Ritchie Jenkins (President), Renee Bungart (Vice President), Jenifer Seaver (Secretary), Adam Weber, Stephen Schneiders, Elaine Buschjost, Christina Wood

