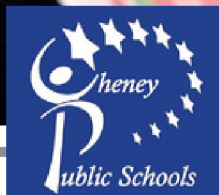


COMMUNITY *Connections*

News of Cheney Public Schools



For our children, our world, our future



Ben Ferney, Ed.D.
Superintendent
bferney@cheneysd.org

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On the Cover:
Betz staff
collaborate in a
PLC meeting

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community Members,

It is hard to believe we are already in the midst of winter! The fall parent-teacher conferences are being held next week and there is much to be thankful for. I have made many site visits to our schools and departments across the district since the start of school. It is always inspiring to see the learning that takes place in our classrooms!

In the fall of 2017, Cheney Public Schools began the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) journey. According to PLC expert Dr. Janel Keating, one of the main concepts of PLC work is to have a team of people working together to improve adult learning so that students can learn more. Dr. Richard DuFour, was known as a leading authority in implementing PLC work in school districts across the nation, states, "The key to improved student learning is to ensure more good teaching in more classrooms more of the time."

As you are aware, the late start on Fridays creates time for our staff to collaborate in the PLC process. PLCs focus on four questions: 1) What do we expect all students to learn? (Priority standards); 2) How will we know if they learn it? (Assessment); 3) How will we respond if students do not learn? (Intervention); and 4) How will we extend the learning for students who are already proficient? (Extension). While simple in concept, diving deep into each question takes a team effort to best support every student ensuring access to grade-level standards, reteaching or extension if needed, and intensive support for foundational skills.

At a recent visit to Cheney Middle School on a

Friday late start, the English Language Arts (ELA) PLC had grades 6-8 discussing the percentage of students going to intervention per week. The lead teacher shared that in their discussions as a PLC, too many students were going to intervention, and that it was more of a whole group reteaching than a specific strategy. As a team, they decided to allow more time between the lessons (question 1) and assessing how the students did on the lesson (question 2). In doing so, the 6th grade ELA team found the percentage of students needing intervention was reduced from 40-50% to 15-18%. By doing so, intervention has been more focused for students that need additional exposure while offering extension opportunities for students that would have previously been in intervention.

While there is always room for improvement, I was impressed with the intentionality and true care given to every student in the PLC example above. This is only one example of many that happen on Friday mornings across the district during late starts. Thank you for your support of the PLC work being done in our school district!

In the end, Dr. Keating has shown us, we need our teams working together to improve our practices so that students can learn more.

We are Cheney Public Schools!

Sincerely,

Ben Ferney, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Cheney Public Schools



Mark Scott
School Board Member
District 1



Zachary Zorrozuva
School Board Member
District 2



Henry Browne
School Board Vice-President
District 3



Stacy Nicol
School Board Member
District 4



Mitch Swenson
School Board President
District 5

MISSION STATEMENT:

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.



Cheney High School Marching Band, Pride of the Community



This season has been momentous for the Cheney High Marching Band and Color Guard. Before the season even began the Band Booster Club purchased and donated to the school a semi-truck trailer for the Marching Band. The trailer has allowed the band to transport their equipment safely to band competitions, the new semi-trailer is a great addition to the band program.

While most students were still relaxing at home, waiting out the last few days of summer, band students and members of the color guard were out on Oswald Field practicing in the hot sun to prepare for the season. The countless hours of preparation on the field, and the countless hours parents and boosters spent procuring and remodeling the trailer set the stage for the season.

The band performed at games throughout the fall and excelled at the competitions they entered. At the October 1st Cavalcade of Bands in Kennewick, the band picked up 2nd

place overall as well as winning Overall Best Visual, Overall Best Color Guard, and Best General Effect among AAA schools. The band traveled again on October 15 to WSU for the Marching Band Championships, taking overall 2nd place, and Overall Best Visual; as well as 2nd place among AAAs and winning Best Visual among AAA schools. These two competitions only whetted the band's appetite for competition.

On October 21st the band set off for the Puget Sound Festival of Bands. Along the way, the band stopped at Central Washington University to rehearse with the CWU music department and CWU's director of bands Dr. T. Andre Feagin. After that, it was on to Everett.



