



Community Connections

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

Making your vision our reality – a year later

A year ago at this time we had passed the bond and were just underway in the planning of our two new middle schools. Today we have construction equipment on our Betz Road site, with equipment arriving within the next week on our Abbott Road site, and are on schedule for the schools to open in the fall of 2012. Beyond that, we have purchased property on the corner of Hallett and Holly, and have completed the educational specifications for our new elementary school. We will finish the design work later this year and construction should begin in the spring of next year, with the school opening in the fall of 2013.

Lost in the excitement of the three new schools are several other key projects and processes that will improve the learning environment and efficiencies within the district. We have completed design work on our Crunks Hill site on 6th Avenue for co-curricular fields that will support both our middle school and high school activities, in addition to providing great recreational access for our community members. The work on Crunks Hill should start this summer, with the fields being available in the spring of 2012.

We are also still in the process of acquiring the Four Lakes Communication Station site to provide a central location for a good number of our support operations, and would expect to have a decision from the federal government this summer. We are first in line for the site and just need the multiple federal agencies involved to finish their coordination. Our most critical need is a storage facility for Food Service supplies. There are two warehouses on the site, and the cost for acquiring the site is substantially less than having to purchase land and build a new warehouse. Additionally, we will have the ability to shift our maintenance operation to the site and provide better facilities for several of our education programs.

Lastly, to meet the needs of our growing high school population we have purchased a portable to be placed this summer just west of the entrance to the high school in the parking lot. This portable will provide additional space for laboratory science, and work will soon begin to provide space for five additional portables that will be transferred from the middle school next year. We are also adjusting space in the main building to provide more room for computer labs and classrooms. These changes will provide for more elective choices and allow us to consolidate our health and fitness center and weight room. All of these measures will help us meet our immediate space needs and allow time to create a long-term plan for our high school campus.

It is indeed an exciting time in the history of the Cheney School District.

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

Lawrence R. Keller, Superintendent

Friday Reminder: One hour late start for all schools in our district to provide for teacher collaborative time. Your child's school day begins one hour later; the buses run one hour later.

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
Cheney High School activities line: (509) 559-4120

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

Important Dates:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 12 | Tenth Grade State Science Assessment |
| May 30 | Memorial Day Holiday
NO SCHOOL |
| June 1 | Three Springs High School Commencement |
| June 3 | Cheney High School Commencement |
| June 16 | Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. -
Last Day of School |

Tenth grade state science assessment April 12, 2011

Cheney High School tenth grade students and their teachers are preparing for the upcoming science portion of the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE). The HSPE name conveys the goal of the test, which is to measure a student's proficiency in basic skills. The HSPE is important for the following reasons:

- By meeting standard on portions of the HSPE, students earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement, and HSPE results become part of the official high school transcript.
- Beginning with the class of 2013 (this year's sophomore class), students must meet standard on state tests in reading, writing, math and science to be eligible for graduation.
- Teachers and administrators use HSPE results to make decisions regarding curriculum and instruction.
- The HSPE is how public schools in Washington meet the requirements of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Students and teachers have worked hard to prepare for success on the HSPE. Please help Cheney students demonstrate their learning by ensuring all tenth grade students attend school and arrive promptly **on April 12**, as the state testing schedule does not allow for HSPE make-up sessions. To learn more about state testing, including information about the assessments given to third through eighth grade students, please visit the Cheney School District website and look under "Parent Resources."

Cheney Middle School Special Olympians receive Gold Medals

In early March, Cheney Middle School students Tony Lawrence and Aspen Tichey traveled with their respective basketball teams to Wenatchee to compete in the State Basketball Tournament for the Special Olympics. Both students were honored with Gold Medals for their teams' accomplishments at the tournament. Aspen's team took home a fourth place trophy, while Tony's team was honored with a state championship!

Aspen was thrilled to make his first career three-pointer during the tournament. Tony scored in two of the three games played during the tournament and played great defense. Cheney Middle School staff member Robin Miller accompanied the team and said she was most proud of the tremendous sportsmanship shown by Tony and Aspen. Both boys commented about the overall fantastic experience of the tournament. In addition to the games, both boys were treated to fine dining and a trip to Leavenworth to shop for candy. Tony and Aspen are gems in the Cheney Middle School family, and both exemplify their team motto "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



Tony Lawrence and Aspen Tichey—
Special Olympics Gold Medalists



Photo courtesy of Cheney Free Press

Groundbreaking at new middle school on Betz Road site

Senator Mark Schoesler joined Cheney School Board members, the Mayor and City Manager of the City of Cheney, Superintendent Larry Keller, Principal Designee Mike Stark, Director of Maintenance Jeff McClure, and our corporate partners Lydig Construction, NAC Architecture and OAC (the district's construction and project management firm) on March 19 for the groundbreaking at the new middle school to be built on Betz Road adjacent to the current middle school.



