



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

September 28
New Employee Recognition; 5:15 pm
Cheney High School Commons

September 28
School Board Meeting; 6 pm
Cheney High School Library

October 12
School Board Meeting; 4 pm
Betz Library

October 14
Professional Learning Day—No Students

October 26
School Board Meeting; 6 pm
Cheney High School Library

November 11
Veterans Day — No School

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

On behalf of Cheney Public Schools, thank you for a strong start to the school year! It has been fantastic seeing students in classes and involved in activities and athletics. While no start is perfect, I am proud of our staff and their hard work to get systems in place to best serve ALL students. There is already considerable momentum established for a solid year of learning, growing, and building skills for continual improvement.

The district currently has over 5,250 students in our Airway Heights, Cheney, and West Plains communities of which approximately 3,000 ride a bus daily. As you may be aware, there are bus driver shortages across our state, and we are not immune to this obstacle. We are struggling to find enough drivers to fill all of our routes and our transportation department is working overtime to continue transporting students during this challenging situation. There are currently more routes than we have drivers for which requires our substitute bus drivers, mechanics, assistant transportation director, transportation director, office staff and maintenance staff with commercial driver's licenses (CDL) to drive on a regular basis. The staffing shortage puts our current route system, busing services, and customer service in jeopardy. This schedule simply cannot be maintained long-term and may cause the district to consider different options such as enforcing the one-mile walking rule, shuttles that take drivers out of established routes, and even potentially reduce routes. Please reach out to the transportation department if you are interested in driving a bus for daily routes or extracurricular activities and share this information with those you know that may be interested.

The homecoming football game was a great example of how amazing our students are. Football players, cheerleaders, and the marching band performed while the student section was dressed up in school spirit and a huge crowd supporting ALL the students - it was inspiring! Not to mention the volleyball team is off to a tremendous start, girls' soccer and softball are competing well, and both the swim team and cross country have begun meets. Across grade levels, athletics, arts programs, clubs, and competitive academic teams are off to a great start this fall.

Hope to catch you at a game, activity, or event soon.

Ben Ferney, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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 September

Respect

Recognizing, considering and properly honoring the worth of one's self and others.

September 2022

Student Meal Information 2022-2023



Nutrition Services is excited to announce that this school year Betz, Salnave, Sunset, and Snowdon elementary schools, Cheney Middle School and Westwood Middle School, and Three Springs High School qualified for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows school districts to provide meals to these schools at no cost. In addition, Cheney Public Schools will pay for meals at Windsor Elementary

for those students who do not qualify for the Free and Reduced Meal program through ESSER funds for the 2022-2023 school year. Students at Cheney High School and HomeWorks! who do not qualify for Free and Reduced Price Meals will pay for meals.

The State Legislature passed House Bill 1878, requiring Local Education Agencies to increase school participation in the Community Eligibility Provision. This change allowed for more of our schools to qualify for CEP than ever before. The legislature also passed House Bill 1342, which eliminated co-pays for those who qualify for reduced-cost meals. The effect of these programs means more students will qualify for free meals than before the pandemic; however, we need families to support these programs by completing either a Household Information Survey or Free and Reduced Application. Please complete the forms listed below for your children's school(s).

Betz, Salnave, Snowdon, Sunset, Cheney Middle, Westwood Middle, and Three Springs families will need to complete the Household Information Survey available on the Nutrition Services website.

Windsor, Cheney High School and HomeWorks! families will need to complete the Free and Reduced Application on the Nutrition Services Website.

Family support for these programs helps the district maintain the expanded meal program into future years; please prioritize filling out either the Household information survey or the Free and Reduced Price Meal application.

Students Return to School

School began for most of our students on Wednesday, August 31st. We welcomed new kindergarten students on Tuesday, September 6th, and preschoolers on September 12th. Some of the Alternative Learning Experience programs in the district began on alternative start dates.

We are so excited to have our students back in the classroom. Check out some photos of our students getting back to learning.



Cheney High Class of 2023 Senior Sunrise Photo

On August 30, CHS seniors gathered in Crunk Park for a sunrise photo before their last year of high school began.



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

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