



Community Connections

Inspiring our children to reach for the stars

Preparing students for their future

The new school year brings a renewed focus, for our students, on core academic subjects and important elective studies. Our students' days are filled with reading, completing homework assignments, preparing for quizzes and tests. Through their daily work, sometimes our students lose sight of the purpose for learning which is to prepare them for their future. This summer I received an email from *Mike Schoengold*, a Cheney High School graduate, which reminded me of the very important work that we do today to prepare students for their future.

During the 2003-04 school year, Mike served as the associated student body president at Cheney High School. Since his graduation in 2004, Mike has been attending Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He is currently spending the semester studying at the American University of Cairo (Egypt) and will return to Northwestern the following term. This past summer Mike had an internship with the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., a foreign policy think tank. As part of this internship, he worked 40 hours per week in downtown D.C., and worked on interesting and relevant issues including Persian Gulf security and issues related to Iraq and Iran. His work truly provided him an opportunity to learn, first hand, the issues related to Middle East policy. A remarkable young man, Mike is one of many Cheney Public School graduates who go on to positively impact the world in immeasurable ways.

We know how lucky we are to work with the 3600 bright and motivated young people who are learning in our classrooms today, and who will go on to improve the world we share tomorrow. This new school year has brought approximately 200 more students to our school district than we had a year ago, and we value the opportunity we have to provide the highest quality public education to them.

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

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 strategic initiatives

- ★ High Quality Teaching and Learning
- ★ Meaningful Partnerships with Families and Communities
- ★ Responsible and Effective Development and Stewardship of District Resources

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

Important dates

October 13	NO SCHOOL - State Curriculum Day
November 3	End of Quarter - CMS
November 10	NO SCHOOL - Veterans' Day Holiday
November 22	Early Dismissal 1-2/3 hrs. early
November 23-24	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holiday
November 28-30	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. (Conferences/Testing)



Betz Elementary - service with a heart

Betz Elementary School staff members are dedicated to providing students with an engaging and enjoyable learning experience that will promote their academic as well as their social growth.

Our students have achieved at high levels as our Spring 2006 WASL scores will attest, and we as a staff will continue to hone our practice so that all of our students grow to become confident and capable young people.

Our students have many opportunities to develop their social skills in a learning environment where staff teach and model appropriate social behaviors. In partnership with parents, we provide a thriving learning environment which welcomes parent involvement. Betz Elementary School prioritizes academic and social growth, in heartfelt service to children and their families.

Reid Elementary's fall tradition

For the fourth consecutive year, Reid Elementary's students and staff attended the Spokane Interstate Fair on September 14th.



Thank you to the many parent volunteers each year who have supported this event. Reid plans to make the Spokane Interstate Fair event an annual fall tradition.



Maria O'Leary, Brooklynn White, and Shelby Melton

opportunity to meet their child's teacher, and forms were completed. The families are excited about the kindergarten program options and everyone is looking forward to a wonderful year.



Krissy Johnson and Lauren Moore, Mrs. Shaw's 4th Grade Class

Reid celebrates 'Star-Spangled Day'

As part of the National Anthem Project, sponsored by the Music Educators' National Conference (MENC), Reid Elementary celebrated 'Star-Spangled Day' on Friday, September 15th. On September 14, 1812, Frances Scott Key wrote the poem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." It officially became America's national anthem in 1931. Reid Elementary joined music educators across the country in helping students to celebrate our history and learn the story of our anthem. After learning about flag etiquette, and the words and history of the anthem, the Reid staff and students gathered around the flagpole in front of the school to sing the anthem under the direction of music teacher, Barbara Curtis.



Salnave kindergarten orientation

With a new full-time kindergarten program, a new part-time kindergarten teacher, and two new kindergarten classrooms, the kindergarten staff at Salnave Elementary welcomed its newest students. The students and their parents were invited to attend an evening orientation on Thursday, August 31st. Families brought school supplies in order to have everything run smoothly on the first day of class.

The orientation provided an open house format with the students leading the way. Children were given a task sheet and stickers to complete with their parents that included locating mail-cubbies and coat hooks, as well as drawing a picture of their family. Curriculum was displayed, parents had the



Sunset Elementary benefits from audiology services

Nancy Madison has provided audiology services for the Cheney School District for over 16 years. Her job is to ensure that students with any degree or type of hearing loss have equal access to auditory information in classrooms and other learning spaces in schools.

