



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

December 16

School Board Meeting, Betz Viking Room, 6:00 p.m.

December 21-January 1

Winter Vacation—No School

Friends of Cheney Public Schools,

DISCOVER. What a creative term to describe this phase of the Thoughtexchange process! You may recall that this fall we invited our school communities to **SHARE** their thoughts about concerns and positives in our District. We then invited our school community to review and prioritize the thoughts using the STAR process; participants placed stars next to the ideas that were most important to them. Our goal is to learn more about the shared priorities from our schools and community.

The entire process was moderated by our partner, Thoughtexchange. We are pleased to report that we had 897 individuals respond. Participants shared 1,557 thoughts and assigned 43,686 stars to their top priorities from across the District.

Ready to **DISCOVER** the priorities for our schools? On this page and page two, you will find a summary of the thoughts prioritized by our patrons. To dig into the results more, please visit our website. The results by school site are summarized there and you can follow a theme down to the specific comments made by the participants that contributed to our process.

Thank you for your interest in Cheney Public Schools. If you were able to participate in this Thoughtexchange, thank you! If you weren't able to participate, please note that a new Thoughtexchange process will begin in January as our Board of Directors will choose one of the topics to further engage our community in the conversation.

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

Debra J. Clemens, Ph.D.
Superintendent



December Character Trait

CARING:

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

Our Community Appreciates

Quality teachers and staff

"Teachers. All the teachers we have met have been wonderful to our children. They are attentive and most are very flexible and understanding when issues arise. I believe Cheney SD has some of the best teachers in the area."

Communication

"Communication between the teachers and parents. I have always had an easy time communicating with the teachers through email or phone about concerns I have or issues that might be going on. This helps me to have a better idea of how my child is doing in school and letting the teacher know what is being done at home."



879
PEOPLE



1557
THOUGHTS



43,686
STARS

Our essential foundations

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

Cheney Middle School activities line: (509) 559-4488

Westwood Middle School activities line: (509) 559-4161

Cheney High School activities line: (509) 559-4120

Go to www.cheneyisd.org for current news and information about Cheney Public Schools. Like us on Facebook! Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/CheneySD>.



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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.,
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Our Community Also Appreciates

School environment

"Openness. This community has blown me away with how welcome and friendly they are. Just in the schools, everyone has been so warm and wonderful. It makes me proud to be a part of this community, and I know that the students are being sent to adults who are passionate and truly care for the students."

Parent and community involvement

"Community support. Cheney and the surrounding community does a fantastic job of supporting the schools and various school-related activities; I also love the collaboration that happens with Eastern Washington University."

Student health and wellness

"Striving for healthy kids! I appreciate all that the Cheney School District does to promote healthy lifestyles at school. Our lunches are amazing! Giving kids only healthy options is a very progressive step. I also love that recess and active play is inserted into our daily schedules - so important for learning!"

Additional Thoughts Shared

Funding and resources

"School Bond - We were disappointed that the school bond was voted down twice. It spotlights the need to better inform the voters of the importance of good quality schools with adequate facilities. It would be great to demonstrate the connection between good schools and home values or something else relatable."

Quality teachers and staff

"As a staff member I would like to have time to work on what I teach. I believe too much emphasis is placed on general teaching practices that don't apply to what I do."

Parent and community involvement

"About school or district this year - I would like to thank the school and district in regards to this survey and asking for input, as some parents aren't able to meet the standard after school is out, as myself and husband work until 5:00 p.m., so including input even if through email is helpful and allows parents like us to be heard. Thank you."

Facilities to accommodate growth

"High School - We need to build a new one and redo the old one."

School environment

"School spirit - Having been to both football and volleyball matches this year, the students seem to have a lot of school spirit and take pride in their school."

Our Concerns Are

Overcrowding and enrollment

"Our schools are crowded. I am concerned with the number of students in each of our schools. As a parent and staff member, I have loved that we have been committed to keeping our schools small enough to maintain a neighborhood/community feeling. I believe that we have been able to do this with the exception of the high school."

Facilities to accommodate growth

"Our district has grown rapidly and we are outgrowing our buildings. It is important that we are able to provide safe environments for children."

Testing vs. learning

"The amount of testing required of students. It seems like there is so much time (and focus) spent on testing, and learning time is infringed upon."

Staffing considerations

"I am concerned about our district's sub and teacher shortage. My daughter still does not have a permanent LA teacher at CMS and our school has yet to hire a librarian and WL teacher. I also worry about the quality of sub I will get to teach my class if I have to be gone. It seems that the smaller the sub pool, the less chance I have of getting a good sub."

Student behavior and discipline

"Addressing behavioral issues in the classroom. Staff need more support in knowing what to do to address behavioral issues in the classroom."

How Can I Participate?

Parents

Be sure your child's school has your email address.

Community members

Please reach out to the contact below to add your name to the list for our next process.

Staff

Watch for an email invitation during the next process.

For more information or assistance about Thoughtexchange

Contact support@thoughtexchange.com or visit Thoughtexchange.com.

Thank you for your interest, and please continue to check this site for updates and opportunities to participate.