



COUGAR NATION NEWS

October 2023



NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

September has flown by in the blink of an eye, crisp fall weather is fast approaching, and another school year is officially underway!

We have added several new staff members to the Cougar family this year. Emily Warren has joined us to run the music programs at both the high school and Lorna Byrne. Terry Swan came to us from Missouri to be our new Life Skills teacher. And we have three new educational assistants: Shalana, Sierra, and Taryn. We are excited to have them all on our team!

Our hallways and classrooms are full once more as we've welcomed students back to school. We held our Open House on September 13th, and it was one of our best-attended family and community partner events. Our football, volleyball, soccer, and cross country athletes have been working hard this fall season. We finished the month of September with a fun-filled Homecoming week, complete with a County Fair-themed dance, dress up days, a parade through town, and plenty of school spirit. Looking to the coming weeks, we have students who will begin attending Friday classes at RCC, upperclassmen taking the SAT and PSAT, Mathletes heading to SOU for their first competition of the year, and many other opportunities for students to invest in and advance their education.

As a parting thought, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the spirit and resiliency of the Illinois Valley. I am constantly amazed by how the community comes together during difficult times. Thank you to those who fought the fires, those who have supported the fire fighters, and those who aided their friends and neighbors during evacuations. The Valley is a special place, and our staff is proud to serve the students and families of this community.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your principal.

Justin Wright, Principal

