



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

January 16
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School

January 25
School Board Meeting
Windsor Elementary
6:00 pm

January 30
Mid-Winter Break
No School

February 8
School Board Meeting
Salnave Elementary
6:00 pm

February 10
Professional Learning Day
No School

February 20
Presidents' Day
No School

February 22
School Board Meeting
Sunset Elementary
11:00 am

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Welcome back and on behalf of Cheney Public Schools, we wish you a happy New Year! Bringing in the New Year is an exciting time that offers a great opportunity to reflect on the past. The heart of growth and continual improvement comes from processing areas of strength and building on those as well as examining opportunities for improvement. For me, the focus of reflection is through the lens of our mission statement that reads, "Cheney Public Schools exists to guarantee a safe and caring environment where ALL students learn at high levels and graduate with options for post-secondary education, careers, and civic engagement."

A highlight this year has been seeing the mission statement come to life by watching our students learn in classrooms throughout the school district. Opportunities for our students to perform in a concert, act in a play, or compete in clubs or athletics show our mission is alive and well. It is great to see the outcomes from the Friday late start collaboration (Professional Learning Communities) being applied in classrooms.

An opportunity for improvement for our district is developing a long-range facility plan. In December, our Facility Planning Team consisting of parents and community stakeholders (eg. city administrator, parks and recreation, etc.) from our school district. The parent component to the team consists of five parents selected from the West Plains, Airway Heights, and Cheney (15 in total) in a lottery to create quality representation from our communities.

The district hired a consultant group, Teater-Crocker, to go through an extensive analysis of our school and operational buildings to identify potential needs for our district as we look forward into the next 5 to 10 years. The analysis was based on three areas: 1) Physical condition of the buildings; 2) Functional adequacy (programs); and 3) Enrollment growth. Phil Crocker, one of the consultants, facilitated the meeting and shared the data from the three focus areas. The Facility Planning Team will be meeting monthly to unpack the data and come up with a facility plan for Cheney Public Schools. We anticipate a draft plan will be ready this spring and we will hold community meetings to have conversations and gather feedback.

I appreciate the hard work of our staff, the support of our community, and most importantly our amazing students. Again, I wish each of you the best as we enter into the New Year and hope this message finds you and your family in a positive space. We are Cheney Public Schools!

Ben Ferney, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Cheney Public Schools

Our essential foundations

- ★ High Expectations and Continuous Progress
- ★ Involvement and Engagement with School District Community
- ★ Stewardship and Planning

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Character Trait for January

Fairness

Treating people and ideas with justice and impartiality.

January 2023

Cheney CyberPatriot Teams Advancing to Regional CyberPatriot Competition

The Cheney CyberPatriot teams are both advancing to the Regional CyberPatriot competition on January 19th. After the 3rd round of competition, our top team finished second in Washington state in the Platinum Division and finished top 170 in the nation. Our Gold team also finished second in the state in the Gold Division and top 200 in the nation in their division.

The CyberPatriot competition has been going on since October 15th and featured 2 seeding rounds and then the state competition round. In the seeding rounds, Cheney's top team earned the #1 seed in Washington State to make the Platinum round. Our number two team was 12th in the state to qualify for the Gold Division.

The CyberPatriot competition has over 2,000 teams across the country. There are 42 teams from Washington state. Only the top 20% of teams in the nation qualify for the Platinum division. Only the top 3 teams from each state qualify for the regional competition.



Having two of the 6 teams competing on the 19th is a huge accomplishment and is the first time in 10 years that we have had all of our teams move into the regional competition.

Maintenance and Operations Lead Clean up from Rapid Thaw at Several Schools

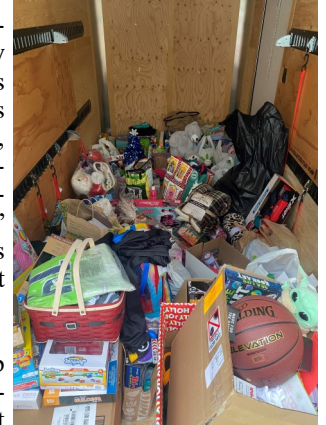
Over Winter Break the rapid thaw caused some issues at a few of our schools, a water line broke at Windsor Elementary in the morning on the 27th, causing damage to the front hallway and water in some classrooms. Thanks to the quick action of district Maintenance and Operations staff, custodial staff, and school administrators the building was free of water by the afternoon and well on its way to being restored. Small roof leaks at Cheney High School were discovered in the afternoon, again Maintenance and Operations working with custodial staff sprung into action cleaning the water and preventing more serious damage.



Late in the day snow slid off at Westwood's roof causing damage to some of the plumbing vents, Maintenance and Operations and custodial staff were again hard at work on cleanup. Contractors were brought in to help with restoration and repair. The tireless work of our building administrators, maintenance and operations staff, and custodians ensured that our schools were ready to open after winter break. Thank you for all you do!

CHAS Partners with Westwood and Sunset to offer Services at the start of the School Year

The Cheney FBLA chapter completed a successful community service project that included steps of collecting donations of presents from students and the community, inviting families in need of assistance with gifts this holiday season, and then hosting a "shopping" event where parents and families were able to choose gifts and get them wrapped for free.



During the two-week project, club members were able to gather donated presents at the Cheney Craft Fair, in Cheney High School classes, and at donation locations throughout the Cheney School District. The gift drive had a theme to "Fill Santa's Trailer" which was parked in front of the school during the event. In addition to gifts, during the drive, the chapter received over \$680.00 in cash donations which were used to purchase gifts. In total, the chapter's project was able to gather over 750 gifts that were given out to over 100 Cheney School District families and reached over 250 children.

The project was led by the Community Service team of Charlie Rajewski, Mika Corneil and Emme Murray. In total, 25 members participated in the project and the chapter had its work featured on KHQ's news on Friday night December 16.



Above: Presents collected in trailer ready for distribution

Left: FBLA Students gather by gift storage trailer.

Bus Drivers Needed

We're looking for bus drivers! Interested? Applicants must be at least 22 years of age and have carried a valid drivers license for 5 years. Call our Transportation Department for more information.

(509) 559-4523

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
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