



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

April 29-May 10

Thoughtexchange input from parents, students, staff, and community

May 8

Employee Recognition
Cheney Middle School
5:00 p.m.

May 8

School Board Meeting
Cheney Middle School
6:00 p.m.

May 22

School Board Meeting
Cheney High School
6:00 p.m.

May 27

Memorial Day Holiday
No school

June 5

Three Springs HS
Commencement

June 7

Cheney High School
Commencement

Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

I hope each and every student, staff member, and family has had an enjoyable April! It's hard to believe we are at this point in the school year already, and that there are only thirty-five school days remaining. It is the time of year when we make the final push toward graduation, striving to ensure students learn the standards and skills we have identified at each grade level and in every content area.

Spring is also the time when annual state assessments are given in many grade levels and content areas. Although an important part of our system, it is crucial that we keep these assessments in proper perspective. State assessments are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning and provide valuable information that, when combined with other school and district data, help us understand our strengths and areas where we can improve. As superintendent, it is important to me that state assessments are not stressful for staff and students. They are only one data point used by our district to analyze student achievement in relation to state standards. It is my belief that we must use *all* available assessment data to improve our system and *not* create fear and anxiety for students and teachers, or failing labels for schools and districts.

In Cheney Public Schools, we have dedicated and caring staff members and excellent schools. Having said this, we are constantly striving to improve our system for our students, families, and community. In order to receive input from our community related to our strengths and possible areas for improvement, we will conduct a district "weather report". To do so, we will utilize Thoughtexchange to gather feedback related to our schools and district. On Monday, April 29, we will provide additional information about how to participate in the upcoming "weather report" and Thoughtexchange process.

During our recent spring break, I had the opportunity to visit each of our construction sites to see the progress toward completion. Construction continues at Sunset and Windsor Elementary schools, where we are on track to complete both projects before the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. The new classroom wing on the northwest corner of Cheney High School is complete, and we began occupying the new classrooms on April 15th. Recently, demolition work began on the south side of the high school, and portables will soon be moved off-site to complete parking lot improvements this summer. Thank you for your patience and support as we complete capital projects while maintaining our normal day-to-day operations.

In closing, if you have any questions about any aspects of our school system, please contact me at rroettger@cheneysd.org or call me at 509-559-4502.

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 April

TRUSTWORTHINESS

Inspiring complete reliability and confidence in his/her truthfulness, integrity and discretion

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



The district is raising awareness by planting blue pinwheels at all district locations. The pinwheel is a reminder of childlike notions and playful quaintness. Educate yourself on child abuse prevention by visiting www.childhelp.org and preventchildabuse.org.

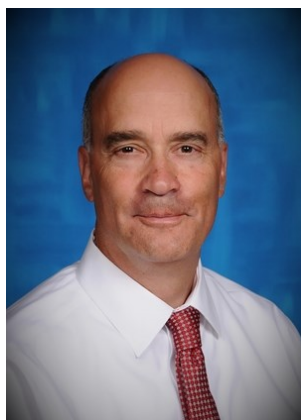
New Assistant Superintendent Selected

Cheney Public Schools is pleased to announce that Mr. Tom Arlt has been selected as the next Assistant Superintendent for Cheney Public Schools. Mr. Arlt earned his degree in Psychology and Counseling at Washington State University and five years later earned his Masters of Education at City University in Bellevue. Mr. Arlt has also completed the K-12 Principal Certification Program and Professional Administrator Certification Program, both at Seattle Pacific University.

For the past four years, Mr. Arlt has served at Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools in many capacities to include Elementary School and High School Principal and Director of State and Federal Programs. Prior to his years at Lind-Ritzville, Mr. Arlt served the Colfax community for seven years in building and district administration (K-8 principal), eight years with the Granite Falls community as a special programs coordinator, and nine years with the Lake Stevens community in the intervention and counseling programs.

The applicant screening team and the hiring committee were very impressed by Mr. Arlt's diverse background in educational leadership and support. He comes to us with a proven record in student achievement and a strong desire to become a part of the Cheney School District and community.

In a reference that was provided, it was said "I have come to know Tom as a competent, dedicated, and talented professional who works hard to best serve students and staff alike. He teaches staff how to effectively collaborate and support student achievement. He has proven himself a capable and effective leader." In a separate letter it was shared that "He embraces the PLC and collaborative system and focuses extensively on the four essential questions with his staff. Mr. Arlt never fails to amaze me with his dedication to the education and service to the students within our district. He is a wealth of information and is eager and willing to share his knowledge to enhance the learning of others, of which I have truly benefited over the years."



Mr. Arlt will be replacing Dr. Sean Dotson, who has accepted a position as Superintendent of the Tumwater School District effective July 1, 2019.

District Weather Report

We are excited to launch an open and interactive conversation using Thoughtexchange. From April 29 until May 10, we want to hear from everyone—parents, staff, community members, and students—about what is working well in our district and areas we can improve.

In our 2015 Thoughtexchange check-in, you identified some top priorities for our district:

- Overcrowding and enrollment
- Facilities to accommodate growth
- Testing vs. learning
- Student behavior and discipline

As a result, we went to work and took the following actions:

- We added 25 elementary classrooms and over 20 high school classrooms and instructional spaces with the support of our community.
- We reviewed assessments, making adjustments where possible to balance instruction and assessment.
- We provided training and added additional staff to support behavior and discipline

Now we are asking for your input again. You can share your ideas, see the ideas of others, and highlight what matters most to you. Your feedback will help us understand our strengths and needs to help us keep improving our schools.

Starting on Monday, April 29, a link will be shared so that adults can access the Thoughtexchange. Students will have an opportunity to provide their confidential input at school through a Student Voice Thoughtexchange.

As always, the exchange is confidential. While your thoughts will be shared, your identity will not. All responses will be reviewed and we ask that thoughts shared be polite and respectful. We look forward to hearing your feedback.



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

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.