Sunset Elementary School is one of the stops on her schedule. Nancy works closely with the wonderful Sunset teachers who have students with hearing loss in their classes, and she provides information about the impact on listening and how this can influence how a student learns, reads, and succeeds academically. Nancy is responsible for selecting FM systems for students, which increases the student's ability to hear teachers. Nancy really appreciates the extra work required of Sunset's teachers to use this equipment. She works directly with students who use hearing aids and FM systems to teach them about their hearing, how to use and care for the hearing aids and FM systems, and what to do to hear better.

Nancy also provides services to Elaine Hemingway's preschool classes at Sunset. Preschool age children are very susceptible to colds and upper respiratory problems and fluid/ear infections. This can result in temporary hearing loss which can impact learning. Nancy visits once a month to check the children's ears for these problems. If a problem is found, parents are notified so they can obtain the appropriate medical care.

Sunset was the first school in the District to use sound field FM systems in classrooms and to equip every classroom. Many thanks go to speech pathologists, Lynn Reilly for completing the project that equipped the classrooms, and Jessica Bankey for tireless efforts to support the day-to-day use of the systems. Kudos to Sunset's teachers for their consistent use of these systems.



Windsor and Salnave blended preschools go to the fair

Cheney's blended preschool programs with teachers Cindy Melhus and Sally Canton from Salnave Elementary, along with C.J. Johnson from Windsor Elementary, went on a Parent/Families/Teacher Field Trip to the Spokane Interstate Fair on September 11th and 12th. This field trip gave parents an opportunity to meet each other and also allowed them to meet and get to know the teachers. The preschoolers were able to explore the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry exhibit where they got to hold a live corn snake. At the Home Depot Kids Workshop, preschoolers planted their own plants to take home and nurture. And with all of the animals there were plenty of ears to scratch!



Kaitlyn Burts, Collin Novo, JamieLynn O'Lague, Baylee Bereiter

The blended preschool programs at Salnave and Windsor are new this year for Cheney Public Schools. Included in the program there will be fall, winter, and spring "Ready for Kindergarten!" parent workshops offered. If you are interested in registering your child for the preschool, please call C.J. Johnson at Windsor Elementary, 559-4200.



HomeWorks! families together for life-long learning

HomeWorks! is thrilled to be starting its second year with three new staff members and 23 new students for a total of 65 students grades K-8. Our fabulous fall schedule of events include many educational field trips and fun family events. Families have worked hard on planning their student's yearly and monthly learning plans and our enrichment classes for fall include: Spanish, science, math, language arts, social studies, drama, gymnastics, martial arts and Lego lab. We are looking forward to a great year!

