



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

January 21
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
No School

January 25
Cheney MS and
Westwood MS
End of Quarter

February
2013-14
School Year
Calendar
Available

February 15
Snow Closure
Make-up Day
School In Session
**Kindergarten
Registration
Begins**

February 18
Presidents' Day
Holiday
No School

Friends of Cheney Public Schools, Amigos de Cheney las escuelas públicas,

You may know that K-5 students in Cheney Public Schools are exposed to a variety of language and cultural experiences that will give them the ability to speak other languages and function within different cultural settings to meet the increasingly global challenges of the 21st century.

Our Board of Directors approved a K-12 World Language Program adoption which established goals for world language learning. We recognize that language learning needs to be active and fun, and not stressful. In lively and engaged learning environments, students are motivated to learn. This aspect of motivation and enjoyment of a language are highly valued in language teaching and learning in our schools.

I remember in my own elementary school experience, in Wisconsin (several years ago), I enjoyed learning songs in Spanish. I also learned to count in Spanish and greet another person in Spanish. Our K-5 World Language Program offers similar experiences to our students. All students receive world language instruction from their regular classroom teacher; in addition, once per week students receive world language instruction from a qualified World Languages Specialist. The program components include: foreign language vocabulary words and phrases, songs in a target language, stories in a target language, cultural awareness and overall support of foundational literacy skills. In fact, according to research conducted by Taylor, Feyton, Meros, and Nutta in 2008, elementary school world language students perform better than their monolingual peers on tests of vocabulary and reading ability.

Students who attend Cheney Public Schools for their entire K-5 experience will receive two years of exposure to each language: Year 1: Spanish, Year 2: French, Year 3: German (repeat sequence). The long term goal for the adoption is to add a fourth language to our course offerings.

Thanks to your support of our schools, we are able to better prepare our students for their future.

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

All K-5 teachers expose their students to a second language using Symtalk!



Cheney Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, economic status, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, pregnancy, familial status, marital status, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Officer/ADA Coordinator or Section 504 Coordinator. Or inquiries may be directed to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of HEW, Washington, D.C.

Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 Officer/ADA Coordinator
Sean Dotson, Associate Superintendent
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4550

Section 504 Coordinator
Kristi Thurston, Director, Student Support Services
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street
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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World Language learning

We are at an exciting point in our World Language learning! Children are becoming more confident in their language skills, and are now beginning to make connections and comparisons that deepen their understanding of both English and Spanish.



As our world becomes increasingly more connected through the means of technology, travel and trade, it is important that our students be able to communicate and connect with our global neighbors.

In the elementary schools we work to build a foundation through games, stories and conversation. The aim of the program is to send students to middle schools with a strong foundation of the target language so that students can continue to advance in their ability to communicate.

Additionally, learning a second language at an early age has a positive effect on intellectual growth by enriching and enhancing a child's mental development. Students in well-designed elementary school World Language experiences outperform their monolingual peers on standardized tests of vocabulary and reading ability.



Just recently we created and launched a cultural component based on the popular TV show, The Amazing Race. As classes cooperate together to achieve their language target, a new Spanish-speaking country is revealed. Through the use of maps, technology and literature, children learn about their own and other cultures by exploring geography, traditions, food, housing, clothing, and art.