The Band and Color Guard had an incredible showing, bringing home Best Overall Visual, Best Overall General Effect, Best Drum Major, the People's Choice Award, and the First Place Overall Sweepstakes. Cheney Public Schools is beyond proud of our band and color guard, not only the students and staff this year but all of the staff, students, parents, and community members who have helped build this program into the competitive group it is today.

When the band's bus returned to Cheney they were greeted by an escort of Cheney Police and Fire Department vehicles who lead the buses through town with lights flashing.

Congratulations Cheney High School Band and Color Guard!



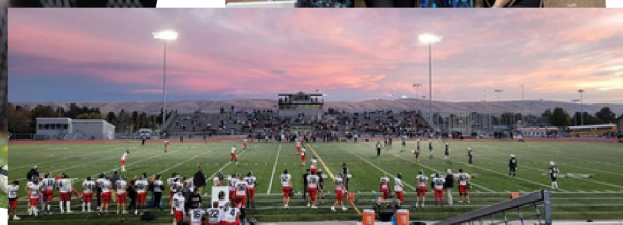
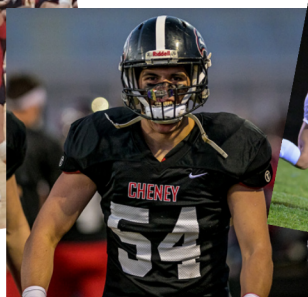
Top: CHS Band at Puget Sound Festival of Bands after winning Sweepstakes.

Left: Band poses in front of the new trailer.

Above: Student practice during summer camp.

Scenes from Fall Sports

Great job to all our athletes this season!



Facilities Improvements

Projects Completed and Serving Students

The Capital Levies passed in 2019 and 2021 are providing value for our students and community as projects funded by the levy are completed. Two of the big ticket items completed in 2022 with levy funds were the renewal of two sports facilities in the district.

The Tennis Courts at Salnave Elementary were refinished allowing for a better play surface by students and community members.

Hatch Gym at Cheney High School was also reconditioned. A new gym floor was installed, lighting replaced with high-efficiency LED fixtures, and new bleachers installed. The newly refurbished gym has been a great improvement for our high school gym classes and our athletic programs.

Lastly, updates to HVAC systems are ongoing, new fixtures at Three Springs and other locations have been installed.



Above: Volleyball players during a game in the newly refurbished Hatch Gym.

Left: Salnave Tennis Courts in use by Salnave Students during PE class.

Educational Programs and Operations Levy Dollars at Work

Since taking effect in January 2022 (passed February 2021) the EP&O Levy has allowed the district to continue providing services to our students at levels above the state-funded minimums.

The EP&O funds assist the district in funding smaller class sizes, athletics, and extracurricular activities, as well as support competitive pay for substitutes. The levy dollars also contribute to funding many educational support positions such as additional school nurses and psychologists, and importantly levy dollars help support more certificated teachers than state funding provides. We also have more custodial staff and paraeducators thanks in part to EP&O levy dollars.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our community to provide excellent and well-rounded educational environments for our students.

Together, WE ARE CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS

- Paid training provided: 32 hours classroom training, 20 hours behind-the-wheel training.
- District will cover the cost of testing and required physical.
- Cost for fingerprinting covered by the district.
- District will reimburse the CDL licensing fee.

Call 509-559-4523 for more information



Tier 3 Intervention Positively Impacts Students at Middle Schools

Entering its second year, the math and ELA intervention programs at CMS and WMS are positively impacting students who need Tier 3 support. Tier 3 support is individualized instruction to help students meet grade level standards.

An example of this kind of classroom is Mrs. Kayla Portrey's math intervention room at Westwood. Students whose scores on i-Ready Standardized tests that indicate a need for additional support are referred to the intervention classroom. Here students receive individualized support to help bring them up to grade-level standards.

