



# Community Connections

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

## Important dates:

**May 29**  
Memorial Day  
No School

**June 9**  
Cheney High School  
Graduation  
EWU Reese Court  
5:00 pm

**June 10**  
Three Springs High  
School Graduation  
EWU Reese Court  
2:00 pm

**June 14**  
School Board Work  
Session  
CHS Library  
6:00 pm

**June 19**  
Juneteenth Holiday  
No School

**June 20**  
Last Day of School

**June 28**  
School Board Meeting  
and Public Hearing  
Concerning the 2023-  
2024 Budget  
CHS Library  
5:30 pm

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

I hope this message finds you well as we embrace the arrival of spring! We are approaching the conclusion of the school year and would like to take a moment to share important updates along with progress on our long-range facility planning.

It is with great pride that we celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of our students! Their dedication, talent, and hard work have led to impressive achievements in academics, activities, athletics, and personal growth. We extend our sincere appreciation to the parents and staff who have provided incredible support along their journey. It truly takes a team effort!

The District is developing a Student Advisory Team for the 2023-2024 school year to be composed of students in grades 3-12 to provide valuable insight on district topics. Applications have been flowing in during the month of May, with the deadline being May 26<sup>th</sup>. This advisory team will have a large role in Strategic Planning next year.

The excitement for the upcoming graduation ceremonies and various end-of-year events is inspiring! These occasions allow us to recognize and celebrate the achievements of our graduating students, marking a significant milestone in their lives. 'Time to Honor' was one such event held in the Cheney High School Auditorium in May that recognized our amazing seniors and their academic accomplishments!

The Long-Range Facility Planning Committee held three community meetings across our district. A meeting was held in each of our three distinct communities: Cheney Middle School (Cheney), Westwood Middle School (West Plains), and Sunset Elementary (Airway Heights), and a Thought Exchange invitation was sent to every resident in the Cheney Public Schools boundaries encouraging as much stakeholder input as possible. The Long-Range Facility Planning Committee is now considering all the feedback to determine what option is best for the students in our district. Once the committee concludes, the Committee Co-Chairs John Boerger and Sonny Weathers will make a recommendation to the school board for their approval. I appreciate the time and effort this group of over 20 volunteers have put into the process so far.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we navigate the final months of this school year. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of our students and ensuring a bright future for our school district. We ARE Cheney Public Schools!

Take care,

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

Follow Cheney Public Schools on:

Instagram Facebook and Twitter

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



Character Trait for May

**Courage**

Displaying integrity in spite of obstacles and challenges.

May 2023

## Cheney Public Schools Hires Three Building Administrators in May

Through the month of May, Cheney Public Schools has been busy hiring new administrators, teachers, and support staff for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Carla Hudson was selected as the principal at Home Works!, Mrs. Mary Stoyko was selected as the principal at Betz Elementary, and Mr. Tim Kennedy was selected as an assistant principal at Cheney High School.

Over the last six years, Mrs. Hudson has served as the principal at Betz Elementary. Prior to her work at Betz, she was a principal in the Wilbur School District for six years. In her new role, she will work closely with the parents and teachers to strengthen Home Works! Mrs. Hudson has begun her tenure conducting meet and greets with parents; gathering feedback from the community on what they hope their students will accomplish through the Home Works! program. Home Works! is excited to have its new leader at the helm!



Mrs. Stoyko has been the assistant principal at Betz Elementary since the fall of 2020, serving as the interim principal at Betz since the spring of 2023 and through the remainder of the school year. Prior to working at Betz, Mrs. Stoyko was a principal designee/intern at Brentwood Elementary in the Mead School District. She has served in teaching roles in Mead, Central Valley, and Federal Way school districts. Mrs. Stoyko holds a BA in Elementary Education from the City University of Seattle and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. Betz Elementary is excited to continue working with Mrs. Stoyko in her new role.

Mr. Kennedy has served as the athletic director at CHS since 2021 and as an administrative intern during the 2020-2021 school year. He initially joined the CHS faculty in 2010 as a math teacher and has served in many roles beyond the classroom during his 11 years as a certificated teacher at the high school. Mr. Kennedy earned a bachelor of arts degree in education, specializing in secondary mathematics, from Eastern Washington University in 2010; in 2021, he completed his Master of Educational Administration from Whitworth University. After serving the high school for over twelve years, Cheney High School is proud to have Mr. Kennedy continue his contribution to the district in this new leadership role.



Cheney Public Schools is excited to see these leaders flourish in their new positions. Congratulations!

***Interested in working for Cheney Public Schools?  
View our employment listings at:***

[www.cheneyisd.org/apps/pages/employment](http://www.cheneyisd.org/apps/pages/employment)

## Cheney Public Schools Launches Student Advisory Team

Cheney Public Schools is pleased to announce the launch of a Student Advisory Team for the district. The Student Advisory Team will work together to support district goals and outcomes. They will meet throughout the year to determine and work toward their team goals and outcomes in response to district goals and outcomes. This team will work with the superintendent and district leadership team as student representatives. The Student Advisory Team comprises students from every school and is broken into three levels: elementary, middle, and high.

Learn more at: [www.cheneyisd.org/studentadvisor](http://www.cheneyisd.org/studentadvisor)

## **Students Honored at West Plains PACE Awards**

On Friday, May 12th, ten Cheney Public School students, as well as students from Harrington, Davenport, and Medical Lake school districts, were honored at the PACE Awards Breakfast. Each school in Cheney Public Schools put forward a student as their PACE Character Award winner for the year.

PACE promotes “the importance of good character through partnerships with schools, businesses, public agencies, residents, faith-based organizations, and community service groups. Working from a common list of monthly character traits, partners promote and integrate each trait into the regular activities of the organization.”

The 2022-2023 Cheney Public School award winners are:

Benny Ramirez-Alvarez - Betz Elementary  
Charlie Rajewski - Cheney High School  
Chance Burnham - Cheney Middle School  
Ryder Wilbanks - Home Works!  
Cody Deines - Salnave Elementary  
Josie Varner - Snowdon Elementary  
Cole Ryder - Sunset Elementary  
Zoe Goatz - Three Springs High School  
Asa Smith - Westwood Middle School  
Maddie Lopez - Windsor Elementary

## **Congratulations!**



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