



Cheney USD 268
Educating Minds...Connecting Hearts...
Touching Lives...
Welcome to Our Family

From the Superintendent, Thomas J. Alstrom

Cheney USD 268
Patron Newsletter
October/November

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We are off and running with another year and so far things seem to be going well. We have added some new faces to the district and they are fitting in and doing a great job. As you know we have had some struggles over the past three years with funding and tough decisions we have had to make but in the end, we have been able to maintain our academic standing. The latest Testing results are on the District web page and they show that our students are doing very well when we are compared to the State Average and the projected scores needed to have all students proficient by 2012. This is not to say that there are some areas that we have to focus on to maintain our standards but overall as a district we are doing very well even in times of adversity.

The State of Kansas has joined several other states in developing new standards for which schools will be measured. This new process is an effort to develop more uniformity in the comparison of students in the United States. Currently each State has the opportunity to set their own standards for academic performance. The new Core Standards will be uniform standards for states to use to guide the education of their students. Kansas has agreed to use the new standards and is on the team that is developing the Core Standards for the nation. Kansas has always been in the top academically in the Nation and with the change in standards, we want to be in the midst of the development of the Standards for which we will be measured.

Even though we are continually looking at what we are doing within our classrooms and with our curriculum, we need to take a deeper look at our core subjects to make sure that we have continuity throughout the district and that we are using the best

process for our students learning and using the material both in and out of school. The change to the Core Standards will be a guide for us to proceed in this process and keep us up to date with the necessary changes to maintain academic excellence.

Some of the other issues we face are the increase in social media and how that affects our schools. With all of the devices available that can communicate on a moment's notice, we have to look at how we work with the students and public to make sure proper communication is taking place. This will continue to be an issue in the future and we are working on plans that will allow us to address issues as they arise. We are also continually working on our Crisis plan and trying to make improvements on how we react to situations and how we prepare for situations that could arise. We are constantly reminded of crisis situations that happen around our nation and we want to be diligent with our preparation as well.

As we look forward through this year we are hopeful that the State revenue will continue to grow as it has in the past few months. If this would occur, this would be a real boost to the educational system in not having to make mid-year adjustments and cuts in the budget. We continually urge you to maintain contact with your legislators even if they are not in session at this time. There is a link on the district home page that will give you contact information to those who represent our district.

We want to thank you for your continued support for the Cheney schools as we continue to strive to make our schools the best in the area.

"Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play.
Every individual makes a difference."

~Jane Goodall



Technology News

By Brad Buscher, Technology System Supervisor

We have a new face walking around in our hallways now and his name is Brad Buscher. Brad was hired to be our Technology System Supervisor. Brad, along with Kelly Schmidt will be our Technology Team and will continue helping us with our technology needs. Below is a little bit about Brad...

Welcome to the District Brad!

Hello everyone, from the Tech department. It is a pleasure to be part of the Cheney 268 team and I look forward to working with you and serving your IT needs.

My wife and I are natives of Kansas. Emily is from Hutchinson, and I grew up all over South Central Kansas. We are returning to Kansas after being away for 15 years. For 10 of those years I served as a Cryptologic Technician Interpretive for the US Navy and enjoyed traveling throughout the Asian Theater. It was in that job that I found the true usefulness of technology as a tool and not just a toy. Because of the nature of my job I began to write computer software to assist those in my office in the day to day analysis of collected data. After the Navy we moved to Colorado where I became the Chief Programmer for an up and coming technology firm. With that company I developed the user interface of our kiosk as well as programs to make all the separate components work together as one system. Now we have returned and are looking for a place we can settle down and call home.

In the coming months I look forward to meeting and getting to know each and every one of you.

Did you know:

“The rise of mobile technologies small enough to carry in one’s pocket, and the increasing power and functionality of these devices, is causing a seismic shift in education technology.”

“Last fall, nearly 50 percent of middle and high school students said they carried some type of smart phone—a 47-percent increase from fall 2009.”

~By Jennifer Nastu, Contributing Editor. August 2011. September 2011 <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2011/02/25/mobile-learning-not-just-laptops-any-more/?ast=69&astc=&utm_source=website&utm_medium=url&utm_campaign=slider>.

Wellness Corner
By Charlene Lyons, Food Service Director

Local School Wellness Policy

Each local educational agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program or other child nutrition programs is required by federal law to establish a local school wellness policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. Local school wellness policies are designed to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

Background

Congress recognizes the important role schools play in promoting the health of youth. In 2004, Congress passed the Child Nutrition and Women Infants and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act (Sec. 204 of P.L. 108-205). This act required by law that all local education agencies participating in the National School Lunch Program or other child nutrition programs create local wellness policies. The legislation places the responsibility of developing a wellness policy at the local level so the individual needs of each local education agency can be addressed.