Students in Mrs. Portrey's class report that the positive classroom environment helps them feel comfortable. Because of the individualized attention students are able to work from many places in the classroom, from comfortable chairs to desks. The combination of environment and assistance in progressing in math skills helps create a positive learning



experience for the students who have often struggled.

Mrs. Portrey recognizes students as they master math skills in the classroom as 'math masters.' During class on September 27 Sofia Minor, a 7th grader mastered base ten operations and was recognized by having her photo placed on the 'math master' wall. As students master skills they support one another by assisting other students to learn those same skills.

Students Mike Masumoto and Sarah Lavin spoke positively about the classroom culture and the collaborative support between students. Mike Masumoto shared that he

enjoyed the opportunity "to get to work together," while Sarah Lavin shared that "this is my favorite class."

Several students shared their love for the class. Evidence shows that the classes are making an impact too. In ELA intervention classrooms students are making multiple months' worth of advancement in comprehension skills each month. Math intervention is likewise seeing rapid progression by students.



Top Center: Students interact with Mrs. Portrey during class.

Top Right: Mrs. Portrey works one-on-one with a student.

Bottom Right: Students work in comfortable settings.
Bottom Left: Student works at desk.



Professional Development Day Builds SEL Capacity

The Professional Learning Day on October 14th was a great success! We appreciate all our staff who came ready to participate and learn!

The focus of this professional development day was Social-Emotional Learning. For secondary educators the day was spent on Panorama training. Full use of the Panorama student software will help teachers access more data to focus intervention on individualized needs of students. This works by pulling data from multiple systems and placing it in teachers' hands.

Elementary teachers focused on State SEL Standards and how their schools are incorporating standards into their School Improvement Plan processes. PLC Teams unpacked the six standards and talked about what it would look like at each grade level.



Photos: Elementary teachers gather in PLC Groups to discuss incorporating State SEL Standards into School Improvement Plans.

Westwood Teacher and District YES Officer Honored as Best of the West

Two dedicated Cheney Public Schools employees were recognized by the West Plains Chamber of Commerce on November 4th at the Best of the West Awards, held at Northern Quest Casino.

Katherine Potter, an art teacher at Westwood Middle School, was selected as their Cheney Educator of the Year. The Chamber of Commerce recognized her dedication to her students saying "Mrs. Potter opens students' minds and expands the realm of possibility by being very intentional in sharing examples of art from a variety of cultures, countries, and time periods linking art with history in her instruction. Additionally, their experiences extend beyond the classroom to displays in the Airway Heights Library and through

virtual art shows that are shared with our families."



*Officer Pat Carbaugh
YES Officer, Airway Heights Police Department*

Officer Pat Carbaugh joins fellow YES Officer Brad King as a West Plains Hero of the Year Award Winner. Officer Carbaugh is in his second year as a YES Officer for Cheney Public Schools. In addition to his work in schools, he launched the Airway Heights Police Adventure League to offer qualifying students a chance to build positive relationships with law enforcement officers and enjoy outdoor experiences during the summer.

Congratulations to both Mrs. Potter and Officer Carbaugh! We are grateful for your dedicated service in Cheney Public Schools and know you truly are the best of the west!



*Mrs. Katherine Potter
Art Teacher Westwood Middle School*

Cheney Public Schools Inclement Weather Protocols

Delayed Start

If inclement weather makes roads unsafe necessitating delays for personal and district transportation, then schools will start 2 hours late (1 hour on Fridays).

- Salnavé Elementary School, Cheney and Westwood Middle Schools, and Cheney High School will start at 9:50 am.
- Three Springs will start at 10:05 am and HomeWorks! will start at 10:30 am.
- Betz, Snowdon, Sunset and Windsor Elementary Schools will start at 10:50 am.
- This delayed schedule is applicable for Monday through Friday.
- ECEAP/Preschool will follow school delays.
- Breakfast (grab and go) and lunch will be served.

School Closure

If inclement weather will prohibit safe travel on roads throughout the district, then schools will be closed for the day.

- The school day will be made up on a prescheduled day as prescribed by the school district calendar.
- ECEAP/Preschool will follow school closures.
- Nutrition Services will not provide meals.



