



# Community Connections

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

## Important dates:

**Dec. 16**

School Board Meeting  
Zoom Webinar, 6 p.m.

**Dec. 21-Jan. 1**

Winter Break  
No school

**Jan. 13**

School Board Meeting  
Zoom Webinar, 6 p.m.

**Jan. 18**

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Day  
No school

**Jan. 27**

School Board Meeting  
Zoom Webinar, 6 p.m.

**Jan. 28**

End of second quarter  
and semester

**Jan. 29**

Mid-Winter Break Day  
No school

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

We have all witnessed at different levels the havoc COVID-19 has wreaked on our nation and how the virus has impacted individuals, families, and our community (health and well-being, the economy, schools, etc.). Although 2020 has challenged our community and region, as superintendent I am approaching 2021 with a sense of optimism and hope as we plan for the future of our school district. While we must not let our guard down as we continue to live with the COVID-19 virus, we must also remember that the pandemic is temporary and that at some point "this too shall pass". Thus, as 2020 draws to a close and the beginning of a new year approaches, I am committing to looking and pushing ahead.

A significant aspect of looking ahead is planning for the return of additional students to our schools. In recent weeks groups of teachers and central office and building administrators have teamed to consider hybrid learning options for grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The goal of this work is to create a specific plan for each of these grade bands that can be shared with our Board of Directors on December 16<sup>th</sup> and with parents as they consider the best learning option for their student(s) (continue in distance learning or return to in-person instruction when possible).

We will continue to work with the regional health district as we analyze the COVID-19 situation in our community and region and make decisions related to reopening our schools for in-person learning. We recently shared tentative return dates (3<sup>rd</sup> grade 1/11/21, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade one to two weeks after 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade at semester 2/1/21), and will attempt to finalize timelines and communicate specific information with families as soon as possible. Since the return of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is scheduled first, we will communicate specific information to parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students prior to break and by Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Knowing that many factors can change between December 18<sup>th</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup>, the information received prior to break will be a tentative plan to be confirmed after winter break.

In addition to our reopening focus, planning for the future of our schools includes replacement EP&O and capital levy propositions that will be on the February 9<sup>th</sup> ballot for voter consideration. If approved by voters, the levy propositions will be for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 and will replace the existing EP&O and capital levies that expire in 2021. In the coming weeks the district will provide a levy informational flier within our school district and schedule webinars to provide additional information to our community. Details related to the dates, times, and how to participate in levy webinars will be provided soon.

Although this has been a very stressful time, my sincere hope is that each and every family had an enjoyable and safe Thanksgiving and will have a joyful holiday season. As always, if you have any questions about our school district, please email me at [rroettger@cheneysd.org](mailto:rroettger@cheneysd.org) or call my office at 509-559-4502.

*Robert W. Roettger*

Rob Roettger, Superintendent

## Our essential foundations

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

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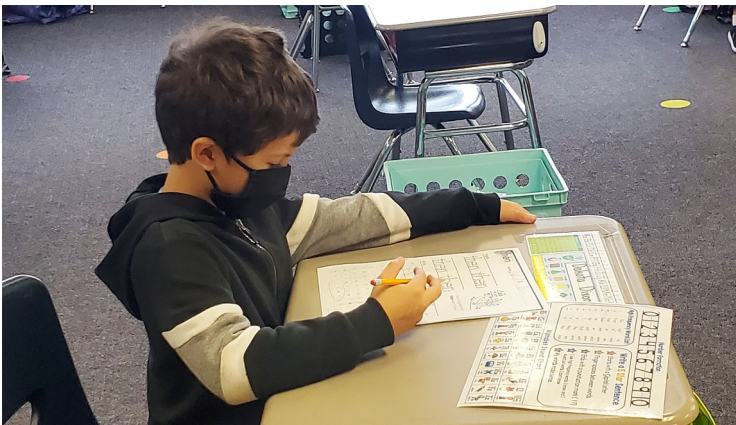
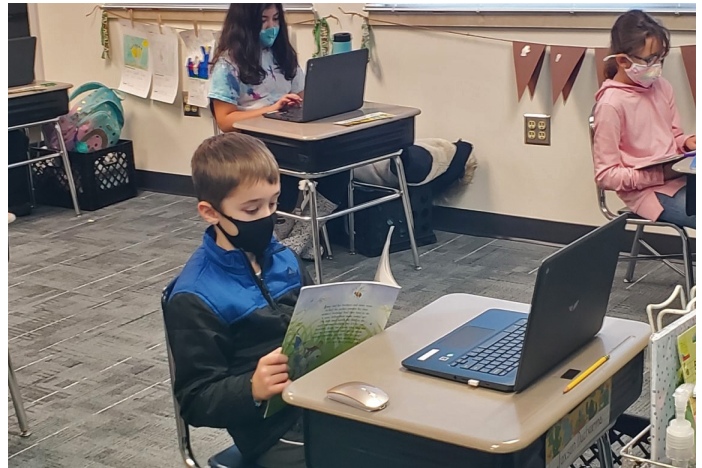
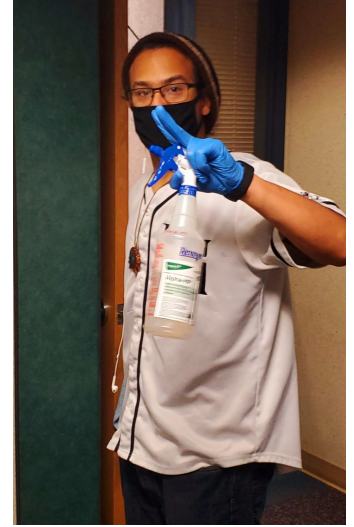
Character Trait for December  
**CARING**

Showing a genuine concern for the welfare of others and being a kind, supportive helper.



## **Making Strides: In-Person Learning**

New routines are being established as K-2 students have returned to learning in person! A huge shout out to all the students, whether in person or remote, for working so hard to create a successful year in spite of the challenges. Thank you to the amazing staff at each site as each one fills such a valuable role in creating a safe and healthy learning environment.



### **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