



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

May 19

School Board Work Session
Cheney High School
and Zoom Webinar,
5:30 p.m.

May 26

School Board Meeting
Cheney High School
And Zoom Webinar,
6:00 p.m.

May 31

Memorial Day —
No school

June 1

Preschool registration
begins

June 11

CHS Commencement,
Northern Quest,
6:00 p.m.

June 12

TSHS Commencement,
Northern Quest
2:00 p.m.

June 18

Last day of school

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the middle of May and the final five and a half weeks of the 2020-2021 school year. While it has been an eventful year to say the least, it is exciting to see students back in our schools five days per week and engaged in in-person learning and many extra-curricular activities as well as being able to see their peers and teachers in person.

As we have reopened, enrollment data from the end of April shows that approximately 74.6% of our students in grades K-12 are on campus and in person across our system, 20.9% of students continue to participate in distance learning, and 4.5% are engaged in our Home Works program or Running Start (high school). The number of students in grades K-8 who have returned for in person learning is roughly 80% whereas 62% of our grades 9-12 students have returned in person and 38% remain engaged in distance learning or Running Start.

As we plan for the upcoming school year, determining the number of families who would prefer continued on-line learning options is important. Recently, parents were surveyed and we received feedback representing approximately 50% of our K-12 students. The results showed 5% of middle school, 6% of elementary, and 11% of high school families would like an on-line option if possible and between 4% and 9% of families were undecided about the fall. Overall, 80% of high school and 90% of K-8 families indicated a preference to be in-person as we start the next school year. As a system, we will analyze this data and determine the type of on-line support we will be able to provide as we consider staffing needs and state requirements related to on-line and/or alternative learning experience (ALE) programs. Additional information will be shared soon, and parents and guardians who expressed an interest in helping us plan for an on-line learning option will be contacted in the coming weeks.

Earlier today (May 13) the Washington State Department of Health provided updated guidance to school districts related to health and safety protocols for the 2021-2022 school year. This updated information is critical as we plan, prepare, and share information with our families. As we work with the updated guidance we are planning for a full return to five days of in person learning beginning on September 1st. Once we have thoroughly analyzed the DOH document, and discussed it with the regional health district, we will provide a summary of the information with our families. Until then, you can access the DOH document at the following link -- [see the guidance on the DOH website](#).

Several of my favorite events each year are the graduation ceremonies at Cheney High School and Three Springs High School. While these ceremonies may not follow "normal" traditions this year, we are excited that both commencements will be held in person at Northern Quest Casino's outdoor venue (finalizing a contract this week). Although there will be capacity limitations due to health and safety protocols, we believe we can host approximately 1,250 individuals as we celebrate the accomplishments of the class of 2021. The CHS ceremony is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 11th and the Three Springs HS ceremony is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 12th. Specific information will be provided to our graduates and their families in the coming days by our building administrators.

In closing, I want to thank our parents, staff members, and community for all of your support. We could not have weathered the many storms from the past fourteen months without your unwavering commitment to our student's academic and social and emotional well-being, and our district. THANK YOU!

Robert W. Roettger

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 May:
COURAGE

Displaying integrity in spite of obstacles and challenges.

May 2021

New Sport at Cheney High School: Unified Soccer!

Cheney High School now has a new sport offering — unified soccer! Unified sports join people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. The Special Olympics recently hit its goal of more than 1 million unified sports teammates worldwide, and Cheney is so excited to be a part of it! Want to learn more about unified soccer? Check out <http://bit.ly/waunifiedsoccer>.



It's Party Thyme — FFA Plant Sale

Cheney High School's FFA will be hosting its annual plant sale May 20 and 21, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.! The annual sale will be in person this year, just outside the greenhouse to allow for social distancing. Cash, credit and debit are all accepted for payment. Prices start at just \$3 for 6-pack or 4" veggies, annuals, and herbs. Tomatoes (16 varieties!) are only \$4. Geraniums, specialty petunias, basket fillers, spikes, and other larger items are just \$5! Also featured are hardy succulents and both tropical and succulent houseplants from \$4-\$15. Mixed hanging baskets are only \$25. All plants were grown in the CHS greenhouse by students, and all proceeds go to the Cheney FFA Chapter for leadership and career development!



May is... National Foster Care Month

www.NationalDayCalendar.com



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@cheneydsd.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: fday@cheneydsd.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