



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

**December 23 -
January 3**
Winter Break—
No School

January 8
School Board
Meeting
Cheney Middle
School
6:00 p.m.

January 20
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day—
No School

January 22
School Board
Meeting
Betz Elementary
School
6:00 p.m.

Friends of Cheney Public Schools,

We are losing track of time. This is particularly true in our science classrooms! That's what happens when children are engaged in their learning with hands-on experiences. Teachers have students build ramps that span across a classroom with the goal of placing a steel ball into a cup with limited time. Students are then given an opportunity to redesign this system to improve their results. This type of science classroom experience is based in standards that focus on inquiry, systems and application. These standards are the practices that scientists and engineers use in their work.

The end result is that children get opportunities to question and understand why and how systems work in the fields of physical, earth, space and life science throughout their education in the Cheney Public Schools. As well as children who understand the importance of following the scientific process: writing a hypothesis, testing it, and documenting the results in their own scientific notebook.

Oh yes, and another result? Improved student learning in science three years straight, as measured on the 5th grade state test – Measures of Student Progress! Of course, the 5th grade science test scores are thanks to the commitment to science education by all of our PK-5 teachers. They know that even our youngest scientists marvel at butterflies, snails, states of matter, shadows and electromagnets.

Thanks to your support, our young scientists have access to Full Option Science System (FOSS) kits, to support their inquiry-based learning of the Washington state science standards. These kits bring science to life in our classrooms every day.

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

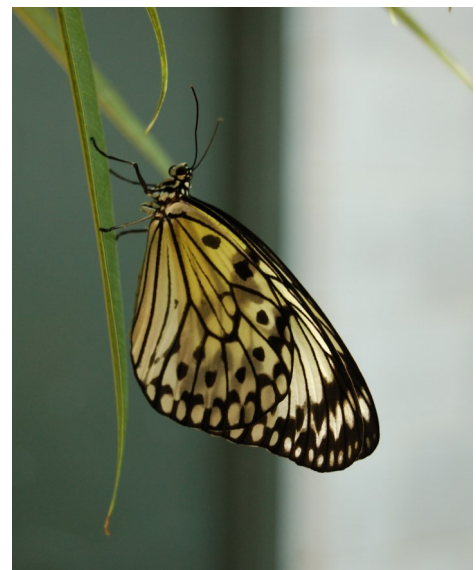
Debra J. Clemens, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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

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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Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 Officer/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, 520 Fourth Street
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4502



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Cheney, Washington 99004

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STEM provides unique opportunities

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities are prevalent in the Cheney Public Schools. One such opportunity in which our 4th and 5th grade students may participate is [Math is Cool](#). Our District sends teams from each of our elementary schools to participate in this annual, challenging, and engaging event.

Math is Cool competitions include both individual and team events. For example, team events include open-ended problem sets, relays, pressure rounds, mental math and college bowl rounds. Our teachers provide students with opportunities to practice these challenging math problems during the regular school day and for teams to hone their skills during lunch. Parents and community members are welcome to witness the final competitions, which include teams sporting colorful T-shirts with their team name proudly displayed on them.

The middle school STEM education program is an interdisciplinary and applied approach that is coupled with real world problem-based learning. Students can participate in a great variety of opportunities such as Sea Perch - where students create functioning underwater ROV's, Robotics/Automation - where students design, build and program a robotic solution to a problem, Design and Modeling - with students designing and virtually constructing in 3D, Adobe Dreamweaver/Adobe Flash - where students learn the basics of web design and digital animation, or Video Game Programming - in which students learn the basic design elements of programming modern video games.

A new opportunity for our middle and high school students this year is [Spokane STEMposium!](#) The first annual Spokane STEMposium will be held this May at WSU/EWU Riverpoint campus. This one-day event will celebrate student projects and connect education with business and community. The student projects are evaluated by industry experts. This event is designed to encourage creative work in STEM while helping students to meet educational standards. Mr. Tom Stralser, Cheney High School science teacher, is a leader in our region for providing students with access to a science symposium experience. We expect to have a number of our students compete in this no-cost event!



2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53, 59, 61, 67, 71, 73, 79, 83, 89, 97.