



# Community Connections

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

## ***Living by our State Constitution: Paramount and Ample***

It is easy to get lost in the noise level of our state's economic woes. A great deal of my day, and that of those who work beside me, is finding ways to sustain the quality of education which the communities we serve expect. And they expect it because they know our future is our kids, and that our children deserve the same opportunity that each of us had to receive a quality education.

The legislators that serve us are faced with a dilemma. For too long they did not pay heed to the State Constitution, which placed K-12 education as the paramount duty and required that it be amply funded. Now the cupboard is bare, and it looks highly likely that they will further violate the intent of the State Constitution through additional K-12 education cuts. They will couch it in terms of "We are not cutting basic education, just additional education support," but look closer. Levy equalization, which for the Cheney School District this year is about one million dollars, was created out of lawsuits in the late 1970's—when where you lived made a substantial difference in your quality of education. Levy equalization created a way to make sure property-poor districts were not at a disadvantage compared to those whose properties appraised much higher and, therefore, could raise much more tax money for their schools at a much lower rate. Levy equalization was about fairness, and ensuring that every child within the state had the same opportunity for a good education—and today it is on the "chopping block." Also on the same chopping block are funds that support lower class sizes in our elementary schools and all-day kindergarten for our highest need students. This is not what we want for our kids.

Our State Constitution has it right—it recognizes the critical link between a well-educated citizen and our state's success. Paramount and ample are not just words. They, collectively, are the will of the people. It is time our legislators take heed and "walk the walk." We have heard enough talk.

*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](http://www.cheneysd.org) for more news and information about Cheney Public Schools.

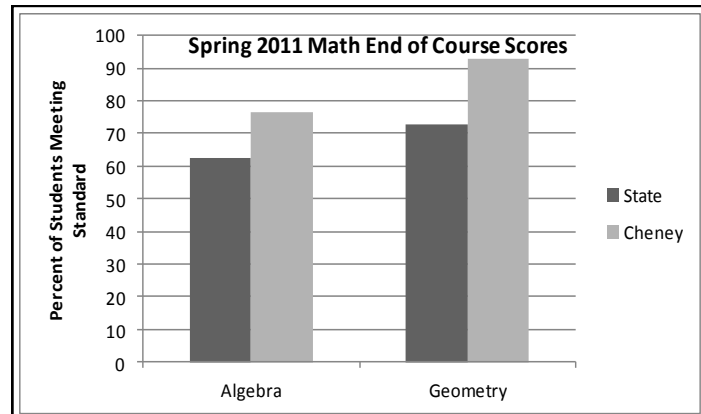
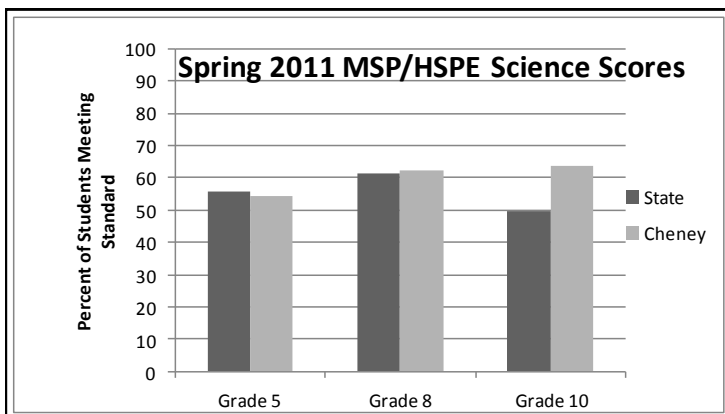
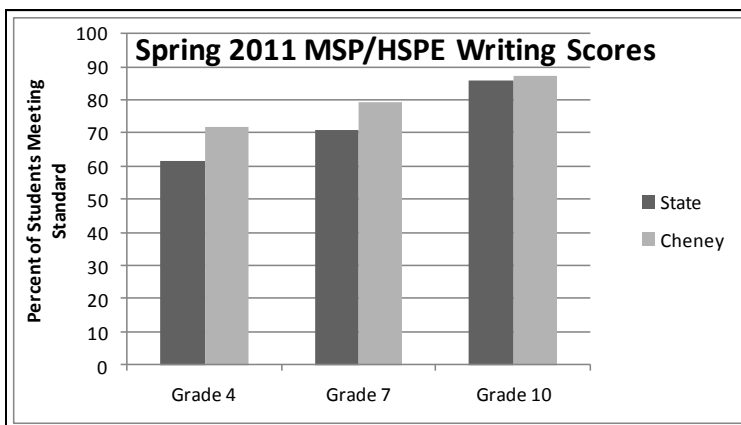
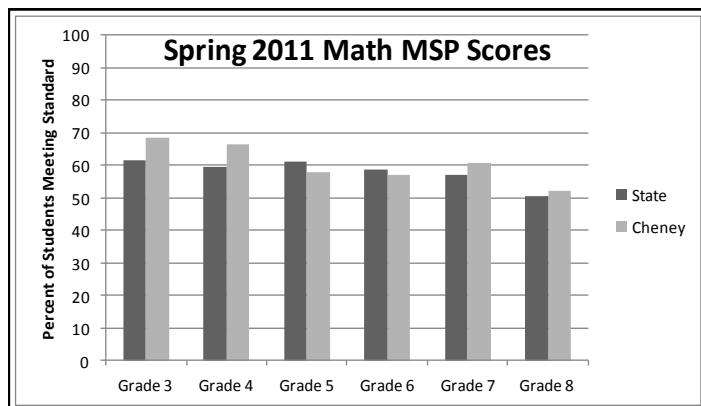
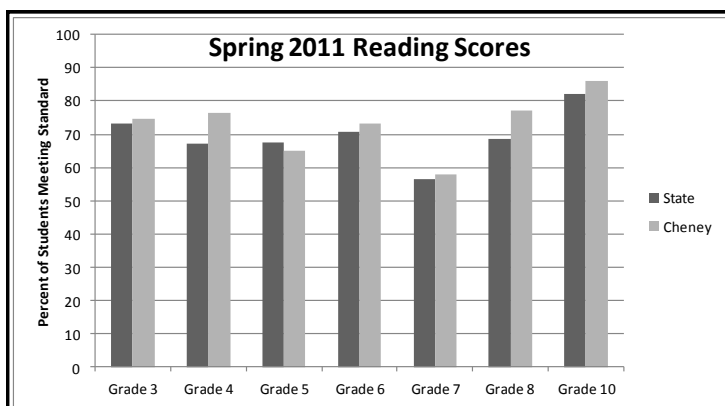
### **Important dates:**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Nov. 11    | <b>NO SCHOOL</b><br>Veterans' Day Holiday           |
| Nov. 17-18 | Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m.<br>(Conferences/Testing) |
| Nov. 18    | <b>NO LATE START</b>                                |
| Nov. 21-22 | Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m.<br>(Conferences/Testing) |
| Nov. 23    | Early Dismissal (1 1/2 Hours Early)                 |
| Nov. 24-25 | <b>NO SCHOOL</b> —Thanksgiving Holiday              |