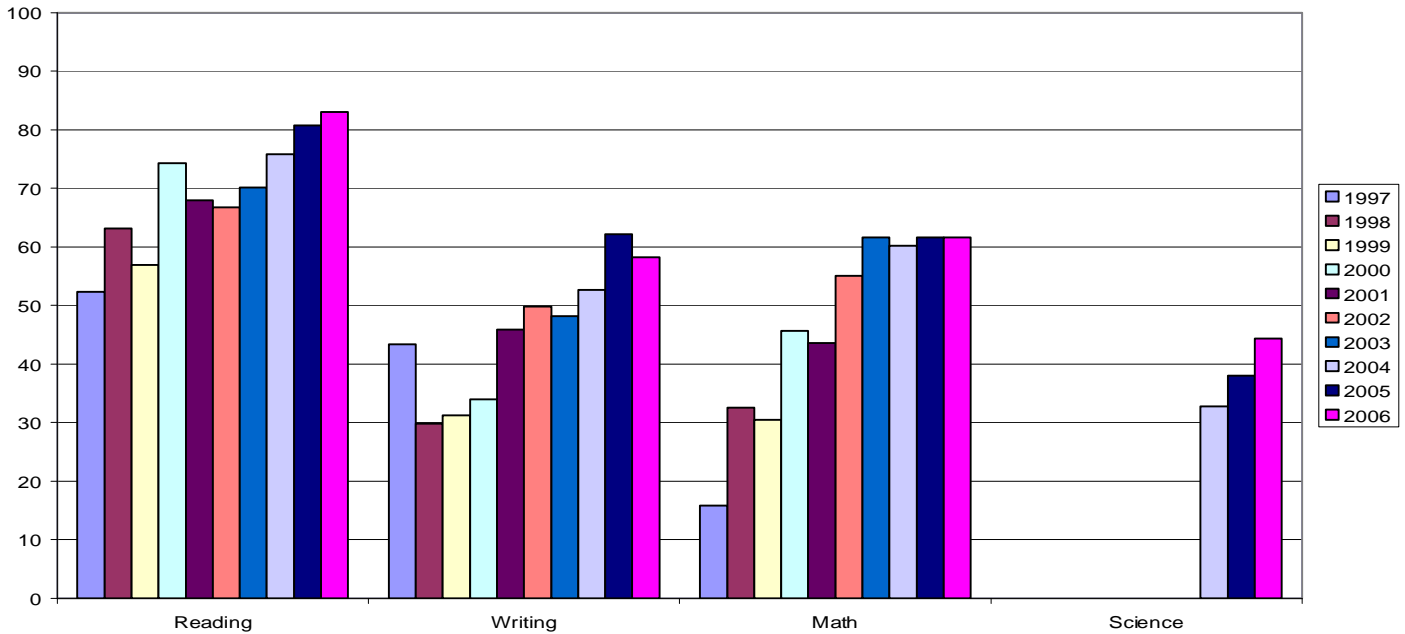
Assessment News

Cheney Public Schools 2006 WASL Results

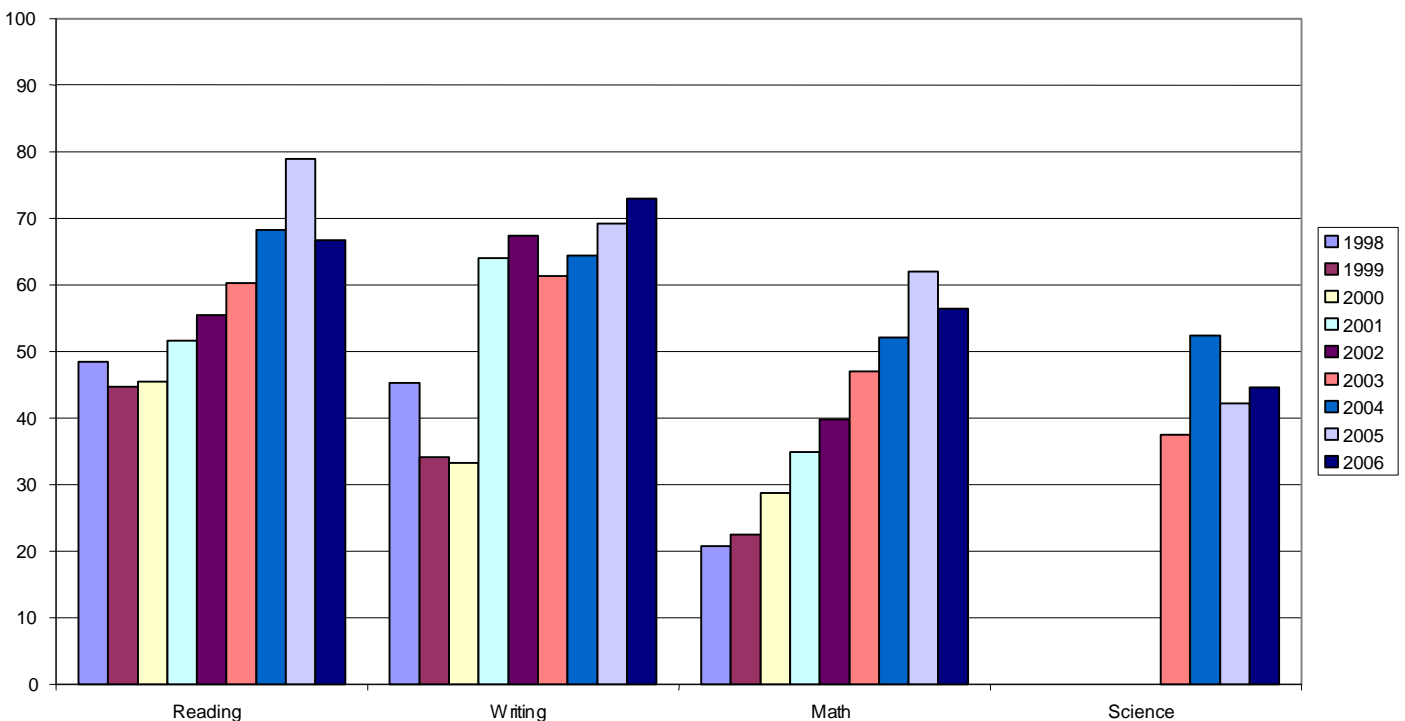
The spring 2006 State of Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores have been released. The WASL measures how well students have mastered the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) as specified in the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) in reading, mathematics, writing, and science. The WASL is comprised of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.

