



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

February 15
Presidents' Day
Holiday—
No School

February 10
School Visit
at Betz Elem.,
1:00 p.m.
School Board
Meeting,
4:00 p.m.

February 24
School Board
Meeting,
Sunset Elem.,
6:00 p.m.

March 1
Kindergarten
Registration Begins



February
Character Trait

HONESTY:
Sincerity and
reverence or love
for the truth

Friends of Cheney Public Schools,

During the month of January we provided an opportunity to engage with our school district community in another online conversation with our partner, Thoughtexchange. We asked parents, staff, and community members to share their thoughts about enrollment growth and facilities to accommodate growth. All were welcome to participate in this conversation and we are pleased to share that we had approximately 547 thoughts shared. If you were able to participate, thank you for sharing your thoughts about this important topic.

As a reminder, Thoughtexchange is an online engagement tool that allows us to learn from all of those who are affected by the decisions made in our District. The process is different than a typical survey because participants will have the chance to participate in and learn from three steps:

1. SHARE – answer open-ended questions about enrollment growth and facilities (completed in January).
2. STAR – review ideas from others and star the ideas you like best.
3. DISCOVER – learn what is important to the school community as a whole.

As you may recall, the January conversation topic was the key concern expressed by our school community in the fall Thoughtexchange conversation. The STAR step will begin on February 1, 2016. Even if you weren't able to participate in the SHARE step, please help us to prioritize the ideas that have been compiled as a result of the SHARE step. Your participation will help us to understand the priorities of our parents, staff and community members. An email will be sent to parents, staff members, and key communicators explaining how to participate in the STAR step. If you need access to technology in order to participate in the process, please contact my office at 559-4502. If you are a community member and would like to be added to our Key Communicators List, feel free to email us at keycommunicators@cheneyisd.org.

Of course, the above process is in addition to all of the other ways that we receive feedback from our patrons and does not replace the open door style of communication with parents, staff, students, and community members. Thank you, in advance, for joining the conversation about enrollment growth and facilities to accommodate growth. On page 2 of our newsletter, we are featuring our nutrition services program. Please turn the page to learn more about how we are providing healthy choices for our students.

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

Debra J. Clemens, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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

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



*Express your views
by assigning
your "STARS" via
Thoughtexchange!*

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

12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, Washington 99004

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Eat real food

Through the monthly “Farm to School” program, students have the opportunity to taste fresh locally-grown vegetables such as heirloom tomatoes, red kabocha squash, stone fruits, and carrots in all the colors of the rainbow.

Each month a different “Harvest of the Month” is featured, and students not only get to experiment

with a new fresh taste, but they learn all about it—from where it is grown to fun facts about the food itself.

Safe and healthy celebrations

Of the over 4300 students in the district, approximately 200 have potentially life-threatening health conditions including diabetes, asthma and allergies to bee stings, nuts or milk products. As a result, our nutrition services department has been vigilant to ensure that our school breakfast and lunch menus are free of foods that might cause harmful reactions for these students.

Within our schools, celebrations take place throughout the year. Traditionally, these celebrations were accompanied by treats provided by well-intentioned families that might inadvertently include ingredients which would negatively impact these health conditions.

We must be careful to determine that foods are safe for all students. Therefore, food that is designated for group consumption by students during the school day must be free of nuts, nut products, and should not be manufactured in a plant that processes nuts. It must be commercially prepared and clearly labeled with ingredients.

Please be assured that we encourage celebrations. We just need to ensure our students remain safe at school. Visit the Nutrition Services [website](#) for details.

Delicious scratch-prepared entrees

Chef LJ Klinkenberg and his team take pride in preparing special entrees made from “scratch.” This month, there are items on the menu such as chicken parmesan sandwiches, enchilada verde with rice and beans, baked spaghetti, pork stir fry and an egg roll, chicken a la king, and teriyaki chicken rice bowls. Fresh fruits and vegetables are available every day from salad bars where students can select their favorites. In fact, “Chef Klink” pursued a grant which will provide an additional salad bar at Sunset Elementary School at no cost to the district.



Healthy snacks—healthy students

Children who eat well-balanced meals and are healthy are more likely to succeed in the classroom. Our district emphasizes nutrition as well as physical activity at all grade levels to enhance the well-being of our District’s youth and help them make healthy choices in life.

This emphasis includes the provision of healthy snacks and beverages sold to students on campus during the school day in vending machines, in the DECA school store, and during other school fundraisers. Though these items must meet, at a minimum, USDA Smart Snacks in Schools standards, they can still be extremely tasty. Craisins, fruit cups, grapes, applesauce cups, banana chips, hummus dip with carrots and celery, pea pods, vegetable chips, and whole grain items such as graham crackers, “Teddy Graham,” Sun chips, and frozen juice pops are just a few of the choices offered. To view a list of approved healthy snacks, visit our [website](#).