



# Community Connections

*For our children, our community, our world, our future*

Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community Members,

## Important Dates

**Oct. 11**

School Board Meeting  
6 p.m.  
Sunset Elementary

**Oct. 13**

Professional Learning Day -  
No Students

**Oct. 25**

School Board Meeting  
4 p.m.  
Three Springs HS/District  
Conference Center

**Nov. 8**

School Board Meeting

## Important Links

- [Bond & Levy Homepage](#)

- [What's the difference between a Bond and Levy?](#)

- [Spokesman-Review Bond & Levy Article](#)

- [Strategic Planning Thought Exchange](#)

Our community showed immense strength as the Gray Fire raged through our county less than six weeks ago. It immediately impacted many of our students, families, staff, and administrators. Several district members lost their homes and are still displaced by the fire. I am so thankful for the support and response from the community, our firefighters and first responders, and our district members. The support has been unwavering; we are Cheney Public Schools.

There are many impactful projects underway for the 2023-24 school year. The Long-Range Facility Planning Committee, comprised of five parents from each of our three distinct communities—Airway Heights, Cheney, and West Plains—along with key stakeholders, collaborated for more than six months to determine the facilities needs of the district. Through the research and analysis of this grassroots community-based effort, the committee determined the district needs: one elementary school in Airway Heights, land for a second elementary school, land for a secondary school, and campus upgrades. Committee Co-Chairs John Boerger and Sonny Weathers presented this framework to the School Board in June, and it was unanimously approved. The measure will be voted on in Feb. 2024; it is important that everyone remember to vote!

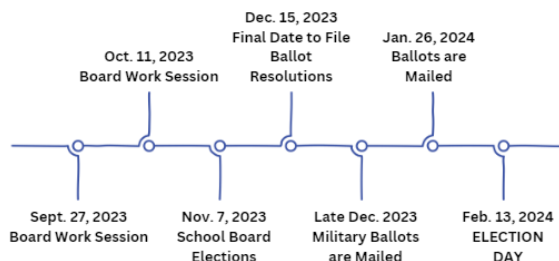
We are also hard at work developing the district's strategic plan, and we have enlisted the help of our students, parents/guardians, and the community through the Superintendent's Student Advisory Team and ThoughtExchange. All of the feedback will help guide our strategic efforts to best serve the students and families of the district today and in the future. [Click here](#) to add your thoughts and ratings to the ThoughtExchange (through Oct. 20).

Thank you for your continued support of all students in Airway Heights, Cheney and West Plains.

Take care,

Ben Ferney, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Cheney Public Schools

## Cheney Public Schools Bond & Levy Timeline



## Our Essential Foundations

- High Expectations and Continuous Progress
- Involvement & Engagement with Community
- Stewardship & Planning

Follow Cheney Public Schools on:

Instagram Facebook and Twitter

or go to [www.cheneysd.org](http://www.cheneysd.org) for current news & information.



Character Trait for September

**RESPECT**

Respect is recognizing, considering and properly honoring the worth of one's self and others.



**Joy  
Cheney, WA**

“I happened upon a networking class in high school...I loved it so much that I decided to do an FBLA event in it...My networking team ended up placing 4th in nationals.”

### **Cheney High School’s Joy Assonkin Named Washington STEM Rising Star**

Cheney High School’s Joy Assonkin was named a [2023 Rising Star](#) by [Washington STEM](#), a statewide education nonprofit leveraging STEM for social change. Assonkin was selected as one of eleven young women across the state for the award.

Beginning as a novice in networking at Cheney High School, Assonkin quickly became one of the best networkers in her class. Adam Smith, AP Computer Science/IT Teacher and District CTE Director took notice, and nominated her for the STEM award.

“It was fun to watch her growth in skill and confidence as she quickly went from asking questions to answering questions,” Smith noted to STEM.

“I loved it so much that I decided to do a FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) event in it,” Assonkin commented to STEM. “My networking team and I ended up placing fourth at nationals. That was probably my biggest accomplishment so far because I came into the class feeling like I didn’t really know much of anything at all. That kind of proved to me that I could do it.”

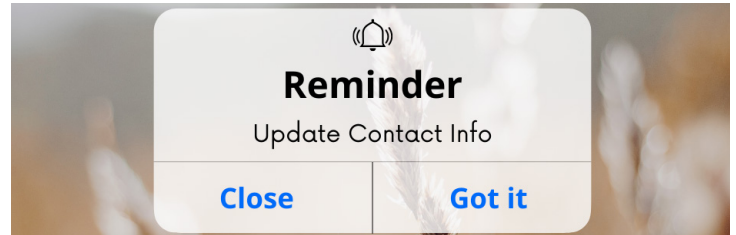


### **Record District Growth Continues in September**

Cheney Public Schools continues to see huge growth as September enrollment numbers boasted a record 5,408 total students. That’s an increase of 140 total students from Sept. 2022, and from 2021 the district saw a total increase of 319 total students.

### **REMINDER: Update Contact Information**

Reminder to all of our Cheney Public School families, please update your contact information with your child(ren)’s school(s). We need current contact information for routine communications such as school events, closures and transportation updates as well as more timely communications such as an emergency. Contact your school’s main office to ensure your information is up-to-date.



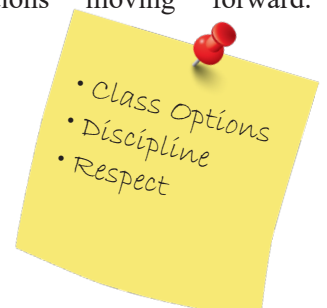
### **From the Students’ Perspective:**

#### **Superintendent’s Student Advisory Team (SAT)**

Superintendent Dr. Ben Ferney has enlisted the assistance of area students to provide input and insight into the needs of students throughout the district.

Two teams of three to eight students, one representing secondary students (6-12) with another representing elementary (K-5), first met on Aug. 28th to brainstorm themes and ideas most important to them at school. Themes ranged from sports, security and lunch length to student discipline, respect of the student voice and class options. Each student of the SAT team then ranked each theme based on level of importance to help lead future discussions.

Future monthly SAT meetings will include other district representatives who will talk with students and work together to incorporate these themes in district conversations moving forward.



Cheney Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, economic status, pregnancy, familial status, marital status, disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination.

Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 Officer/  
Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator/ADA Coordinator/Gender Inclusive Schools Coordinator  
Tom Arlt, Assistant Superintendent  
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.  
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507

Section 504 Coordinator  
Franklin Day, Director, Student Support Services  
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.  
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507

Requests for Disclosure of Public Records  
Helen Page, Public Records Officer  
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.,  
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4502