Together, we uplift lives.

Cheney Public Schools

Seeking substitutes in all areas...



- Including teachers, custodians, bus drivers and aides, nutrition services, and paraeducators.
- Set your own schedule.
- Benefits eligible at 630 hours.
- Continue other work.
- Network and expand your skills.
- Earn \$15-\$22/hr. dependent on position.
- Questions? Call Leigh Lubbers at 509-559-4542.

Hiring Bus Drivers Now

- Positively impact the lives of students.
- Full Time and Substitute Drivers needed.
- School District provides and pays for training.
- Questions? Call Transportation at 509-559-4523

Visit bit.ly/chenehire to see all open positions and apply!



Blackhawks Give Back

Alumna and Students Show the Giving Spirit of the Community

On Saturday, September 10, Kyle Loughery head athletic trainer at Cheney High School received a call from Kassie Brennan, a 2020 graduate of Cheney High School. Brennan is a manager at the Cheney Safeway and knew that her store had a large number of water bottles that needed to be donated. When she was a CHS student Brennan spent hours in the training room volunteering her time, she was the president of the Sports Medicine Club and was a student athletic trainer. Mr. Loughery was happy to hear from the former student and glad to receive the donation.

Mr. Loughery's pickup was loaded with over 30 milk crates full of water bottles at the Cheney Safeway. The water will be used for athletics and activities at the high school. When he arrived back at the high school students from the girls' soccer team, band, and drill teams saw he needed help and jumped in to help carry crates of water to the training room. Their willingness to pitch in saved the athletic trainers and the student trainers hours of work.

The willingness of Cheney Blackhawks to help one another out shows the character of the school and the whole community. Thank you to Chase Ibach, Troy Nolden, and Kassie Brennan at Safeway, as well as to the Cheney girls' soccer team, marching band, drill team, and student athletic trainers.



Top: Kassie Brennan poses by milk crates.
Left: Soccer team prepares to help unload water.
Below: Mr. Loughery poses by whirlpool full of water bottles.
Bottom: Members of Band and Color Guard carry water.



Farm to School



The Farm to School program is making a comeback! In November the Nutrition Services program was able to fully relaunch the program that brings fresh food from local farms to our schools, including the harvest of the month program.

The Harvest of the Month program allows us to highlight locally grown food each month, sharing about how and where the food is grown.

In November butternut squash was served as the first harvest of the month item.

The upcoming months will highlight the following ingredients in a meal:

- December – Bison Stew Meat
- January – Baby Red Potato
- February – Red Lentils
- March – Bison
- April – Asparagus
- May – Smoked Salmon
- June – Ground Lamb

Partnering with local growers helps to strengthen local agriculture, bring fresh food to our schools, and give our students a chance to learn about Washington-grown food items on a monthly basis.





509-559-4599

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..... *Important Dates*

December 14

School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
Westwood Middle School Library

December 19 - January 2

Winter Break

January 11

School Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
District Office Conference Center

January 16

Martin Luther King Day - No School

January 25

School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
Windsor Elementary Library

January 30

Mid-Winter Break Day - No School
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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 Public Schools
12414 S. Andrus Rd. Cheney, WA 99004
Phone: (509) 559-4550
Email: tarlt@cheneysd.org

Section 504 Coordinator
Franklin Day, Director, Student Support Services
Cheney Public Schools
12414 S. Andrus Rd. Cheney, WA 99004
Phone: (509) 559-4507
Email: fday@cheneysd.org

Requests for Disclosure of Public Records
Helen Page, Public Records Officer
Cheney Public Schools
12414 S. Andrus Rd., Cheney, WA 99004
Phone: (509) 559-4502
Email: hpage@cheneysd.org



Cheney Public Schools



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Are you a member of a military family?
Please visit bit.ly/cheneymilitary for
more information.

Community Connections is published by Cheney Public Schools for residents within the school district boundaries. Compiled and edited by Mitchell Palmquist, Communications Coordinator, Cheney Public Schools. Address any questions or concerns to mpalmquist@cheneysd.org.