



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

March 11 – 12
Parent-Teacher
Conferences

March 24
School Board Meeting
CHS and Webinar,
6:00 p.m.

March 31
School Board Work
Session
Webinar, 5:30 p.m.

April 5 – 9
Spring Break —
No school

April 14
School Board Meeting
CHS and Webinar,
6:00 p.m.

April 28
School Board Meeting
CHS and Webinar,
6:00 p.m.

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

In life there are dates that become etched in our minds due to significant events that occur. March 13th is one of those dates that will forever have significant meaning for me and our entire system. On March 13, 2020 I attended a meeting with regional school leaders in Spokane and I remember exactly where I sat and who was at my table as we first heard the news of possible school closures. Later that day the news became official as Governor Inslee held a press conference to announce a statewide school closure.

While the past year has been extremely challenging in many ways, I feel a sense of hope as we approach the one year anniversary of the beginning of the pandemic. Currently, county COVID-19 case rates are at the lowest levels in the region since early October. The distribution and availability of the COVID-19 vaccine has increased in recent weeks and educators have been included in the current eligibility tier. In addition, the Governor just announced that all counties within the state are moving to phase three of the state Roadmap to Recovery plan. While the pandemic isn't over, there are many reasons to be hopeful as we approach spring and the one year anniversary of the world wide health crisis.

As a school system we began slowly and safely phasing students into school for in person learning beginning in October and have continued to add grade levels in the past several months. Currently, our K-3 students are attending school in person five days per week and our students in grades 4-12 are on campus two days a week in a hybrid model. Moving forward we are working on plans for the full return to five days of in person learning for 4th and 5th grade students following spring break. Although in person learning has increased, we are proud that we have been able to maintain distance learning options in support of our families and students who choose this model at this time.

In order to safely reopen our schools to in person learning we have worked hard to follow the guidance and health and safety protocols established by the state, DOH, and SRHD. As you may have seen in the news recently, one of the protocols that is currently being discussed is the 6' distancing requirement. The distancing requirement limits the number of students who can be in a classroom (and other educational spaces), twenty students or fewer in classrooms in most instances. Thus, as we continue to move forward and ultimately plan for the fall, an adjustment to the distancing requirement will need to be considered in order to allow for a full return of students to in person learning. Although I am not a health expert, my assumption is that this requirement will be reconsidered and can be altered as administered vaccinations increase, COVID-19 cases decrease, and the health situation improves. Additional information on this topic will be shared as it is available.

In closing, I am very appreciative of the way our school district and community have rallied together to face the many challenges of the past year and I look forward to continuing our work this spring and as we prepare for the fall of 2021. As always, if you have any questions about our reopening work, or any other aspect of our school system, please call my office at 509-559-4502 or email me at roettger@cheneysd.org.

US/WE/TOGETHER

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 March

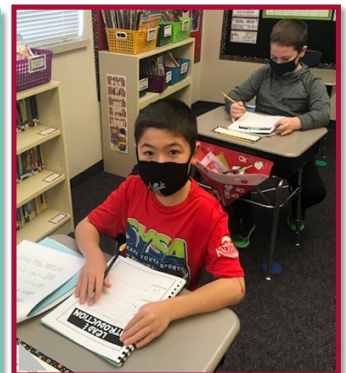
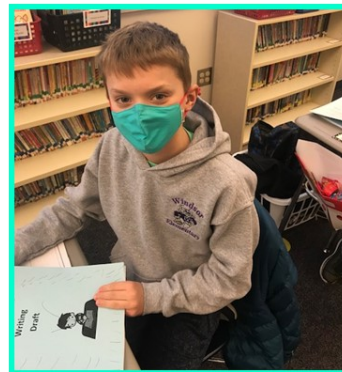
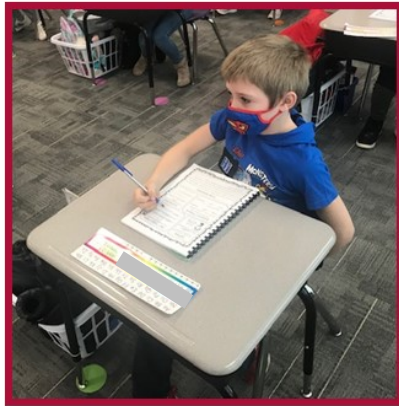
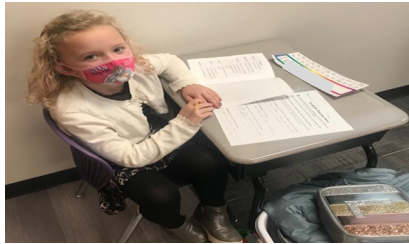
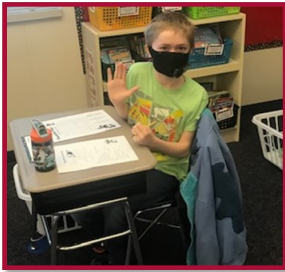
DILIGENCE

Persistence, dedication, and hard work.

March, 2021

Elementary Excellence!

Our elementary learners are back in class in person, enjoying the snowy weather, and being the amazing all-stars they are! Pictured below are some of our Windsor and Betz students learning new things, writing creative stories, and making beautiful art — of both the paper and snow variety!



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

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.,