

COMMUNITY *Connections*

News of Cheney Public Schools



For our children, our world, our future

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community Members,

The first few weeks of school have flown by, and it has been great to see our students' learning in action. A few examples include AP English students exploring Greek mythology at Cheney High School, robotics students choosing projects and working through challenges at Westwood Middle School, and fourth and fifth graders breaking complex math problems into smaller steps at Salnave Elementary. These are just a few snapshots of the learning happening across our district as we prepare students for their future, and it is awesome to see this work in real time!

I have also seen many of our district community members involved in various activities in the first few weeks of school. At the Fourth Annual Cheney High School Community Day, vendors from all over our region participated. Cheney Mayor Elsa Martin joined the fun by helping raise funds in the dunk tank, and I even got to dunk the mayor myself! It was also great to see how involved our students are in various extracurricular activities. Both the CHS choir and band performed, with several students participating in both! If you have not yet had an opportunity to see them in action, there are a few upcoming opportunities to do so.

Bonds are for buildings, and projects funded by the November 2024 bond continue to move forward thanks to our community's support. The District's progressive design-build team of Garco Construction and Integrus Architecture joined district and School Board representatives earlier this month at Skyway Elementary, our newest school, to celebrate the placement of the final steel beam, marking completion of the building's framework. You can see photos on our [Facebook page](#) and find updates on all bond projects on our [website](#).

Separate from the November 2024 bond, our community will consider two replacement levies on November 3, 2026: the Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy and the Capital Technology Levy. Both replace expiring levies that support learning across our district. Levies are for learning, and learning happens through our programs. At the heart of those programs are people - the staff who support our students every day. Learn more on our [website](#), or contact Communications Coordinator Jenna Larson at jl Larson@cheneysd.org with questions.

We are Cheney Public Schools!

Onward,



Ben Ferney, Ed.D | Superintendent



Ben Ferney, Ed.D.
Superintendent
bferney@cheneysd.org

IMPORTANT DATES

October 7

School Improvement Plan - 5 p.m.
School Board Meeting - 6 p.m.
Salnave Elementary, Library

October 9

Professional Learning Day - No Students

October 19-20

October Break - No School

October 21

School Improvement Plan - 3:15 p.m.
School Board Meeting - 4 p.m.
Betz Elementary, Library

October 30

End of First Quarter



On the Cover:
Randall Stradling,
CHS Class of 1983,
waves to the crowd
at halftime of the
Cheney High School
Homecoming game
on Sept. 25.
Stradling is part of
the CHS Hall of
Fame Class of 2026.



Mark Scott
School Board Member
District 1



Elizabeth Winer
School Board Legislative Rep
District 2



Henry Browne
School Board Member
District 3



Bill Hanson
School Board Vice President
District 4



Mitch Swenson
School Board President
District 5

DISTRICT REMINDERS

ECEAP Preschool Openings: Register Today!



There are several openings for interested families to register children for ECEAP preschool across the district. The program serves students from three (3) years of age through five (5) years of age (on or before August 31). Sessions are two (2) full days per week and align with the start and end times of the elementary day. Students may be registered for one (1) preschool session at a time.

Interested families should contact their neighborhood school or visit cheneyisd.org for more information.

Greater Spokane League Passes - Free for 65+



Fall sports are officially here! Did you know that GSL annual passes are free for individuals age 65 and over? Snag yours today at the Cheney High School business office. Simply present your ID for proof of age to collect your free pass. GSL passes grant admission for one adult and any family members younger than high-school age to all GSL home and away game for all seventeen GSL schools.

Mark Your Calendars: Non-Student Days

There are several non-student days throughout the 2026-2027 school year. Please make note of these days; the district will send out reminders between 3-5 days ahead of scheduled non-student days.

Please note, emergency make-up days are highlighted in **red**; these days will be used

in the event of a school cancellation prior to the date. If school has not been previously canceled, these days shift to a non-student day. For more information on inclement weather delays and cancellations, [click here](#).

A list of non-student dates is featured below. Visit cheneyisd.org for the annual calendar.

OCTOBER 9

Professional Learning Day - No Students

OCTOBER 19-20

October Break - No School

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day - No School

NOVEMBER 23-24

Conferences - No Students

NOVEMBER 25-27

Autumn Break - No School

DECEMBER 21 -

JANUARY 1

Winter Break - No School

JANUARY 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School

JANUARY 25

Semester Break Day - No School

FEBRUARY 8

Professional Learning Day - No Students

FEBRUARY 15-16

February Break - No School

FEBRUARY 17

Emergency Make-up Day

MARCH 11-12

Conferences - No Students

MARCH 15

Emergency Make-up Day

APRIL 12-16

Spring Break - No School

MAY 28

Non-School Day - No Students

MAY 31

Memorial Day Holiday - No School

JUNE 17

Emergency Make-Up Day

Free Afternoon Snacks

For all children ages 1-18, the Spokane County Library District offers a free afternoon snack (excluding holidays). Library locations (within our district boundaries), available dates, and hours are as follows:

