



# Community Connections

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

## Important dates:

**September 13**  
First Day of Preschool

**September 22**  
School Board Meeting,  
Cheney High School  
and Zoom Webinar,  
6:00 p.m.

**September 29**  
School Board Work  
Session, Zoom,  
5:00 p.m.

**October 8**  
Professional Learning  
Day - no students

**October 13**  
School Board Meeting,  
Location TBD  
4:00 p.m.

**October 27**  
School Board Meeting,  
Location TBD  
6:00 p.m.

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

I truly hope the 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start for each of our students and their families. It has been very exciting to see students back in our schools and in classrooms, at recess, playing in the band, and enjoying athletics. In fact, I often find myself smiling (albeit sometimes behind a mask) when I'm driving by or stopping in at one of our schools!

Prior to the pandemic our school district experienced steady enrollment growth for several years in a row. Last year, with the uncertainty of the school year, enrollment was down slightly from pre-pandemic levels. During our first official count of the 2021-2022 school year we had an overall K-12 enrollment of 4,996 FTE which is an increase from last spring. Currently, most grade levels within our system have roughly 400 students with the largest class having an enrollment of 442 students (9<sup>th</sup> grade).

As we continue to work through the many challenges associated with the pandemic, I request your assistance in supporting the implementation of health and safety protocols that can help keep our students safe and on campus. One mitigation strategy that is extremely important is having students stay home when they are sick or when they have been a close contact to a positive or potential COVID case. Following this protocol, along with wearing masks, keeping our distance, and washing hands frequently, whether in school or out in the community, can keep others from becoming sick and/or from being involved in quarantine situations. If you have questions about a possible health situation involving your child, please reach out to your students building nurse or health aide. By following health and safety mitigation strategies, and staying home when we are sick, we can help manage the spread of COVID-19 within our community and allow us more time to focus our attention on student learning.

As I have shared in previous messages, transportation has presented some challenges for our school district. We started the year with 48 daily bus routes and 44 drivers (currently 47 routes and 44 drivers). This meant that several members of our transportation department who have other duties (but maintain appropriate CDL/Endorsement) have been driving routes daily. Our entire department has been working extremely hard to meet the day to day and extra-curricular routing needs of our schools and I am very proud of their dedication to our students and district. We continue to seek additional drivers so if you or someone you know would like to become a bus driver for the district (starting wage of \$19.36 per hour, paid training, and full benefits for regular route drivers) please contact our transportation department at 509-559-4523.

In closing, thank you for your patience and support as we navigate the complexity of the start of a new school year. As always, please reach out to me at 509-559-4502 or email me at [roettger@cheneysd.org](mailto:roettger@cheneysd.org) if you have questions I can help address.

*Robert W. Roettger*

Robert 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 September:  
**RESPECT**

Recognizing, considering, and properly honoring the worth of one's self and others.

September 2021

## Students Welcome Senior Year with the Sunrise

CHS students braved the end-of-August morning chill with a student-organized Senior Sunrise event in the wee hours of the morning on August 31. Students warmed up in layers of blankets and hoodies to ward off any lingering cold and morning dew while watching the sun rise on their senior year in Crunk's Field. The dog days of summer are over, and a new year is beginning! Go Blackhawks!



**SEPTEMBER IS  
HUNGER ACTION  
MONTH.**

### **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  
Email: tarlt@cheneysd.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: fdlay@cheneysd.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@cheneysd.org