

Community Connections

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

Important dates:

June 18 Last Day of School

June 23

School Board Meeting, Cheney High School and Zoom Webinar, 5:30 p.m. Board Work Session— Budget Planning immediately following

July 13

Mid-Summer School Registration, all school sites, 8:00—12:00

July 14

School Board Meeting and Public Hearing for the 2021-22 Budget, Cheney High School and Zoom Webinar, 5:30 p.m.

July 22

Mid-Summer School Registration, all school sites, 12:00—4:00

August 9 School Offices Reopen

August 18

School Board Meeting, Cheney High School and Zoom Webinar Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

It is difficult to believe the end of the 2020-2021 school year is upon us and the last day of school is Friday, June 18th. What a year it has been as we began in a 100% distance learning model, transitioned to in-person learning (including hybrid models at many levels), and ultimately returned to five days of in-person instruction at all grade levels this spring while maintaining distance learning options for those who chose them. Our students, staff, families, and community have made many sacrifices throughout the past year in order to adjust to the many challenges and changes we have collectively faced, and I can't thank you enough. I truly appreciate the grace you extended as we navigated a very unique school year. Cheney Public Schools is an amazing school system because of our remarkable students, supportive families and community, and outstanding staff.

The students in the class of 2021 have certainly had an interesting adventure as they navigated the past fifteen months of school closures and a variety of learning options. Last week we had the opportunity to celebrate the graduating class of 2021 during three separate ceremonies. On Tuesday, June 8th we celebrated the accomplishments of four members of our Capstone program during a ceremony in the auditorium at Cheney High School. On Friday, June 11th we were able to recognize the many accomplishments of the CHS class of 2021 (296 graduates) during a wonderful commencement ceremony at Northern Quest. The following afternoon (a beautiful Saturday afternoon) we celebrated the accomplishments of seventeen students from Three Springs High School, also at Northern Quest. I am extremely proud of the class of 2021 as they have persevered through some very challenging times on their way to earning their high school diplomas. I have no doubt the graduating class is prepared for the next steps of their life journey following high school. Congratulations class of 2021!

As we prepare for the upcoming school year we are planning for a full return to in person learning in the fall. Included in this preparation is determining a staggered start and end time schedule for our schools in order to adjust to the transportation limitations that exist within our district. Additional specific information will be shared soon related to daily start and end times so that our staff members and families can plan accordingly. In addition to start and end times, I know there are still questions related to health and safety protocols and potential online learning options that may be in place for fall. Our next meeting with the regional health department is scheduled for mid-July and we are waiting for any further recommendations or guidance from OSPI, the state DOH, SRHD, and the Governor's office. As soon as we receive updated health and safety guidance we will share it with our staff members and families. We have conducted parent surveys and focus groups to gather information about desired characteristics of online learning models, and very soon we will determine if and how Cheney Public Schools is able to offer online learning opportunities in the fall. Having said this, my hope is that we are able to safely return to a relatively "normal" school experience in September.

Again, thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and Cheney Public Schools. Take care and have an enjoyable summer!

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Robert W. Roettger
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Our essential foundations

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

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<u>Character Trait for June:</u> **INTEGRITY** Living a set of values which includes honesty, respect for others, and a sense of personal responsibility

June 2021



Congratulations, CAPSTONE, Cheney High School, and Three Springs High School graduates!

