



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

March 16
Preschool Policy Council
Betz Portable A2
4:00 pm

March 16
WMS Orchestra Concert
WMS Commons
7:00 pm

March 21
CHS Choir Concert
CHS Auditorium
7:00 pm

March 22
School Board Meeting
Cheney Middle School
4:00 PM

March 23
WMS Band Concert
WMS Commons
7:00 pm

March 23
CMS Choir Concert
CMS Commons
7:00 pm

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

It has been said that March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. Based on the amount of snow and inclement weather we have received so far in March, I sure hope it is true and that better weather is on the way! A Thought Exchange survey was sent out to our community, staff, and parents/guardians earlier this winter to gather input on priorities for the upcoming 2023-24 school district budget. Thank you to those that took the time to participate in the Thought Exchange with thoughts and ratings; below are the overall top themes from each group that came from the prompt, "As we plan our budget for the next school year, what are the most important things our district needs to think about in order to support all students?":

Community:

- Quality Staff
- Learning Resources and Technology
- Mental Health Resources

Parents/Guardians of Current Students

- Safety
- Class Sizes
- Quality Staff

Staff

- Compensation
- Quality Staff
- Class Size

Noted, 'Quality Staff' is seen in each of the different groups as an important priority. Interestingly, 'Facilities' was one of the themes that was present in all three groups but not as one of the top three themes. 'Facilities' fell into each of the three groups as a priority and included some examples such as adequate building space, growing populations, safety, and maintenance of our current campuses. A large part of the 'Facilities' category was the growth and development in our district. This important feedback will help guide the budget process as we prepare for next year.

The District is addressing the potential growth and development in Cheney Public Schools through the Long-Range Facility Planning Committee. This committee has met once per month since December and will be reaching out for input through three different onsite community meetings in May. There will be one meeting in each of our district communities so be on the look-out for specific dates and times. The Long-Range Facility Planning Committee has been awarded a Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Regional Volunteer Award that will be given out in April. A HUGE thank you to this committee and their commitment of time and effort through-out this winter and spring.

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

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Character Trait for March

Diligence

Persistence, dedication and hard work.

March 2023

WMS Production of Pirates the Musical

At Westwood Middle School on March 9th the students of the drama club put on three productions of "Pirates the Musical." During the day the drama club offered two showings for students, and then in the evening a showing for families and friends. Between engaging music, fun costuming, and some great singing, a fun time was had by all!



PIRATES THE MUSICAL 2023



Paraeducators Collaborate during February PLD

The February 10th Professional Learning Day was a great success. The focus for our district PLC learning was Priority Standard Proficiency Scales. School teams had opportunities to personalize their learning to meet building goals, and also made time for relationship building.



This year, our PLDs have been able to include our paraeducators. The new opportunity for paraeducators to attend PLD this year has provided time for our paraeducators to grow their skills and knowledge alongside their school colleagues in school-wide workshops. During the morning session at Cheney High School, the focus was best practices for supporting multilingual students and communicating with newcomer students and families.

Paraeducators also attended professional development sessions in the afternoon focused on a variety of topics at different sites throughout the district. Teachers and paraeducators had a chance to collaborate schoolwide and come together in focused training and PLC sessions. We believe the day was beneficial for everyone, and look forward to many more successful PLDs for all of our education staff!



Cheney Middle School Hires New Assistant Principal

Following a rigorous interview process, Cheney Public Schools is pleased to announce that Mrs. Heather Zorrozua has been selected as the next assistant principal of Cheney Middle School, pending board approval.



After nine years working in Cheney Public Schools as a school counselor, Cheney Middle School is proud to have Mrs. Zorrozua continue her contribution to our district in this new leadership role. Prior to her work as a school counselor at Cheney Middle School, she served as a family therapist at an adolescent psychiatric care facility. Mrs. Zorrozua completed her bachelor's degree in psychology at Gonzaga University in 2008, and went on to complete a Masters in Social Work at Eastern Washington University in 2011. In April of 2023, she will complete her principal's certification from Eastern Washington University.

Cheney Middle School Principal Becky Parrill shared "through the interview process, Mrs. Zorrozua made it clear that she is a CMS Hawk through and through and we know she will honor the strong leadership team legacy of CMS."

Mrs. Heather Zorrozua will officially join the CMS leadership team starting the 2023-24 school year. Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Heather Zorrozua on her new role at Cheney Middle School and in Cheney Public Schools!

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