In 2010, Congress passed the [Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act \(Sec. 204 of P.L. 111-296\) \[pdf 319K\]](#) and added new provisions for local wellness policies related to implementation, evaluation, and publicly reporting on progress of local wellness policies.

Requirements

The Act requires each local educational agency participating in the National School Lunch Program or other child nutrition programs to establish a local school wellness policy for all schools under its jurisdiction. Each local education agency must designate one or more local education agency officials or school officials to ensure that each school complies with the local wellness policy.

At a minimum, a local school wellness policy must—

- ◆ Include goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness
- ◆ Include nutrition guidelines to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity for all foods available in each school district
- ◆ Permit parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and review and update of the local wellness policy
- ◆ Inform and update the public (including parents, students, and others in the community) about the content and implementation of local wellness policies
- ◆ Be measured periodically on the extent to which schools are in compliance with the local wellness policy, the extent to which the local education agency's local wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies, and the progress made in attaining the goals of the local wellness policy, and make this assessment available to the public

Tools and Resources

In response to this mandate, both federal and nonfederal agencies have responded with tools and resources for schools to assist with developing, implementing and evaluating local wellness policies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, acting through CDC, are charged with providing information and technical assistance to local education agencies, school food authorities, and state educational agencies to meet the 2010 local wellness policy requirements and establish healthy school environments that are intended to promote student health and wellness.



Minutes to the Wellness Committee Meeting

August 23, 2011

Members Present: Carolyn Riedel, Brenda Berry, Sara Lungren, Randy Weber, Michelle Higgins, Linda Ball, Ron Traxson, Amy Wallace, Tom Alstrom, Jessa Albers, Jennifer Bartlett, Jamie Rumford, Charlene Lyons.

Members Absent: Mel Tolar, Randy Leroux, Dr. Gould

Charlene Lyons began the meeting by handing out flyers from “Creating Healthier Kansas Schools”. The flyers were in regard to Healthful Food & Beverage Vending, Student Rewards & Incentives and Fundraising Ideas for Schools. Each flyer suggests ways to incorporate healthy eating into various school events.

Mel Tolar was unable to be at the meeting, but provided a list of ideas for the wellness committee to discuss. Topics discussed were having a walking school bus program, and providing healthier snacks at classroom parties. There was also discussion about what some students are bringing in for lunch from home.

Tom Alstrom recommended that our wellness committee look at other schools wellness programs and see what they have in place. He also recommended the committee form some guidelines for a wellness plan that could become a district wide policy.

It was also discussed to remind the Cheney community that the track is open to the public for walking, as well as inside the school in the winter time.

Goals for the Wellness committee include creating a district wide wellness policy, and providing information to the public via Alert Now, and on the District Website.

Any comments or questions regarding Cheney’s wellness committee, contact Charlene Lyons at cl Lyons@cheney268.com. If you are interested in becoming a member, you may contact any Wellness committee member.

The next meeting will be held Monday, November 7, 2011 at 8:00 a.m.

Cheney Counselor's Corner

Family: "What greater thing is there for human souls than to feel that they are joined for life - to be with each other in silent memories."

~George Eliot

Debbie Hillman, CHS
Jeanine Long, CES
Linda Patterson, CMS

First and foremost, welcome back to all parents, students, and staff to the 2011-2012 school year. As the district counselors, we have sat down and looked at various areas of importance to our counseling program. We hope to find the most beneficial ways to address the needs of our students.

Our most important task at hand is the success and well-being of students at every level. We continue to monitor our students and provide guidance to help them become the future of our society.

As the school year began, we felt one of our main points of emphasis would be the family connection. We feel very strongly that the family is where many qualities are established. It is known that family time helps with success in school, emotional stability, getting along with peers and many other factors. To kick-off the family connection theme, we joined forces with some of our local businesses. In our opinion, it was a great success. I think we even surprised some of the eating establishments with the number of families who got out and ate a "family" meal. A big "Thank You" goes out to those who participated. We know many had other activities going on so plan on joining in next month.

The final details have to be ironed out, but it appears that we will have a "Let's Move" family day in October. The day and time has yet to be determined. Basically, we hope you will get your bicycles, running shoes, roller blades, and even walking shoes out to enjoy some exercise as a family. Our basic plans involve seeing how many miles we can log as a school community. More information will be dispensed at a later date. We will tie this activity in with our annual Red Ribbon Week, which is the last full week of October. Again, we encourage students to make healthy choices and decisions.

Our initial plans for November will be to encourage families to help a neighbor or volunteer as a family for some event. November is always a time to remember to give thanks.

We encourage you to provide us feedback from the various activities as we want to see how things are going. Please keep an eye out for the monthly "family connection" activities.

If there is ever anything we can do to assist you or your student, please feel free to contact the counselor in your child's building.