The following graphs show the WASL trend data for grades 4, 7, and 10 in reading, math, and writing, and grades 5, 8, and 10 in science.

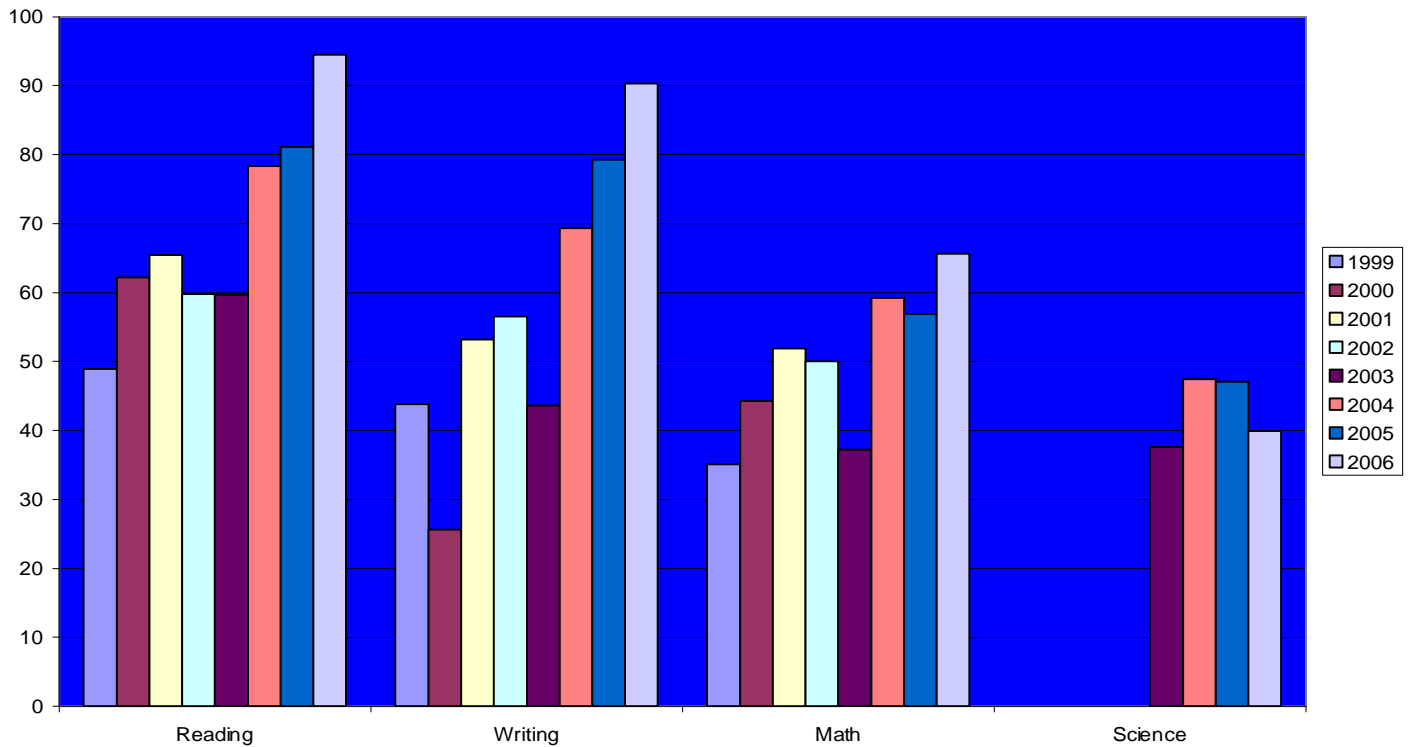
**Fourth and Fifth Grade
Cheney School District WASL Data**



**Seventh and Eighth Grade
Cheney School District WASL Data**



**Tenth Grade
Cheney School District WASL Data**



The Cheney Public Schools WASL scores are above the Washington State scores in all but one subject area/grade level category.

