



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

February 13

School Board Work Session, 1:00 p.m.
School Improvement Plan, 3:15 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
Cheney Middle School

February 15

Professional Learning Day—No School

February 18

Presidents' Day—No School

February 27

School Improvement Plan, 5:15 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
Cheney High School

Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

On January 14th the Washington State Legislature convened for the 2019 Legislative session. Each year, Cheney Public Schools develops a set of educational Legislative Priorities in areas that we believe are key for our school district and community. This year our Legislative Priorities are in four areas: *address and eliminate funding inequities; improve school safety and security; create and maintain fair assessment and accountability systems; and support school facilities*. This newsletter will address several specific areas of each priority, and the complete Legislative Priorities document can be found on our website at www.cheneysd.org/LegislativePriorities.

Address and eliminate funding inequities: During the 2018 Legislative session, local levies were capped at \$1.50 per thousand or \$2,500 per student. If a school district levy is capped at the \$1.50 level and generates less than \$1,500 per student, then the state provides additional funding up to \$1,500 (equalization). In this system, a funding inequity exists in that some districts can generate significantly more funding (up to \$2,500 per student) for less than \$1.50 per thousand. We are requesting that the state "equalize" all districts to the \$2,500 per student level in order to create equity across our state. We are also requesting that the Legislature remove the 13.5% special education funding cap and fully fund special education services.

Improve School Safety and Security: The safety of our staff and students, and staff and students across our state, is of utmost importance. We have requested increased state funding for school safety and security so that districts can hire mental health providers, counselors, and school resource officers in order to provide a safe learning environment for all students.

Create and Maintain Fair Assessment and Accountability Systems: Currently, in addition to meeting their credit requirements, high school students must pass a state exam in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in order to earn a high school diploma. In year 2021 the state will also add the science exam to the list of requirements. As a district, we support complete delinking of assessments from high school graduation requirements.

Support School Facilities: We are requesting the actual costs of school construction when districts qualify for state matching funds. Currently, state matching funds provide \$225 per square foot when actual construction costs are much higher. We also support the reduction of the 60% threshold that exists for approval of school bond issues.

Advocating for our district is an important aspect of our responsibility as district leaders. During the Legislative session we follow many bills and meet and communicate with Legislators in an effort to ensure the best possible system for our students, staff, and community. If you have any questions about our district Legislative Priorities, or any other aspect of our system, please call me at 509-559-4502 or email me at roettger@cheneysd.org.

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

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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PACE
PARTNERS ADVANCING
CHARACTER EDUCATION

Character Trait for February

HONESTY

Sincerity and reverence
or love of the truth

February 2019

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
Dr. Sean Dotson, Associate Superintendent
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4550

Section 504 Coordinator
Dr. Robin Andrus, Director of 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



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CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Cheney, Washington 99004

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STEM Capital Grant Awarded to Cheney High School

Cheney High School was awarded a \$1.9 million grant towards a STEM capital project. While Cheney currently has one STEM pathway, these funds will allow for CHS to greatly expand providing students with a pathway in 3rd Year Math and Science as well. New classes such as Data Science, Human Body Systems/Athletic Training, Material Science, Machining/Manufacturing, and Robotics/Engineering can be added. How wonderful it is to be a part of preparing CSD students for future opportunities and encouraging them to get excited about their possibilities.

Home Works! Spotlight on Education

Spotlight on Education provides an opportunity for students to showcase what they have learned during the semester.



January Student of the Month Carlee Foster at Home Works!



CHS Unified Basketball

In the first season ever for unified basketball in Cheney School District, the team will be off to Districts on February 15 with a record of 2-2.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration begins at your local elementary school on Friday, March 1, 2019. Children must be 5 years of age by August 31.

Several forms can be completed in advance and can be accessed under "Parent & Student Resources" "Student Registration" on the district website: www.cheneysd.org. Please bring the following with you at the time of registration: birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residence (i.e. utility bill), and valid ID of parent/guardian registering the child. You will also receive a Kindergarten bag with information, a book, and some activities to use over the summer to get ready for Kindergarten. We are excited to welcome our newest students to Cheney.