HAPPY FALL!

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Debbie Hillman
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Counselor's Corner, CHS

By Debbie Hillman, CHS Counselor-dhillman@cheney268.com or 316-542-3113

Each year when the first newsletter time arrives, I am surprised that it is already October. It is time to inform you about the upcoming months, but I definitely want to share a little about the start of another school year. Students are definitely in the groove, and they look forward to each new activity. Attendance and participation in school sponsored activities has been awesome so far. I hope the enthusiasm and school spirit continues.

SENIORS – It is amazing that the final year for the class of 2012 has arrived. I want to say a big “Thank You” to those parents and students who attended the informational meeting the end of August. I was very pleased and impressed with the attendance. You should have received the first page of information through an Alert Now midway through September. Parents will continue to get emails while the seniors will get hard copies. Many college representatives have scheduled their visits, and the seniors have opportunities to sign up to attend their presentation. They are also listed in the weekly memo and daily announcements. It is great how many seniors have begun the application for admission, scholarships, and campus visits process. I cannot begin to impress upon them the importance of scheduling visits. The next ACT is quickly approaching, and we will be having an ACT Test Prep on Wednesday, October 19, which is Test Fest Day for the underclassmen. More detailed information will be coming soon. There will be no cost to attend the fall prep session. The registration deadline for the December 10 ACT is November 4. Good luck to the seniors and their parents as you all start the life after high school planning.

Juniors – It has happened, they are now officially upperclassmen. With that said a few events take place for the juniors. First of all, they will be taking the Practice ACT on Test Fest. I then recommend they take it again on a national test day at least once during their junior year. I suggest they wait until at least February, but that is a decision for parents and student. All juniors will be attending the Future's Fair on Tuesday, November 8 as a class. This is an opportunity for them to explore options available to them once they graduate.

Sophomores – One down, three to go. The sophomores seem to have adjusted well to moving up the high school ladder. Information will be distributed to the sophomores about the upcoming PLAN test, which is administered on Test Fest Day. I hope they take a chance to look it over and feel comfortable taking the test. This year will be a time they can really settle in and get a strong grasp on school. They don't have a lot of new things coming at them so it is a prime time to learn all they can.

Freshmen – Wow! The Class of 2015 has entered the halls of CHS. It is always fun to see the new faces and their excitement about being in high school. I cannot stress the importance of taking care of business in the classroom. They have many opportunities to ask for help, and now is the time to seek assistance when needed. The freshmen have done well, and I look forward to their advancement over the years. The EXPLORE will be given to freshmen on Test Fest, and they will receive information soon.

CHS – A great start to a school year hopefully means it will be a great year. As I have mentioned above, Test Fest is October 19. We hope that all students will get a good night's rest the night before. Every student is required to take the tests so we anticipate perfect attendance. If a student misses, they are required to come in on Friday, October 28, when school is not in session. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me.
dhillman@cheney268.com or 542-3113

Counselor's Corner, CMS

By Linda Patterson, CMS Counselor – lpatterson@cheney268.com or 542-0060

Counseling lessons are off to another great start! This year I will be back in the Communication classroom for 7th and 8th grade counseling and 6th grade Health class to discuss important issues that deals with your students' personal, academic, and career needs. The focus for 6th and 7th grade counseling will be on Character Education. We will be discussing the importance of having a Positive Attitude, What it means to be Responsible, How to Communicate Effectively, How to Show Compassion and Empathy to Others, The Importance of Forgiveness and How to Make Good Decisions. The goal for the 8th grade is on Self-Discovery and Self Identity. We will talk about the importance of Leadership, Teambuilding, and Effective Communication and discuss how it affects us in our Relationships and in our future Careers. We will also discuss how to Make Effective Choices and Decisions. As part of our Career Education, 8th grade students have already registered on the Kansas Career Pipeline website and began their career exploration by taking the interest inventory. Students will spend Counseling time learning and exploring what career opportunities may be available to them which will help direct their educational path as they pursue their career goals. Kansas Career Pipeline website can be accessed at home by logging on to www.kansascareerpipeline.org. This is a great tool for both student and parents! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**“Bullies are weak. They bully because they don't know what else to do.
Bullying is the spark, and courage is the smoke which roars out from the spark.
Be courageous and the world shall follow.”**

~Author Unknown

Anti-Bully Awareness Week

USD 268 will celebrate Anti-Bully Awareness Week October 3 – 7. This week will help raise awareness among students and staff about the different types of Bullying Behavior as well as Cyber-Bullying, the short and long term effects, and how each person can make a difference by being an active Bystander. Did you know that bystanders are present 85% of the time when bullying takes place, but only 11% of the time do peers ever intervene. Kevin Horner, an illusionist and ventriloquist, from the Kansas City area will be here October 4th to talk with our students about “Speaking Up for Others”. I'm sure it will be an educational, motivating, and entertaining presentation. Tracey Glover from the Boys & Girls Club of South Central Kansas will be here October 6th to discuss the importance of Internet Safety. Ambassadors also planned a fund raiser that day for Kids with Cancer. It is called Mad Hatter Day. Students bring a \$1 to wear a hat. This is a great way to have fun, show compassion, and be charitable all at one time. We will see which class can collect the most money and be treated to a reward!

