



Community Connections

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

Stewardship and Planning

As shared in a previous edition of *Community Connections*, our Board of Directors adopted three *Essential Foundations* that guide the work of our school district, one of which is *Stewardship and Planning*. Two of the descriptors for this important foundation are:

- ★ Fiscal resources and district facilities are responsibly managed for present and future use.
- ★ Strategic decision making for growth and change is an integral part of the district planning process.

Of the three broad *Intended Goals* of the Board's *Essential Foundations*, an important one is:

- ★ Effective allocation of community-provided school district resources will be made based upon data-driven research and evidence of need and impact.

Our Board expects that we are responsible stewards of resources and that our planning accounts for areas of need in the district. We take this direction and expectation seriously, and appreciate community involvement in our Stewardship and Planning work.

At the November 7, 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors, our School Board officially "rolled back" the 2008 maintenance and operations levy a total of \$566,591. We are able to roll back the levy due to levy equalization assistance from the State of Washington which we qualify for due to an approved local levy. Because of the levy rollback, and because the overall assessed valuation of the total taxable property within the Cheney Public Schools boundaries continues to increase, the tax rate per thousand for 2008 will be less than for 2007. This rate is significantly less than when the voter-approved 2006 replacement maintenance and operations levy and the two-year transportation vehicle fund levy were passed. As we plan for the future we will strive to maintain a predictable tax rate for district citizens.

As we look back over the last calendar year, we are grateful for the opportunity to work with and serve wonderful young people, and the good fortune we have to be public servants in communities that value kids and quality education. Our service to you, to our kids, is a genuine privilege.

In whatever way you may observe a season of holidays, we extend our very best to you all.

Michael Dunn, 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.cheneyds.org for more news and information about Cheney Public Schools.

Important dates

December 19, '07 - January 1, '08	NO SCHOOL Winter Vacation
January 21	NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 15	NO SCHOOL Presidents' Break
February 18	NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day Holiday
March 11 - 14	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. Conferences/Testing
March 14	NO LATE START DAY

Instructional uses of Technology Improve Student Learning

If you were to visit a Cheney classroom today, you would quickly discover that technology plays an important role in teaching and learning. Teachers and students have entered the digital age, and this has changed the learning environment in a dramatic way.

Cheney classrooms use computers as an integral tool for learning. In the math department at Cheney High School, for example, students access an online curriculum that supplements the regular math lessons. Students complete the online lessons and tests during class as well as outside the school day. Students in science classrooms use the computer as a tool to facilitate labs. Students are able to do Internet searches, complete lab results, and chart data on the computer during the course of completing a science lab.



Darcie Palmer, Junior at CHS

Students access computers throughout the district to facilitate writing, research, presentations, and desktop publishing. Students are able to use the online Encyclopedia Britannica and the online periodical database ProQuest throughout the school day on any available computer. The computer is so integral to the learning process today, that when there is a power failure, students' ability to complete coursework is severely impacted.

In addition to computers in the classroom, there are two new digital tools on the scene that support student learning. The latest arrivals to some Cheney classrooms are data projectors and document cameras. Data projectors facilitate student and teacher presentations. A whole new world of opportunity for discovery and learning is created in the classroom when the Internet, complete with video and sound, can be projected on a six-foot screen. Document cameras—used in conjunction with data projectors—provide students and teachers with an added dimension to presentations. With a document camera students can share their work, collaborate with large groups, and enhance presentations. Teachers can use a document camera to show reference materials, share student writing, solve math problems, and even demonstrate clay modeling—just to name a few of its uses.

Although this technology is not yet available in all classrooms, thanks to a Partners in Learning grant this technology is used in some of our classrooms at Cheney High School.

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Cheney Public Schools complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, familial status, marital status, or age. 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 and/or 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, Assistant Superintendent
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4550

Section 504 Coordinator
Marilyn Larson, Director, Student Support Services
Cheney School District, 520 Fourth Street
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507



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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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