Cheney Library

610 First Street, Cheney, WA 99004
Monday-Friday, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

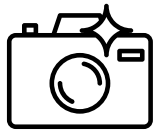
Airway Heights Library

1213 S Lundstrom St, Airway Heights, WA 99001
Tuesday-Thursday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

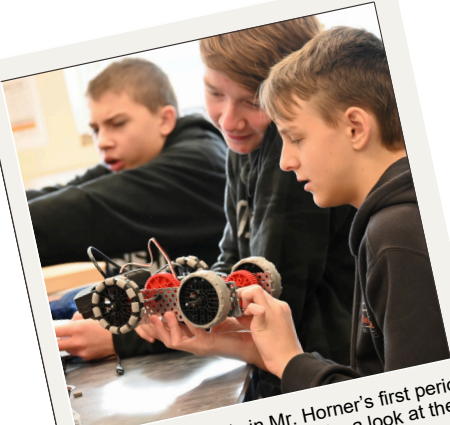
This program is part of the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Per the SCLD, "This program contributes to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children and adults in the United States. Each day, more than 4.2 million children and 138,000 adults receive nutritious meals and snacks through CACFP."

More information can be found on the [SCLD website](#).

Mark
YOUR
Calendar



District Snapshots



Westwood students in Mr. Horner's first period robotics class on Sept. 23 take a look at their project so far.



Skyway Elementary Principal Gabby Smithley signs the final steel beam during the Flight of the Final Beam ceremony on Sept. 23.



These third graders jump right into their new books after spending time in the Windsor library on Sept. 11, led by Librarian Beth Toulou.



This Betz Elementary student smiles while trying his hand at roping during the Cheney High School Ag Day on Sept. 22 at CHS.



Snowdon Librarian Stacy Ann Kvamme smiles during Professional Learning Community (PLC) time on Sept. 4. PLCs serves as designated weekly time for teacher and staff collaboration and planning.



2026-2027 Board Student Advisors Klair Teeters (left) and Bella Adaszewski address the School Board of Directors during the Sept. 23 regular meeting at Cheney High School.



Members of the CHS Marching Band perform their 2026 program, Nexus, at Community Day on Sept. 19 at Cheney High School.



This kindergartener in Mr. Heinrich's P.E. class at Sunset Elementary hugs a green cone, part of Heinrich's incorporation of color identification into his activity on Sept. 1.



Students at WIN Academy share some laughs during a game of Spoons to kick off the first day of the school year on Sept. 1.

NOTICES

Join Our Team – Apply Today!

Cheney Public Schools is in search of qualified applicants to join our team! Our district is in need of paraeducators and substitutes across buildings and departments, with opportunities in our schools, Transportation, and Nutrition Services.

Paraeducators and substitutes are an integral



part of our district, providing essential support to students and staff each day.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website:

<https://cheneysd.schoolspring.com/>



Hope 4 Kids Hygiene Drive Donate Today!

The 2026 Hope 4 Kids Hygiene Drive is active now through Oct. 5. In partnership with Project Beauty Share, the Hope 4 Kids Hygiene Drive serves 15 school districts across the region, collecting and distributing essential hygiene products to students throughout the Inland Northwest and North Idaho. This annual drive helps students in our community access the basic hygiene essentials they need to feel confident, cared for, and ready to learn.

Donations can be collected at any area Numerica Credit Union. More information on ways to donate and the program is available on the [Hope 4 Kids Hygiene | Project Beauty Share](#) website.

Following the conclusion of the drive, products will be distributed to buildings across our district and can be accessed through school nurses.



Cheney Public Schools @cheneyschools



Are you a member of a military family?
Please visit <https://www.cheneysd.org/community/military>
for more information.

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: →



Questions or Feedback?

Do you have questions or feedback?

We're here to help! If you have any questions, concerns, or if there is something you would like to know more about, please reach out to Jenna Larson, Communications Coordinator at jl Larson@cheneysd.org.

Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 Officer/
Civil Rights Compliance
Officer/Gender Inclusive Schools
Coordinator
Brett Hale, Assistant Superintendent
Cheney Public Schools
12414 S. Andrus Rd. Cheney, WA
99004
Phone: (509) 559-4550
Email: bhale@cheneysd.org

Civil Rights Compliance
Coordinator/Section 504
Coordinator/ADA Coordinator
Franklin Day, Director, Student
Support Services
Cheney Public Schools
12414 S. Andrus Rd. Cheney, WA
99004
Phone: (509) 559-4507
Email: fdlay@cheneysd.org

Requests for Disclosure of Public
Records
Megan Kensok, Public Records
Officer
Cheney Public Schools
12414 S. Andrus Rd., Cheney, WA
99004
Phone: (509) 559-4502
Email: mkensok@cheneysd.org