Front row: Cole Hinrichs, Ben Rose, Aaron Fillmore, Jesse Black, Evarosa Perry, Anna Arensmeyer
Back row: Mrs. Overlie, Avery Harler, Isaac Strong, Avery Towey, Hailee Huff, Jasdeep Gill, Zarah Meyer

“Math Is Cool” at Betz Elementary School!

Sixteen enthusiastic fifth graders from Betz Elementary competed in this year’s “Math Is Cool” competition. Beginning last fall, these fifth graders began practicing for this big day. The club met each Tuesday during lunch recess to learn math strategies and to practice for each specific event. Competitors were loaded on the bus and headed out to Mt. Spokane High School, where they met up with hundreds of other fifth grade mathematicians from Spokane and the surrounding area.

The math competitions included several events such as: Team Multiple Choice, Mental Math and College Bowls. Jasdeep Gill earned the most points for Betz. All the students worked hard and represented their school well. It was a joy to see our fifth graders having such a good time with math!

School Board recognizes classified employees

At a recent School Board meeting, representatives of the district’s classified employees were recognized for Classified Employee Week. Superintendent Keller said that, as superintendent, it was his pleasure to honor the district’s classified employees and to thank them for the important work they do on a daily basis. School Board President Larry Haskell commented “The Cheney School District is a great family of educators.” He is extremely impressed with the way staff members pull together to overcome financial obstacles, put together programs that maximize the funds available, take the time to improve themselves, and tackle anything with unbridled enthusiasm. Mr. Haskell said this makes it a great honor and mission to represent the district. He added, “That is our role, and that is where we can best support you.” In closing, President Haskell asked that Ms. Jeanne March, President of the Public School Employees of Cheney, express the Board’s thanks to the other PSEC members.

Abbott Road school site groundbreaking

Senator Mike Baumgartner, along with Representatives John Ahern and Kevin Parker of the 6th Legislative District, joined Cheney School Board members, the Mayor of the City of Airway Heights, the Cheney City Manager, Superintendent Larry Keller, Principal Designee Dr. Erika Burden, Director of Maintenance Jeff McClure, and our corporate partners Garco Construction, NAC Architecture and OAC (the district’s construction and project management firm) on March 26, for the groundbreaking at the new middle school to be built at 6120 S. Abbott Road, Spokane.



Photo courtesy of Cheney Free Press

Student Support Services assists families

Student Support Services assists families and teachers with coordinating educational and health services for children attending our schools. If you have questions about special education, Title I/LAP, Section 504 ADA, English language learners, services for homeless students, or health services, please go to the district website at www.cheneysd.org and access the “District Services,” “Student Support Services” tabs to take you to their site. You can also call Student Support Services at 559-4507 for more information.

Cheney Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, economic status, gender, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, pregnancy, familial status, marital status, age, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide 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
Dr. Debra Clemens, 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



Printed on recycled paper.

Requests for Disclosure of Public Records
Sharon Throop, Public Records Officer
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4502

CAR-RT-SORT
Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4
Cheney, WA

Postal Patron

CMS bands excel at festival

Three bands from Cheney Middle School performed at the Eastern Washington Music Educators' Band Festival on March 21, held in the Eastern Washington University music building. Bands were judged on a scale of "V Poor," "IV Fair," "III Good," "II Excellent," or "I Superior." Our middle school 6th grade Band, 7th/8th grade Concert Band, and 7th/8th grade Symphonic Band all received a "I Superior" rating.



Also, the Cheney Middle School Jazz Band competed in the Jazz Northwest Festival hosted by Mead High School and took home first place on Saturday, March 26.

Mr. Foster said he is extremely happy with the pride and dedication these students put into our middle school program.

Way to go, Cheney Middle School bands!

Community forums on school boundaries—April 25, May 5, May 12

Please join us to hear about tentative plans for new school boundaries in our district. With the construction of two new middle schools, and planning for a new elementary school, we want to make certain that our communities are informed about possible boundary decisions and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

Windsor Elementary School	Monday, April 25	6:30—7:30 p.m.
Sunset Elementary School	Thursday, May 5	6:30—7:30 p.m.
Cheney Middle School	Thursday, May 12	6:30—7:30 p.m.

Three Springs High School students adopt new logo

Recently, Three Springs High School students selected a brand new school mascot, pictured at the right. Students Boyd Hubbard, Nina Machen, and Ami Zachman shared the new Three Springs High School logo with School Board members at their meeting on February 9. They said members of the school's Leadership Council, which was formed to promote name recognition and for improvement of the school's image, wanted a logo that better fit them, and they chose the "Thunderhawk."

Former student and member of the Leadership Council Alysha Russell created the logo. Students selected the words "perseverant, accepting, confident and diverse," included in the logo, to emphasize their ability to move past any obstacles in their path.