## Assessment news

The spring 2010 state test scores have been released for the Measurements of Student Progress taken by third through eighth grade students, and the High School Proficiency Exam taken by tenth grade students. These assessments measure how well students have mastered the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) as specified in the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) for reading, mathematics, writing, and science. State tests in reading, mathematics, and science are comprised of multiple-choice and short answer questions. The writing tests require two essays.

Scores for Cheney Public Schools are similar to or above the Washington State scores in virtually all subject areas and grade level categories. The following graphs show Cheney Schools' 2010 scores in comparison with the overall state performance for 2010. To access the Washington State Report Card, which provides comprehensive state testing data for all public school districts in Washington State, visit the Assessment portion of the Parent Resources page on the Cheney School District website at [www.cheneysd.org](http://www.cheneysd.org).



## CMS students benefit from partnership

Twenty-eight students at Cheney Middle School felt a bit “fuller” thanks to the efforts of the Eastern Washington University Annual Community Food Drive. Communities in Schools of Spokane County was the grateful recipient of a \$4,620 donation supporting the weekend backpack program at local schools. The goal of this program is to reduce hunger during weekends when free and reduced breakfast and lunch are unavailable. Communities in Schools and Cheney Middle School are thankful for the partnership with EWU and the commitment to serving our students.



Sherri Frantilla and Erika Burden display the “big check.”

## Back to scratch with school lunches

School lunches are looking a little different this year, as Cheney Public Schools launches its new “fresh from scratch” nutrition program aimed at serving healthier school meals and helping students make better food choices.



Studies show that kids who eat well-balanced diets containing fruits, vegetables, lean proteins and whole grains perform better in school. Students in all grade levels are now being served made-from-scratch meals featuring fresh and nutritious ingredients, along with an array of fruits and vegetables. Menu choices in September ranged from hickory barbecue chicken and fajitas, to turkey chili and tortellini carbonara. New menu items will continue to be added in the coming months.

## Federal survey cards were sent home October 3 - Why is this survey card so important to your public school?

Parents and guardians who live on federal property do not pay regular or special property taxes for the support of public schools. The federal government provides Impact Aid funds to the school district for this tax exempt property, as well as for those parents and guardians who work for an employer located on federal property.

