



Community Connections

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

Important Dates

March 27

School Board Meeting
11:30 a.m.
Snowdon Elementary School

March 29

Emergency Make-Up Day

April 1 - April 5

Spring Break
No School

April 10

School Board Meeting
6 p.m.
Cheney High School, Library

April 24

School Board Meeting
6 p.m.
Cheney High School, Library

Important Links

[- Special Election Feedback](#)

[- Student Registration](#)

[- Cheney Public Schools Jobs](#)

[- Choice Process](#)

Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community Members,

I do not think anyone expected the beautiful March weather we were fortunate to experience this past week! I hope everyone had an opportunity to feel the sun on their faces and enjoy some time outdoors. Spring is upon us, and it is so good to fuel our bodies with positive energy!

As we celebrate the sunshine and warmer weather (for now), I am also celebrating the massive support of our community in passing the District's Educational, Programs, and Operations Levy and the Capital Technology Levy. Since our Bond fell short of the 60% supermajority vote required to pass, finishing at 54% approval, we are hard at work collecting feedback and information from our community. I hope each of you has seen the [follow-up survey](#) we distributed via email, postcard, and social media. It is important that we receive real, honest feedback from our voting base so we can best reflect the wants and needs of the greater Cheney Public Schools community. Please, complete the survey and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. We want to know how you voted but, most importantly, why you voted.

Another major ongoing project is the District's Strategic Plan. Last month, we distributed a survey to four groups: community members, parents/guardians, staff, and students. Though we were unable to recruit enough individuals for our goal of 11-person focus groups, we have still been able to speak with representatives of each group, gathering valuable feedback and information that will help to guide the District's Strategic Plan. Our focus groups will continue meeting through the month of March, and by April, we hope to have a strategic plan draft completed. We aim to present a final plan to the Board of Directors for consideration in May.

Our buildings welcomed parents for parent/teacher conferences on March 14 and 15. It was wonderful for our staff to connect with parents and families and showcase the great work students are doing in the classroom. These non-school days also allowed over 40 of the district's paraeducators to come together for training. I am so proud of our district staff for their dedication and commitment to our students' success!

As we transition into Spring, our students are taking advantage of the multitude of athletics and activities available across our district. We have already seen state champions in both Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) from Cheney High School, along with a new school record in boys' pole vaulting at an even 14 feet. What a start! I am excited to see how our students continue to develop over the Spring semester.

With Spring Break less than a week away and graduation just around the corner, we are in the final stretch of the 2023-24 school year. Let's finish strong!

We are Cheney Public Schools!

Take care,

Ben Ferney, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Cheney Public Schools

Our Essential Foundations

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

Follow Cheney Public Schools on:

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or go to www.cheneysd.org for current news & information.



[Character Trait for March](#)
DILIGENCE

Persistence, dedication, and hard work.

March 2024

Special Election - Bond Community Feedback



WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!

Cheney Public Schools community! We need your input. Our district ran a bond proposition in the Feb. 13 Special Election and received 54.4% approval, which did not reach the 60% supermajority threshold to pass a bond. The district is inviting the community to share their feedback to assist in developing an understanding of how and why people voted, as well as crafting the next steps. Please [fill out this short survey](#) to provide valuable feedback that will help our district. The survey is open until March 27.

Congratulations to our State Champs!

Cheney High School FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) and DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) participants are state champions in their respective fields. Congratulations to FCCLA State Champion Nichelle DeGuzman for her first-place finish in Interior Design, and congratulations to both Sedona Ericson and Zack Cox for their first-place finish in Student Based Enterprise. What an accomplishment!



Student Registration for 2024-25 Now Open

Student registration for grades K-12 for the 2024-25 school year opened on March 1! For families who are already registered with Cheney Public Schools and are adding a new student, please [click here](#) to access your specific registration page. For new student registration for families new to Cheney Public Schools, please [click here](#). If you are unsure of which school to register your student, [click here](#) to access our School Site Locator. More information is available on the [district website](#)!

Alison Tobler Selected as Westwood Principal

After an extensive interview process, Cheney Public Schools is pleased to announce that Alison Tobler has been selected as the next principal of Westwood Middle School, pending Board approval. The interview process included representatives from several stakeholder groups—district administration, staff, and students—who interacted and engaged with each candidate throughout the process.

Westwood staff and district leadership collaborated to lead each candidate through the comprehensive interview process, and Westwood students were included as they engaged with each candidate on a tour of campus. A community forum was then held to allow for essential feedback from community members, parents, and families, which assisted district leadership in the final selection. Following this process, Tobler was selected as the best fit to lead Westwood Middle School.



Alison Tobler with Superintendent Ben Ferney

Please join us in congratulating Alison on her new role. [Click here](#) for the full release!

Students Leading the Charge

Earlier this year, Sunset Elementary third grader Heidi visited the Ronald McDonald House with her Girl Scout troop. She learned she could collect pop or soda tabs to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. Heidi then pitched the idea to Sunset Principal Kim Montecucco, and the entire Falcon crew collected pop tabs during the month of February to help raise money. Sunset Elementary collected 74 pounds of pop tabs, with Mrs. Monroe's class collecting a school-leading 13 total pounds to earn a pizza party. Great work Sunset!



Sunset Elementary third-grader Heidi poses with the 74 pounds of collected pop tabs.

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) 559-4550

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