

# COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

550 S Carbon Hill Road  
COAL CITY, ILLINOIS 60416-9526

**CHRISTOPHER T. SPENCER**  
**Superintendent**

AMANDA HERRERA-FORD, Director of Business Services

JENNIFER KENNEY, Director of Curriculum/Instruction

LUKE KRIPPEL, Director of Student Services

[www.coalcityschools.org](http://www.coalcityschools.org)

**Board of Education**

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DANIEL ENGELHARDT

MATTHEW MELVIN

MINDY RAMPA

RYAN VANDUYNE

District Phone: 815-634-2287

District Fax: 815-634-8775

**Building Administration**

COREY MIKULA, Principal  
High School 815-634-2396

CAMERON STONE, Principal  
Middle School 815-634-5039

TRACY CARLSON, Principal  
Intermediate School 815-634-2182

TARYN TROTTER, Principal  
Elementary School 815-634-2334

AMANDA DAVIDSON, Principal  
Early Childhood Center 815-634-5042

August 12, 2026

Dear Coal City Community Unit District 1 families:

I am excited to welcome everyone to the start of a new school year—and extend a special welcome to all of the families who are new to Coal City Community Unit School District #1.

There truly is something special about this time of year. Without question, my favorite day of the school year is the first day, when our students return to our buildings. The energy, excitement, and enthusiasm they bring with them are simply unmatched. There is nothing quite like seeing our hallways come alive again with the smiles, laughter, and excitement of our students.

I can't wait to welcome everyone back and see those smiling faces throughout our schools next week. It's going to be a great year to be a Coaler!

I hope everyone enjoyed summer break and are excited to get back to school. Our school buildings will open Monday morning, Aug. 17. The first day of attendance is a shortened one as we will observe a first/last day of school schedule. Buses will run and lunch will be available for students who choose to purchase a meal from the cafeteria.

Pre-K to eighth grade students along with their families, are encouraged to take part in our Back-to-School Night on Thursday, Aug. 13. This provides students an opportunity to meet their teacher, building administration, visit their classroom and deliver supplies. The Early Childhood Center will be open from 3:30-5 p.m., Elementary School 4:30-6 p.m., Intermediate School 5:30-7 p.m. and Middle School 6-7:30 p.m.

This year we welcome 13 new faculty members, three building administrators to the district, as well as several support personnel to serve our growing enrollment of over 2,100 students.

Families visiting our buildings will see all the work put in by our dedicated custodial and maintenance staff who have spent the summer preparing the buildings for a new academic year. The summer also provided the district with an opportunity to complete roof renovations at the middle school, slabjacking the Early Childhood Center, plumbing and maintenance work and completion of the Intermediate School repair and renovation project.

The mission of the Coal City School District is to, "prepare today's learners for tomorrow's challenges," and with that as our focus faculty members contributed nearly 1,000 hours during the month of June to evaluate, update and create curriculum and assessments that enhance and strengthen student learning experiences. I am proud of the work put in day-in and day-out by our teachers, classroom aides, support personnel and administrators whose focus is and will always be the students.

*It is the Mission of the Coal City Community Unit School District #1 to prepare today's learners for tomorrow's challenges.*

To further support our students' growth and interests our district offers numerous extra and co-curricular activities. I encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities that exist within their attendance centers.

The district has several events coming up in the first weeks of the school year including Meet the Coalers Night on Friday, Aug. 14 and athletic contests for our middle and high school students. I encourage everyone to mark their calendars for Homecoming Sept. 28-Oct. 3, with the annual Homecoming Parade taking place at 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2 and the second annual Athletes in the Arts performance kicking the week off on Sunday, Sept. 27.

Be sure to visit the district website for important and valuable information at [www.coalcityschools.org](http://www.coalcityschools.org) and if you have not already, download the district's mobile app located in the App Store under Coal City Schools. You can also find information on our Facebook page at Unit District #1 Coal City and we're also on Instagram where we highlight student life at Coal City Unit1.

To keep the lines of communication open with our families and school community, I implemented Coffee with the Superintendent—a quarterly program to provide information and keep the public updated on topics of interest and importance. The quarterly coffees will continue this school year—September 18, November 13, February 19 and April 23—beginning at 9 a.m. in the Board Room of the District Administration Center. Additionally, I will host two Town Hall Meetings—October 21 and April 8—beginning at 7 p.m. at Coal City High School. I encourage anyone that is available to attend one or more of these sessions.

We are looking forward to an outstanding year. If at any time you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or building principal.

Welcome Back, Coalers. It's going to be a fantastic year!

Educationally Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher T. Spencer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" being more prominent than the last name "Spencer".

Christopher T. Spencer  
Superintendent  
Coal City School District 1