



Community Connections

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

Important dates:

**December 19 -
January 1**
Winter
Vacation
No School

Happy Holidays!



Enjoy time with
family and
friends!

January 1
Happy New Year!

January 21
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
No School

Friends of Cheney Public Schools,

Our Board of Directors approved a kindergarten through fifth grade music adoption earlier this year. As a result of their action, students at each of our elementary schools enjoy a comprehensive education which includes rich opportunities in the performing arts. We believe that music is a core subject area, and that students benefit from participation in a sequential, developmentally appropriate music program aligned with state and national standards. We know that music produces profound and lasting benefits to students' brain development and that success in music is attainable for every student.

You may know that for the first time in many years our fifth grade students have the opportunity to participate in a strings program. Our Board approved the expansion of our instrumental band program to include instruction on string instruments effective this fall. Mindful of the impact that adding strings may have on the fifth grade, our specialists worked closely with our classroom teachers and administrators to create a schedule that would work best at each school site.

We are so grateful for our community's support of music education. We know that music supports and enhances many subject areas while maintaining its own integrity. As a result of your support of our recent Maintenance and Operations Levy, we are able to offer K-5 performing arts programming and the co-curricular options which provide our students with performance experiences. Thank you for ensuring that our youngest learners enjoy the beautiful experience which is music education.

As we enter the holiday season, we are reminded of the important role that music plays in all our lives. From a joyful rendition of *Jingle Bells*, to a birthday celebration where every guest joins in to sing *Happy Birthday*, to a gathering for a sporting event where we enjoy hearing our most talented voices sing our *National Anthem*, our lives are filled with music.

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

Debra J. Clemens, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Our essential foundations

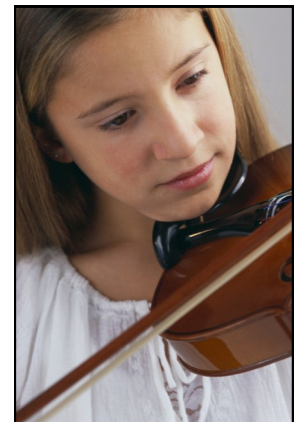
- ★ High Expectations and Continuous Progress
- ★ Involvement and Engagement with School District Community
- ★ Stewardship and Planning

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.

Welcome strings!

Fifty 5th grade students have already learned to play a string instrument in the new Cheney Public Schools strings program.



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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Windsor third grade students are adding music literacy to their academic achievements. Students above are working on treble clef flashcards.

Spotlight on music

We believe, with Walter de la Mare, that “only the rarest kind of best can be good enough for the very young.” Our K-5 Music Adoption Committee worked tirelessly to review K-5 music texts and materials from several publishers prior to recommending new materials for adoption. The musical selections approved by our Board of Directors are high quality, and contributors include the top names in children’s musical literature. The committee recommended the “Spotlight on Music” text published by Macmillan, McGraw Hill for grades K-5. It presents materials in a clear and sequenced format. Units are arranged by musical concept: rhythm, melody, harmony, etc., and include appealing song literature from a variety of cultures. Recordings provide music for singing, listening, movement activities and instrument parts. Assessments provide for a complete evaluation of each student’s progress.

Research proves that music concepts and skills are taught best with hands-on involvement. Young children experience music with their whole being. To incorporate instruction built around young children’s own powers for music-making, the committee also selected the “Game Plan” curriculum for kindergarten and first grade. These teaching materials, charts and visuals include songs, rhymes, dances and stories built around hands-on involvement.

Windsor first graders enjoy the music

Students in Ms. Ableman’s class at Windsor Elementary recently danced to the “Trepak” (Russian dance) from *The Nutcracker*. Certain motions were composed for each of the form parts (A, B and Transition). It was quite a workout—and the kids loved it!

It is never too early for children to learn the importance of music in their lives and the lives of others. The district is proud of its music program from the elementary level through high school.

