

# COMMUNITY *Connections*

News of Cheney Public Schools



*For our children, our world, our future*



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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Superintendent .....	2
District News .....	3
Then and Now.....	4
PLC News .....	5
Student Achievements .....	6
CTE Project .....	7
Partnering with AHPD .....	7
Notices .....	8



**On the Cover:**  
Cheney High School Graduates throw caps into the air at the end of commencement

# LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community Members,

On behalf of the entire Cheney Public Schools staff and school board, we are excited to get the 2022-23 school year started! Our mission and the reason we exist is 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.

To do this, staff have worked over the summer to prepare the building campuses with upgrades, maintenance and repairs, hiring replacement staff, and attended professional development training sessions. This work allows our schools to succeed in providing a welcoming and academically supportive environment where all students are offered a chance to excel.

I have been impressed with how the new staff members have hit the ground running, learning from their colleagues and becoming part of the community. Similarly, it has been great to see how welcoming our team has been to all our new hires, myself included. Seeing the cohesion, support, and collective effort by our staff present in the summer and our principals fills me with excitement for the upcoming school year.

There is a sense of optimism in the coming school year for our students! We all look forward to seeing them engage in academics and participate in activities and athletics. These experiences are invaluable opportunities for our students to try new things and test themselves physically, mentally, emotionally, and relationally. Albert Einstein would agree as he has been quoted as saying, “Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.”

Please join me in welcoming in a new school year on a team fueled with optimism and hope.

Ben Ferney  
Superintendent, Cheney Public Schools

**us/we/together**



Mark Scott  
School Board Member  
District 1



Zachary Zorrozuza  
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.



## New Assistant Principals at Cheney Middle and High Schools

Mrs. Rhonda Turnipseed has been selected as the next assistant principal of Cheney High School and Ms. Megan Smedley has been selected as the next assistant principal of Cheney Middle School.

Mrs. Turnipseed was most recently principal at Clayton Middle School in Washoe County, Nevada. Before working at Clayton Middle School, Mrs. Turnipseed served as an assistant principal at Vaughn Middle School, principal at High Desert Montessori Charter School, and assistant principal at Procter Hug High School, all in Washoe County. She has also served as a principal assistant in Spokane Public Schools, as well as a teacher in Spokane and Post Falls school districts. Mrs. Turnipseed holds a Master of Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Eastern Washington University.

Ms. Smedley was most recently Athletic Director and Interim Assistant Principal at Colville High School; she has served as Athletic Director since 2018 and interim assistant principal since March of 2022. Before her experience at Colville High School, Ms. Smedley was a math teacher at Ellensburg High School and was part of the initial Ellensburg PLC team working to implement common standards-based assessments for the math curriculum in the Ellensburg School District. Ms. Smedley also has over seven years of athletic coaching experience prior to serving as an Athletic Director. She completed her Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and Secondary Education at the University of Idaho and her Master of Arts in Coaching and Athletic Administration through Concordia University Irvine. Ms. Smedley completed Principal Certification through Gonzaga University.

Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Turnipseed and Ms. Megan Smedley to Cheney Public Schools!

## New Cheney Middle School Principal

Following a rigorous interview process, Cheney Public Schools is pleased to announce that Ms. Rebecca Parrill has been selected as the next principal of Cheney Middle School pending school board approval. The interview process brought together members of all stakeholder groups to interact with our candidates. CMS student and staff panels spent time with the candidates, and a district leadership team also interviewed each candidate. The final two stages of the interview process were with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, and a community forum. This process allowed feedback to be provided from each stakeholder group, the input was considered by the hiring committee, and Ms. Parrill rose to the top as the right candidate to lead Cheney Middle School.

Ms. Rebecca Parrill has served as the principal of Valley School in Valley, Washington since 2020 and previously served as a principal assistant at Adams Elementary in Spokane for two years. She has also taught English Language Arts at the middle and high school level for 13 years at public schools in Idaho, Arizona, and Ohio. Ms. Parrill holds a BA in Secondary Education from the University of Akron and an MA in Educational Leadership from the University of Idaho.

Ms. Parrill brings excellent administrative experience from Valley School and Adams



Elementary and is excited to begin at Cheney Middle School. "I've admired Cheney Public Schools from afar for many years, and it is a privilege to now partner with the students, the staff, and the community members to continue the great educational experiences that happen at Cheney Middle School," said Ms. Parrill. "It was wonderful interacting with the students, staff, and community members during the interview process, and it solidified my desire to be a part of the work. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone soon. Go Hawks!"

Cheney Public Schools congratulates Ms. Rebecca Parrill for being selected as the next principal of Cheney Middle School. Please join us in welcoming her to the district!