Percent of Students Attaining or Exceeding WASL Standard

	Grade 4		Grade 7		Grade 10	
	State	Cheney	State	Cheney	State	Cheney
Reading	81.1	83.8	61.5	66.4	81.9	94.5
Writing	60.3	58.2	64.5	72.6	79.7	90.3
Math	58.9	61.7	48.5	56.2	41	65.6
	Grade 5		Grade 8			
Science	35.7	44.4	42.9	45	34.9	39.9

The Cheney School District is committed to providing a quality education for all our students. For more information about the district, visit our website at www.cheneyisd.org.

In addition, the **Annual Report Card** for our school district and for each school in the district can be accessed on line in one of two ways:

- ?? Visiting the Cheney Public Schools website – www.cheneyisd.org – and clicking on “District Profile.”
- ?? Visiting the website of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction – www.k12.wa.us – and clicking on “School Report Card” on the right-hand side of the page.

Together, we make a difference in the lives of our children!

Cheney Public Schools focuses on disease prevention

The avian flu and the possibility of a pandemic flu is on the minds of many health care professionals. Cheney Public Schools is working with state and local health departments to develop a response plan if faced with this situation.

It is important to understand the difference between seasonal flu and avian flu. Every year, a large number of people get sick with seasonal flu. Flu vaccines are an effective and recommended precaution people can take to prevent getting sick with seasonal flu. At this time, there is also an avian/bird flu (H5 N1) virus in birds circulating in several countries; however, it has not been in the United States. There is no conclusive evidence that the avian/bird flu virus spreads easily from person-to-person; yet, there is also no vaccine for avian/bird flu. However, health experts have concern because they believe that there could be a new avian/bird flu virus that spreads easily among people for which most people have no immunity. If that happens and people begin to get sick from the virus, we could have what is called a “pandemic flu.”

There is a great deal of planning for this possibility underway at the federal, state and local level. Cheney Public Schools has formed a planning committee that created a response plan in the event of a pandemic flu alert. This document may be accessed from the district’s website: www.cheneyisd.org. You will also find other helpful resources about this topic on the website.

In addition, Cheney Public Schools is committed to increasing staff and student awareness about disease prevention strategies. Throughout the 2006-07 school year, teachers will be utilizing new curriculum tools in their classrooms that emphasize proper hand washing technique and good hygiene practices. When you visit our schools, you will see colorful posters designed to remind staff and students of these prevention strategies.

If you have questions about this information, please contact our district nurse, Susan McDowell at 559-4530, for more information.

Cheney Public Schools welcomes new staff and announces staff relocations

Cheney Public Schools is an outstanding school district and has attracted a large number of highly qualified applicants to fill a significant number of vacant and new certified positions. District and building-level hiring teams continued to work carefully to select outstanding new staff members. Since the “Community Connections” August 2006 edition, additional new staff members were selected to teach in our district due to an increase in enrollment, program changes and program expansions, grant funded positions, and replacement of staff who resigned. We are very pleased to welcome new teachers and to announce the voluntary transfer of teachers to these new positions.

Cheney High School: **Michael Suhling** has been hired as the instrumental/band director.

Cheney Middle School: **Bill Foster** transferred from the high school to accept the instrumental/band director position. **Randy Elam** has joined the staff as a sixth grade teacher; Randy transferred from Three Springs High School.

Betz Elementary: **Renee Collins** transferred into the part-time kindergarten position. Renee was a resource room teacher at Betz Elementary.

Salnave Elementary: **Sally Canton** has been hired as the blended preschool teacher.

Sunset Elementary: **Michael Horrocks** has been hired as the vocal/instrumental music teacher. **Erica Lebens-Englund** has been hired as a kindergarten teacher.

