



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

January 18
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day—
No School

January 27
School Board
Meeting,
Westwood
Middle School,
6:00 p.m.

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



January
Character Trait
FAIRNESS:
Treating people and
ideas with justice
and impartiality

Friends of Cheney Public Schools,

Happy New Year! We are excited to be back to school after a snowy winter break and we look forward to welcoming more than 4,300 students to learn and grow together in 2016. We normally have an increase in enrollment following the winter break, and this year we expect a similar trend; in fact, we are serving 161 more full time equivalent students than last year at this time. Part of the increase is thanks to our State's funding of full-time kindergarten which we are now providing for all of our kindergarten students.

Thank you so much for contributing to our community conversation this past fall. Our Board of Directors has reviewed the results of our Thoughtexchange process and has chosen to begin a new conversation later this month. If you haven't had an opportunity to review the results of the fall conversation, you may go to our website to read last month's newsletter or click on the Thoughtexchange icon to access the interactive website that has summarized the DISCOVER results by District and school site.

The next community conversation will focus on the top two concerns expressed by our community: **enrollment growth and facilities to accommodate growth**. Not only is our current student enrollment 60 students above last year's enrollment, we are expected to grow by another 450 students in the next five years. We have been able to temporarily house students and programs in 35 portable classrooms. Providing a quality learning environment for each and every child is the topic of conversation that we look forward to having with all members of our community.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in the new conversation that we plan to begin on January 15, 2016. An email will be sent to parents, staff, and key communicators explaining how to participate. 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@cheneysd.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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.cheneysd.org for current news and information about Cheney Public Schools.



Follow Us!



We are pleased to share that you can now access your Cheney Public Schools via Twitter! You can connect to us on Twitter by searching for Cheney Public Schools, or simply click on the Twitter icon on the [District web page](#).

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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Wifi available when attending school events

Thanks to the technology levy that was approved by our voters several years ago, our District implemented a high speed wide area network that is connected by a 10GB fiber optic network across our school district. Each school has a wired backbone with Wifi access points installed throughout our schools. When you visit our schools a guest access login will appear on your device. You simply accept the terms of use to have access to the Internet.

We plan carefully for the replacement of technology; as you know, technology upgrades are frequent and it is important for us to be thoughtful about how to provide our students with access to current technologies. Therefore, throughout our schools we are replacing technology on a five-year technology replacement schedule. We are pleased to share that our student to computer ratio is currently 2:1. We have purchased and implemented desktop workstations, laptops, tablets, and electronic readers. This level of access makes it possible for our students to conduct research in a timely way, prepare research papers, and develop presentations! We are also fortunate to provide on-line learning tools that individualize the content to the student's needs. Technology is a wonderful learning tool that helps us to prepare our students for career and college.

Full-time Kindergarten

Research confirms that full-time kindergarten provides our students with a successful start to their school experience. From a facilities perspective, implementing full-time kindergarten requires additional classrooms. For example, one classroom could serve two sections of half-time kindergarten; therefore, to provide full-time kindergarten we need double the number of classrooms. Thankfully, we were able to add another portable classroom at Betz Elementary School for the start of school this year. We currently have 35 portable classrooms in the school district.



Facilities available for community use

We are pleased to remind you that our facilities are available for community use. Our School Board recently approved a revised policy for community use and we are excited to share that we have centralized the facility use process in order to provide the best customer service.

When you visit our website, you can click on the Facility Use icon and it will direct you to a web page with all the information you need to get started with your facility use request. Or you may simply call our Events Scheduler, Kellisa Owens, at 559-4902 or contact her by email at kowens@cheneysd.org.