## Skyward Family Access Update

Skyward Family Access Passwords are now case sensitive. You do not have to change your password; however, going forward this change will impact all accounts. Please remember to type your password as you originally created it.

If you cannot remember your password you

may select "Forgot your Login/Password?" for assistance.

New families should contact their child's school to obtain their password.





# Then and Now

## *Middle Schools Mark 10 Years of Service*

Each school building in our district is, in a way, a gift to our community's future; the facilities funded by local taxes are a sign of the community's trust in our schools, staff, and administrators. Ten years ago, the Cheney Public Schools completed two new middle school buildings. The 110,705 square foot buildings were designed by NAC Architecture and built by two different contractors. Cheney Middle was built for \$24 million and Westwood for \$26 million (additional costs were for site prep).

These new buildings continue to serve our district well. Part of our responsibilities as a district is to be good stewards of the facilities the community members fund for our children. While any building with nearly 700 middle school-aged children daily will suffer some bumps and bruises, our maintenance staff work hard to keep the buildings in top shape.

Thank you for your support of our schools, and we look forward to many more decades of use out of these two great schools.



*Buildings under construction*



*Buildings now*





# Strengthening Learning Outcomes through Professional Learning Communities

Cheney Public Schools teachers and staff members have been working continuously to strengthen our educational outcomes. One of the ways our district has committed to this goal is by implementing Professional Learning Communities (PLC). These teams of teachers are organized by grade levels or departments. In these PLC teams, teachers work through a continuous cycle of answering these four questions:

1. What specifically do we expect all students to learn? (Standards)
2. How will we know when each student has learned? (Assessment)
3. How will we respond when students experience difficulty learning? (Intervention)
4. How will we respond when students demonstrate they have learned? (Extension)

The first step in the PLC process helps identify and prioritize standards that teachers across a cohort are working to help all students meet. The Priority Standards are "a carefully selected subset of the total list of the grade-specific and course-specific standards within each content area that students must know and be able to do by the end of each school year in order to be prepared for the

standards at the next grade level or course." These standards are what we focus our instruction and assessment on throughout the school year. We ensure that these standards can be adequately taught, assessed, re-taught, and reassessed to ensure students are moving to the next level prepared.

As part of the PLC framework, the district implemented late-start Fridays. This time is

dedicated for teachers to meet in their PLC teams. Their work during this collaborative time is dedicated to examining student work, developing .

common assessments, and collaborating on instructional strategies. Using student data, they also work to design additional time and support for students who need it, and enrichment for students who already 'get it'.



Above: Principals and district teaching and learning staff work in PLC teams with the guidance of WASA PLC coach Janel Keating.

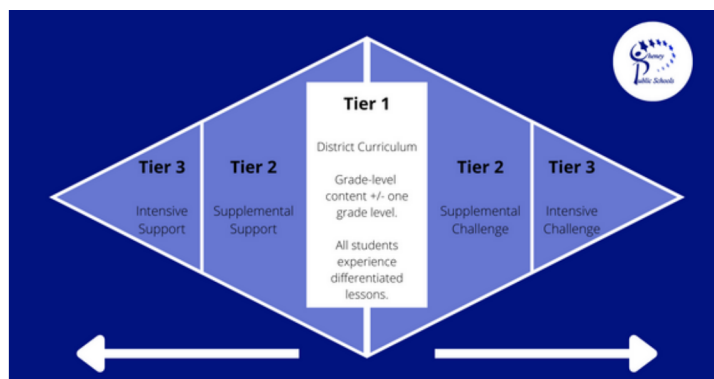
## Highly Capable Program Review

In July Carol Lewis presented a review of the Highly Capable program to the Board of Directors.

Recommendations were to look at ways of expanding Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions. Tiers in education refer to levels of intervention. Tier 1 is general classroom instruction, tier 2 is targeted instruction within a classroom and tier 3 is intensive intervention. At the elementary level, the highly capable team recommended pull-out time for tier 3 students. At the middle school level, the recommendation is to add more advanced core classes beyond math and

increase access to AP and honor level classes at the high school level. All the recommendations are designed to provide additional programs that keep highly capable

students engaged in school while being open to any student—especially at the secondary level—interested in more challenging course work.





## Cheney High School FBLA Successful at National Leadership Conference

The Cheney FBLA team finished a very successful National Leadership Conference in Chicago. This year's Cheney team had 14 members attend the conference on June 28-July 2.

The Cheney team placed top 15 in six of the eight events they entered and ended up bringing home eight trophies in five different events.

