



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

January 26

School Improvement Plan, 5:00 p.m. at Betz Elementary

School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at CHS Auditorium and Zoom Webinar

January 28

End of Semester/2nd Quarter

January 31

Mid-Winter Break Day - No School

February 9

School Improvement Plan, 5:15 p.m. at CMS

School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at CMS and Zoom Webinar

February 11

Professional Learning Day - No Students

February 21

Presidents' Day - No School

Dear Staff, Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

The start of the new year has been challenging in many ways as we have faced an increase in COVID cases and case rates in the county and region due to the Omicron variant. While there have been several struggles to the beginning of 2022, and there may be reasons for us to be discouraged at times, I believe it is critically important that we remain optimistic that our circumstances will soon improve. And, although it has been difficult, a key to working through the pandemic is finding hope in each day and continuing to lean on our friends, family, and loved ones for support.

An area that has brought me considerable encouragement in recent weeks is the way so many staff have rallied together and have been willing to do whatever it takes to keep our schools safely open for in person learning. Most people know that it has been a struggle to find substitutes and to fill staffing needs in many of our departments and throughout our district on many days. Consequently, a significant number of staff members have been asked to cover for their colleagues and fill in wherever they can to help us meet our staffing needs. Specific examples include staff from various departments that hold appropriate driver certification who have driven bus routes, teachers who have covered classes for colleagues during their prep time, administrators who have subbed in classrooms and other positions as needed, and classified staff who have assisted in various assignments throughout the system. Thank you to every staff member who has stepped in to fill a gap in order to keep our schools open and our system running as smoothly as possible!

While we are facing issues that have made it difficult to keep our system running and schools open, our students continue to demonstrate an amazing amount of resiliency. My spirits are lifted when I am in one of our schools and I observe students engaged in learning, participating in extra-curricular events, or playing and visiting with their peers at recess or in a commons area. Even in the midst of all that isn't "normal" there is a lot of positive energy exhibited by our students within our schools each and every day.

In closing, as we continue to work through the challenges of the pandemic I encourage each of us to find ways to lift others up, including our children, family members, co-workers, and the amazing staff of Cheney Public Schools. In times of adversity a positive word, an encouraging note, or just simply treating one another with kindness and compassion can go a long way to making someone's day. I am certain that we will overcome this latest hurdle and things will indeed improve soon.

Robert W. Roettger
Superintendent

Our essential foundations

- ★ High Expectations and Continuous Progress
- ★ Involvement and Engagement with School District Community
- ★ Stewardship and Planning

Follow Cheney Public Schools on:

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or go to www.cheneysd.org for current news and information.



Character Trait for January:

FAIRNESS

Treating people and ideas with justice and impartiality.

January 2022

Highly Capable Program

Cheney Public Schools welcomes referrals from parents, school staff, students, teachers and community members for highly capable identification. Each year students new to the district and students currently enrolled may be referred for evaluation. The process for identification is facilitated by a specialist at each of our schools and consists of multiple aspects including formal assessments, teacher input, and guardian input.

As a community member, if you know of a student you consider to be highly capable, you are welcome to complete referral paperwork, which can be found at www.cheneyisd.org. The annual evaluation process will occur in our district in April. Cheney Public Schools strives for equitable identification across all populations. If you or someone you know would benefit from receiving this information in another language other than English or if you would like to request a paper copy of the referral form, please contact our District Office at (509) 559-4503.

Staggered School Schedule

The district will be reviewing the staggered school schedule that was implemented during the 2021-2022 school year to determine if adjustments are necessary. Families and staff signed up to receive School-messenger communications will be receiving a Thoughtexchange survey link on January 31st to provide thoughts and rate other peoples thoughts. We encourage you to participate as a way to help the district best determine the schedule that benefits students the most.

January is School Board Appreciation Month

Cheney Public Schools is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people leading the school district. Please join us in thanking them for their leadership, their commitment to our students and community, and their support of our mission 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.

Mitch Swenson
President

Henry Browne
Vice President

Stacy Nicol
Legislative Rep.

Mark Scott
Director

Zachary Zorrozua
Director



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
Email: tarlt@cheneyisd.org

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

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
Email: hpage@cheneyisd.org