Windsor Elementary: **Lisa Lordan** has been hired as a part-time kindergarten teacher. **Stephanie Yanuszeski** transferred from Salnave into fourth grade.

High Quality Teaching and Learning

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

Cheney Middle School - learning transformed

As the Partners in Learning grant, “Learning Transformed” enters its second year, the Cheney Middle School math teachers are working to change the traditional classroom into a technology integrated, more individualized way of teaching to help each student succeed. The grant, established by the State of Washington and Microsoft to seek innovative technology-based approaches to improving student achievement in reading, writing and math, provides \$2.5 million to Eastern Washington University and Cheney Public Schools over a five-year period. A priority will be placed on addressing the needs of students who have failed at least one WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) test.

To help them achieve their goals, the CMS math teachers will be piloting various software and web-based tools, adding a math computer lab, and collaborating to exchange ideas and find research-based methods that will increase student achievement in math. Additionally, the grant enabled Cheney Middle School to hire a full-time teacher, Lori Hays, to help with technology integration, team with teachers, research software, and take care of many responsibilities related to the successful implementation of the grant.



Tammy Hauer, 8th grade math

New frontiers at Cheney High School

Perhaps the greatest reward in education is celebrating student success. It truly is the fruit of our labor. For the past decade, the majority of our work has involved aligning our curriculum with the Washington State Learning Goals and Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and the challenge of getting all kids to successfully achieve these standards. As many know, passing the reading, writing, and mathematics portions of the high school Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is a new graduation requirement beginning with the Class of 2008, our sophomores who took the WASL last spring.

In the Language Arts Department, it is our charge to get kids to standard in the areas of reading and writing. We expected our kids to do well on the 2006 WASL and they did do exceptionally well. Over ninety percent of our kids met standard in both reading and writing as measured by this test.

We're celebrating at Cheney High School!

With the remarkable success of our kids on this year's WASL, it would seem we have found the answer. *We've arrived.* However, despite getting most of our kids to standard, all we've discovered are more questions, and the only place “we've arrived” is on the edge of a new frontier.

- ?? Where do we go next?
- ?? How far can we take our kids?
- ?? What else do we need to learn to get our kids to the next level?
- ?? And maybe the most important question: where do our *kids* want to go?

Challenging questions. No simple answers. And though we are excited to set off on our new journey, we are going to pause for a moment and enjoy the success of our students.

10th annual community coat drive

Coats can be delivered to any of the area schools, churches and many local businesses from September 25 through October 12. They will all be cleaned compliments of the Wash Tub in Cheney. Coats will be distributed to anyone who needs one on Saturday, October 21 from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Salnave Elementary School, 1015 Salnave Road in Cheney.

District & Community News

Superintendent receives recognition

Michael Dunn, Superintendent of Cheney Public Schools, was ESD 101's regional recipient of the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Student Achievement Leadership Award. Mike was joined by other exceptional leaders for this recognition during WASA's summer conference. These men and women provide focused leadership for *high quality teaching and learning* because of its significant impact on student achievement.



Student Achievement Award Recipients: Mike Dunn, Cheryl Mayo, Jerry Jenkins, Donald Schmitz, Deborah Gonzalez, Linda Dugger, Tanis Knight, Kathy Budge, Linda Munson, Dennis Maguire, and Denise Varner

Federal survey cards go home October 2 - why is this survey card so important to your public school?

Parents and guardians who live on or work for an employer located 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. 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, must return the federal survey card because the federal government mandates that the district obtain a completed card from every student.

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.

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Medical and dental services available for children and youth, age birth to 21

The following services are available at no cost to the family, no insurance needed and no income criteria:

- * Treatment of minor illnesses and injuries
- * Vision screenings and hearing exams
- * Asthma and diabetes treatment and education
- * Dental screenings, fluoride, cleaning, sealants, x-rays, fillings (Dental not available at all sites, please call 324-7291 Ext. 1 to confirm services available for specific dates or locations.)
- * Physical and sports checkups, immunizations
- * Nutrition and health education
- * Referral to doctors, dentists and clinics



The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will be at the Cheney Trading Company every 3rd Thursday of the month, April through November, 2006, Medical only, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For appointments please call 324-7291. A parent/guardian must complete RMCM intake/consent form. You can download intake/consent form at: spokanecaremobile.org or check with your child's 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

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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