There were multiple highlights for the Cheney team this year. Outstanding moments included our first ever National Champion when Junior Jason Hatfield placed 1st in the nation in Computer Problem Solving. A second highlight for our team was having two of our Network Design teams place in the top 5 in the nation. The team of Keenan Hahn, Luke Hurd, and Garrett Heuett was 3rd in the



(Left to Right) Front Row – Mika Corneil, Luke Lisonbee, Srikar Surapaneni (Ridgeline HS), Charlie Rajewski, Haile Bronec, Adam Smith. Middle Row – Jason Hatfield, Ben Scriber, Cameron Teresi, Joaquin Mendoza, Keenan Hahn. Back Row – Finn Syrie, Garrett Heuett, Luke Hurd, Micah Richardson, Draven Carter.

nation and the team of Micah Richardson and Joaquin Mendoza was 5th.

Also having outstanding performances was Emme Murray who earned 3rd place in the nation in Database Design and Cameron Teresi who was 10th in Help Desk. Also placing top 15 in the nation was our Marketing team of Finn Syrie and Mika Corneil.

This year's FBLA National Leadership Conference featured over 12,000 students competing in over 90 different events.



(Left to Right) Front Row – Jason Hatfield, Cameron Teresi, Joaquin Mendoza, Emme Murry. Back row – Garrett Heuett, Luke Hurd, Micah Richardson, Keenan Hahn



## Cheney Athletes Recognized on GSL All-League Team

Congrats to all our student athletes recognized as Spring GSL All-League Athletes



### Baseball

1st Team - Quinn Hubbs (so.)

Hon. Mention - Carter McPherson (so.), Tyler Ashcroft (Jr.)

### Fast Pitch Softball

1st Team - Pyper Cagle (sr.)

2nd Team - Mia Ashcroft (fr.), Parker Cagle (sr.), Rhyann Kucirka (jr.), Sedona Ericson (so.)

Hon. Mention: Madison McDowell (sr.), Tatum Sloan (jr.)

### Boys Soccer

Hon. Mention - Keenan Hahn (sr.)

### Boys Tennis

Hon. Mention - Brandon Blazekovic (sr.)

### Girls Tennis

Hon. Mention - Jenae Potter (sr.), Colleen McKinnon (jr.)

### Boys Track and Field

1st Team - Konner Dobosh (sr.)

2nd Team - Braxton Hinton (jr.)

Hon. Mention - Kai York-Akiu (sr.)

### Girls Track and Field

2nd Team - Sydney Reagan (sr.)

Hon Mention - Hannah Ayers (sr.), Mariah Hill (so.), Macey Richards (so.)

## 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 Multiple Positions

- Positively impact the lives of students.
- Positions available across the district.
- Questions? Call Angela Moses at 509-559-4509

Visit [bit.ly/cheneyhire](http://bit.ly/cheneyhire) to see all open positions and apply!





# Career & Technical Education (CTE)

## Assisted Living Center Project

CTE students from Cheney High School collaborated across programs to provide community activities for the residents of Cheney Assisted Living. The residents had faced increased isolation during the pandemic, and Cheney High School's Career and Technical Student Organizations were asked to help develop community activities.

Students from the Project Management Institute Education Foundations, within DECA, developed, organized, and managed the project with detailed activities that can be reused daily/weekly/monthly including a scavenger hunt and Wheel of Fortune. SkillsUSA students printed the Wheel of Fortune Board, white spaces, letters, and created a physical wheel to spin. Prostart students baked and frosted 30 cupcakes for residents. FFA students created and provided flower arrangements for the 28 residents.

Cheney High CTE programs look forward to partnering with the Assisted Living Center for future volunteer projects. Thank you, CTE students!



Top: Students present the project to residents

Bottom: Students installing the Wheel of Fortune game in a sitting room of the Cheney Assisted Living Center



# Partnering with AHPD



During the school year students and staff in the Airway Heights and West Plains schools will recognize Officer Pat Carbaugh as the YES Officer (Youth Engagement Specialist). Officer Pat looked to support students in the summer, working with local partners in the region he established the Police Adventure League to provide a high adventure summer program that includes a mentoring focus.

Twelve students joined Officer Pat this summer for activities ranging from rock climbing, river rafting, service projects and a four-day long backpacking trip.

Cheney Public Schools is proud to be a supporting partner for this new endeavor, assisting with transportation and food for the program.







509-559-4599  
www.cheneysd.org  
12414 S Andrus Rd  
Cheney, WA 99004

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Spokane, WA  
Permit #4

## Important Dates

### August 17

School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm  
Cheney High School Library

### August 30

School Open House

### August 31

First Day of School

### September 5

Labor Day - no school

### September 6

First Day of Kindergarten

### September 12

First Day of Preschool

### October 14

Professional Learning Day - No School

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 @cheneyschools



@CheneySchools

Are you a member of a military family?  
Please visit [bit.ly/cheneymilitary](https://bit.ly/cheneymilitary) for  
more information.