These federal survey cards are required of those districts who receive the in-lieu-of tax funds. The Cheney School District is the recipient of a small amount of those funds. Returned student survey cards provide the basis through which in-lieu-of tax funds can be received from the federal government.

All students, even those students whose parents are not on active duty in the military, and do not live or work on federal property, should return the completed federal survey card for an accurate student count.

**Please note: In order to be included, Reserve and National Guard personnel must be called to active duty by Presidential Title No. 10 by October 1st. It is a requirement that you send us a copy of your orders verifying the same. For privacy reasons, please black out your social security number if disclosed on your orders.**

Thank you for your assistance with this important process. The students of Cheney Public Schools benefit directly through your completion of the information on the front of this card.

**CHENEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 360  
FEDERAL ACTIVITIES SURVEY, OCTOBER 3, 2011**

Dear Parent (or Guardian): Please complete sections 1 through 4 to the best of your ability. Your schools need this information to apply for Federal Assistance. Please return the completed form to your child's teacher. (For further information on this important survey, please see reverse side.)

1. PUPIL'S LEGAL NAME: Last First Middle Birthdate Grade  
Street Address on October 3, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

2. EMPLOYMENT OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN WITH WHOM CHILD RESIDES:

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
Please complete if in Uniformed Services\* on full-time active duty on Oct. 3, 2011:  
Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

\*Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Active Duty Reservists or National Guard (by Presidential Title No. 10), Commissioned Officers in the Public Health Service and the Coast and Geospatial Survey.  
Please Note: Reserve and National Guard personnel under Presidential Title No. 10 must attach a copy of your orders verifying the same. For privacy reasons, please black out your social security number if disclosed on your orders.

3. If a parent is employed on federal property on October 3, 2011, please check the one which applies:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fairchild A.F.B. \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Courthouse & Federal Building or U.S. Post Office (Spokane)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tumbull Natl. Wildlife Refuge \_\_\_\_\_ Veterans' Hospital  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4 Lakes Comm. Station \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. If the child resides on federal property on October 3, 2011, please check the one which applies:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lives on Fairchild Air Force Base  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\*I certify the above information is correct as of October 3, 2011.\*

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Form No. 300 (Rev. 10/11)

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  
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

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



Printed on recycled paper.

## CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

520 Fourth Street  
Cheney, Washington 99004

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CAR-RT-SORT

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

# Postal Patron

## Be ready for winter weather driving and walking

With the upcoming icy roads and hazardous walking conditions, we are sending this reminder. It is time to get ready once again for winter weather. Here in the Cheney School District, our maintenance staff is here to ensure our safety by de-icing our walkways and sanding the parking lots. They take this responsibility very seriously. If you notice any area which could use a little extra de-ice or sand, don't hesitate to let your school know and, while our snowplow drivers do an excellent job of sanding and removing snow, that does not mean you can walk around with impunity. You must be constantly thinking "safety" when walking anywhere in the winter.



For our part, we too should take a moment and prepare for winter weather. Listed below are several tips to remember, to ensure that you remain safe this winter.

### Travel Safety

- Ensure that you have installed your winter tires on your vehicle.
- Place your tire chains in your vehicle and ensure that you know how to install them if necessary.
- Place an emergency kit in your vehicle that includes water, blanket, first aid kit, flashlight (with new batteries), energy bars and vehicle warning triangles.
- Inform someone of your trip plans—with time of departure, route of travel and arrival time estimate—and then keep them apprised of any changes.
- Slow your speed to adjust to wet, snowy, or icy road conditions. Add more time to your travel plans to ensure your safety.



### Clothing and Walking Safety

- Wear shoes/boots with adequate traction. Carry your dress shoes in a bag to change into when you get inside the building.
- Use guard rails for support when walking up and down stairs or an incline..
- **Walking safely means to slow down and watch where you are walking and to wear the appropriate footwear. If need be, alter your route to bypass icy or snow-covered areas.**

*Remember—even though everything is done for your safety, it is winter, and you will encounter icy conditions. Everyone is responsible to walk safely! Be careful out there!*

## Cheney Helping Cheney/Coats 4 Kids



Once again, Cheney School District is teaming up with Cheney Helping Cheney and Coats 4 Kids in our community effort to help keep local families warm this winter.

Coats can be dropped off at your neighborhood school, and will be collected through October 14. The coats will be laundered compliments of the Wash Tub. Distribution of the coats is set for Saturday, October 22, at Salnave Elementary from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and on Monday, October 31, at the Feed Cheney dinner at the Wren Pierson Building from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Special thanks to the local Kiwanis members who are picking up coats from the donation sites. Thank you in advance for your donations!