



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

November 2
District Jazz Concert
CHS Auditorium
7 pm

November 7
School Board Work
Session
CHS Library
5:30 pm

November 9
School Board Meeting
CHS Library
6:00 pm

November 11
Veterans Day
No School

November 21
Conferences
No School

November 22
Conferences
No School

November 23-25
Thanksgiving Break
No School

November 30
School Board Meeting
Snowdon Library
6:00 pm

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Since the start of my term as superintendent, I have been conducting meetings with leaders and community members across the school district; from school staff to local government officials, to members of local civic organizations. The meetings were focused on listening to these representatives of the community and learning from them about the priorities of Cheney, Airway Heights, and the West Plains communities.

While there is no finish line for listening and learning sessions, the document shared within this newsletter represents the results from the meetings four months into my superintendency. The goal of being present to the community and reflecting on its needs and values will continue on as we move forward as a district. I appreciate the time and insight to those that have met with me, it has been an insightful and fulfilling process! This information was also shared at the October 26th school board meeting.

We have so much to celebrate here in Cheney Public Schools. One celebration is the Cheney High School Band earning first place in the Puget Sound Festival of Bands in Everett, WA. "The Blackhawks won for Best Overall Visual, Best Overall General Effect, Best Drum Major and best of all, the Sweepstakes award, while competing against 20 other bands" writes Jim Allen from the Spokesman Review. Please join us in congratulating the CHS Band!

Also included in this newsletter are a few articles on student events that occurred recently from students in Airway Heights to the West Plains and in Cheney. We ARE Cheney Public Schools.

Ben Ferney, Ed.D
Superintendent

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 for current news and information.



Character Trait for October
Responsibility

Being accountable, the pursuit of excellence,
and the exercise of self-control.

October 2022

Sunset Students Celebrate Marshallese Cultural Holiday

At Sunset, Marshallese students celebrated the holiday of Manit with staff and classmates. Manit is the Marshallese holiday which celebrates the cultural heritage of the Marshall Islands. The holiday begins on September 30 and is celebrated throughout the following month.




Windsor Wildcat Walk and Fitness Frenzy



On an unseasonably warm October afternoon Windsor Elementary held their annual Wildcat Walk and Fitness Frenzy. The Wildcat Walk is Windsor's main fundraiser for the year. Every year the school raises over \$35,000 to

help pay for student events, activities, educational assemblies, technology, recess equipment, and much more. Students had a great time walking the track and engaging in fun athletic activities with EWU students.



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

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



On Tuesday, August 30th, Community Health Associates of Spokane (CHAS) partnered with Westwood Middle School to serve 23 middle school students who will now be able to participate in sports at our schools. Cheney

School District has worked with CHAS before to provide immunization clinics and sports physicals. Sunset Elementary hosted the team so it was a real group effort.

Our planning came together with the professional care, competency, and efficiency of the skilled care providers from CHAS and kept everything moving smoothly. We worked with our admin/athletic director to identify some of our students who for multiple reasons would not otherwise have gotten the care they need to participate in sports. Working in partnership we were able to build a bridge of care to connect them in such a meaningful way.

Sports are a wonderful chance for students to relieve stress, manage anxiety and improve their physical health. It's been such an encouragement to watch our students get involved in softball, football, and cross country this fall!

We look forward to continuing our partnership with CHAS and hope to have them back again to help students most in need who don't have transportation or access to care for more sports physicals and vaccination clinics. We APPRECIATE each one that came to serve and we are so grateful for this important community partnership.

Cheney FFA Participates in FFA Tour in Colfax

The FFA team and advisors shared their appreciation to the State Association, the Officer Team and WSU Ag Ed Students for making it a great day. As well as Colfax High School and FFA for hosting.



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



Listening and Learning Meetings

Cheney Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Ben Ferney spent time with School District Staff, District Leadership Council, Airway Heights Parks and Recreation, Cheney Kiwanis, Cheney Fire Department, and many others to identify priorities in the district and community.

The most common themes that surfaced in response to each question are listed below.

What does it take to be successful here?

- **Relationships** • Teamwork • Systems •
- Work Hard • Student-Centered •
- Communication • Feedback • Trust •



What is the biggest challenge you face?

- **Lack of Staffing** • Lack of Systems •

What is the biggest challenge Cheney Public Schools faces?

- **Outgrowing Current System** •
- Growth Management • Change in Demographics •



What is the most positive thing about Cheney Public Schools?

- **PLC Work** • Teamwork and Dedicated Staff •
- Community Support • In It for the Kids •
- Valuable Skillset of Our People •
- Sense of Small Town • Changing Demographics •

What advice do you have for me?

- **Listen and Learn** • **Be Visible and Open** •
- Systems Focus • Instructional Coaching •
- Meet People • Know People's Names •



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Top 5 Overall Themes

- **Outgrowing Our Current System** • Relationships •
- Growth Management • Lack of Staffing •
- Change in Demographics •