



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

March 1
Kindergarten
registration begins

March 9
Board Work Session,
8:30 a.m., Webinar

March 10 –11
Parent-Teacher
Conferences

March 23
Board Site Visit, 1:00
p.m.
SIP, 3:15 p.m.
School Board Meet-
ing, 4:00 p.m.
WMS and Webinar

April 4 - 8
Spring Break - no
school

May 30
Memorial Day - Holi-
day

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

During the course of the past two years we have spent an incredible amount of time and energy as a school district and community working through the global COVID-19 pandemic. As COVID case rates continue to decrease and the pandemic shifts to an endemic, many aspects of our school system will begin to transition as well.

Prior to sharing several of these changes, I would like to provide an update and data related to COVID case rates in Cheney Public Schools. Throughout the month of January, the Omicron variant had a significant impact on our region and as a district we saw a weekly high of 203 positive student and staff cases during the four-day week of January 18 – 21. For comparison, last week (February 14 – 18), we saw a total of 33 cases across our entire district. This comparison demonstrates a significant improvement in case rates and cause for optimism as we approach March and the coming of spring.

This past Wednesday marked the first in-person classroom/school visitation for our Cheney Public Schools Board of Directors in more than two years. This was an exciting step forward and provided a true sense of normalcy to our work. In the coming weeks several additional adjustments will be made to our school system. To begin with, our middle school and high school cafeteria and commons spaces will return to pre-pandemic breakfast and lunch service and structures on February 28th. In addition, our middle schools will assign hall lockers to students the week of March 7th. We are also planning for a hybrid approach to our upcoming parent/teacher conferences. This hybrid approach will provide parents with the opportunity to attend conferences in person or via Zoom depending on what works best for their individual needs and schedules (specific information will be shared directly by each of our schools).

Although many in our community will be excited by the end of the state mask mandate (Monday, March 21st) and will say “it’s about time” to the transitions that are scheduled to occur in our system, there will also be those who are apprehensive about taking masks off and will make the personal decision to continue wearing masks over the next weeks and months. My plea as superintendent is that we are all respectful of the various opinions that exist in our community and that during upcoming transitions we are supportive of those individuals who continue to wear masks and prioritize other COVID safety measures. While many are divided on the best way to move forward with changes in health and safety protocols, I believe everyone can agree that a high level of civility and respect are necessary to do so in the best possible manner.

In closing, thank you for your continued support of our children, staff, schools, and school district. The upcoming transitions outlined in this newsletter will be successful because of our cooperative efforts and your support. As always, please reach out to me at 509-559-4502 or at rroettger@cheneysd.org if you have questions about any aspect of our school system.


Robert W. Roettger

Robert W. Roettger, 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 February
HONESTY

Sincerity and reverence or love for the truth.

February, 2022

School Board Members visit Salnave Elementary

School Board President Mitch Swenson gets a lesson in multiplying decimals while in Ms. York's 4-5 combo class during a classroom visit. It has been two years since the school board has been able to do site visits as they were on hold during the pandemic.



Board members normally visit three schools during the school year and were excited to be in classrooms witnessing the high levels of learning taking place. Thank you, Salnave students, for the opportunity!

A visit to Westwood Middle School will take place in late March while the visit to Windsor was postponed this past October.

Unified Basketball



Cheney Cheer - Division Champs!



COVID Vaccine Input Survey

Cheney Public Schools recently collected the thoughts of our parents and guardians related to potential Washington State COVID vaccination requirements for children ages 5 and older through a survey. The purpose of the survey was to gather data to share with the Washington State Board of Health. In addition, the survey data will be shared with patrons of our district in the next few days. As a reminder, this survey and the sharing of the responses is in no way an attempt to create a pro or anti COVID vaccination stance by the district. Rather, it was an opportunity to gather input and share it with the appropriate state agencies as decisions are being considered. We would like to thank each of you that participated in the survey.



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