



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

May 9

Employee Recognition, 5:00 p.m.
Cheney High School
School Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.

May 23

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

May 28

No School—
Memorial Day



May Character Trait

COURAGE:

Displaying integrity
in spite of obstacles
and challenges

Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

Each year I am amazed at how quickly the months fly by. It is hard to believe, but we are already in May, and the 2017-2018 school year will soon be coming to a close. Spring and the end of the school year mark the time when our students participate in annual state testing in grades 3–11. These summative assessments are designed to measure a student's progress toward meeting state academic standards in ELA and math in grades 3–10 (SBA), and in science in grades 5, 8, and 11 (WCAS).

Annual state assessments serve an important role as they provide our district with information related to the progress students are making toward meeting state standards. Having said this, state assessments are only one piece of the puzzle. To truly understand a student's strengths as well as areas that need support, we must use multiple measures such as classroom formative assessments, end of unit assessments, district benchmark assessments, and other classroom data that provides meaningful information related to a student's progress toward meeting grade level expectations.

Although I absolutely believe we should strive to improve state assessment scores within our district, and we have set goals and expectations related to state scores, I do not want to create a system that overemphasizes state tests in a way that causes our students and parents unnecessary worry or anxiety. I am also concerned when scores are used in a negative manner to penalize students, schools, and districts. Therefore, as a school district we have advocated for the delinking of high school state assessments from graduation requirements (although current graduation requirements are still linked to state assessments). In my opinion, a high school diploma should not be withheld from a senior who has met all other district graduation requirements simply because the student has not been able to pass a state-mandated test. Again, state assessments should be used to help schools and districts measure their progress and to improve—not to penalize students.

In closing, please know that while we will strive to have high test scores and a 100% graduation rate, we do not want to create a system of fear and anxiety related to state assessments. Rather, our goal is to use data and assessment to guide us in providing differentiated, quality instruction that will help every student in our system achieve at high levels. As always, if you have any questions about any aspect of our school system, please feel free to contact me at rroettger@cheneysd.org or at 509-559-4502.

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



Robert W. Roettger

Robert W. Roettger, Superintendent

*Memorial Day
May 28*

Our essential foundations

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

Follow us on Twitter  and Facebook  or go to www.cheneysd.org for current news and information about Cheney Public Schools.



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

Section 504 Coordinator
Kristi Thurston, Director, Student Support Services
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507

Requests for Disclosure of Public Records
Sharon Throop, 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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Sunset Fitness Fanatics

The semester finale of Mr. Radtke's morning "Fitness Fanatics" class at Sunset was awesome! Mr. Radtke set up a fabulous Ninja Warrior obstacle course for the kids, and they certainly put on a show! Even parents and siblings had a chance to test their skills on the course. Way to go, Mr. Radtke! It put smiles on faces all day long!



Our middle school students do well at History Bee



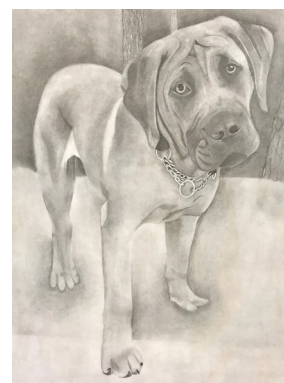
Cheney Middle School and Westwood Middle School have both been working on their respective History Bee Clubs since



the fall. After a lot of hard work, the students took an online test to qualify for the regional competition held in Seattle. All of the students who took the test qualified! Several students made the trip with their parents. Eighth graders Kady Cullen and Caroline Williams from Cheney Middle School earned medals, and eighth grader Alex Bowman from Westwood also medaled. All three qualified for Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia and are considering competing there in June.

Artists are honored

Cheney High School artists displayed their artwork in the NEWESD 101 Annual High School Art Show, and were honored for their talent. Lelie Holland received a Central Washington University \$1,000 scholarship for her entry "Maggie." Maddie Kallsen received the Judge's Choice Award for "Sail Across the Open Sky." The Superintendent's Award was presented to Kyle



Duncan for "Kindred Tones." The works of Johnathen Jacobsen, Kendra Wells and Sidney Fernandez received 1st place awards and were entered into the State competition, where

Johnathen's clay/glaze work "Sun" received the Washington State School Directors' Association Award.

Receiving 2nd place at NEWESD were Alex Hill, Jameson Powell and Tris Hagedorn. 3rd place winners were Charlotte Bigelow, Evie Rowe, Jasmine Burnett, Jeanne Marshall, and Walker Ross. What amazing artists!

Snowdon 1st graders entertain



What a fantastic musical/drama experience the 1st graders recently put on at Snowdon Elementary School! The children certainly showed off their talents to family and



friends. Mrs. Carpenter wove the story of the lost baby bear throughout the production, which made it even more enjoyable. We hope you were able to see this amazing performance by some of our youngest students.