“You will never reach higher ground if you are always pushing others down.”

~Jeffrey Benjamin

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated October 24-27. Student Council and CMS SODA members will be organizing fun and educational activities throughout the week for all the students to participate in. During the morning of October 26th students will travel around to classrooms listening to presenters speak on the harmful effects of Drugs and Alcohol and the results of making destructive decisions had on their life. When students have the opportunity to listen to young adults, not much older than themselves, speak openly and honestly about their lives and the poor decisions they have made, it is important that we stress to them the support they have by attending Cheney schools and having parents, teachers, coaches, and other adults in their lives that care about them so much! You can't help but to feel so fortunate to live in this small community after listening to some of the life stories told by our guests.



Counselor's Corner, CMS cont'd...

By Linda Patterson, CMS Counselor – lpatterson@cheney268.com or 542-0060

CMS STUDENT LEADERS

Our Student Council, CMS Ambassadors, and Students Opposing Drugs and Alcohol Board were voted on and selected at the end of last year. These students act as positive role models and mentors for other students. To get the year started off right, many of these students attended a Leadership workday in August to start planning and preparing for the upcoming year.

I am so proud of them for the work they do. Keep up the great job!



Student Council has been busy at work planning new and exciting activities for the middle school students. On Wednesday, September 21st, the council headed to Winfield High School for the Regional STUCO conference. It was a very motivational experience listening to 22 year old Mayor of Winfield, Kansas Taggart Wall and motivational youth speaker Laymon Hicks. Cheney students left Winfield feeling inspired and ready to make a difference in our school. During the month of October, students will celebrate the football, volleyball, and cross country seasons with a final pep rally and spirit days. October is also the month we learn about the harmful effects of substance abuse through activities for Red Ribbon Week. Stuco will plan daily activities that will be fun and educational.

The 2010-2011 Student Council is:

President: Torrey Lonker;

Vice-President: Addie Dewey; **Secretary:** Kristen Wewe

8th Grade Reps: Cheyenne Harper, Quinn Veach, Austin Wheelock

7th Grade Reps: Riley Amsink, Matthew Slusser, Macy Wallace

6th Grade Reps: Taton Bennett, Kennedy Higgins, Trent Scheer



CMS Ambassadors primary, but not exclusive, responsibility is to aide in the transition of elementary students into 6th grade as well as any new middle school student who may arrive throughout the course of the year. They act as mentors helping students integrate themselves into our school and community. Ambassadors help aid in the planning of Open House, Mix It Up Days at Lunch, Anti-Bully Awareness Week, Red Ribbon Week, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and much, much more.

The 2011-2012 CMS Ambassadors are:

8th Grade: Maddy Campbell, Sydney Dalton, Caitlin Greiving, Sarah Montano, Sabina Rich, KD Riedl, Madison Schneider, Allie Twietmeyer, Kristina Zenger

7th Grade: Amy Akler, Haley Albers, Gunner Denney, Emma Hays, Hannah Sanders, Renee Sturchio, Kylie Young

6th Grade: Trey Akler, Morgan Ayres, Jordan Block, Jaiden Cape, Kacey Krenznel, Arina Nuessen, Sam Reno, Whitney Schell, Trent VanNordstrand



Students Opposing Drugs and Alcohol will be having a pledge drive the beginning of October for students to sign up to be a part of this organization. SODA teaches kids about the harmful effects of Drugs and Alcohol and the importance of making positive healthy choices. They will be busy during October planning activities for Red Ribbon Week and providing literature for Parent/Teacher Conferences while making the drunk goggles available to parents to experience.

The 2011-2012 SODA Board Members are:

8th Graders: Trevor Lies and Madison Schneider

7th Grader: Kaleigh Black

6th Grader: Kirstin Campbell

Counselor's Corner, CES

By Jeanine Long, CES Counselor – jlong@cheney268.com or 542-3137

This school year is off to a wonderful start. I am excited to have the staff and students back and am looking forward to another great year.



Last year we had over a dozen adult volunteers involved in the YouthFriends initiative. YouthFriends, which connects caring adult volunteers with young people in schools, is an opportunity for the entire community to help young people succeed. YouthFriends is open to all students, grades K-12, and all volunteer activities take place on school grounds, before, during or after school. Each year we have waiting lists of students who would like a YouthFriends volunteer. If you belong to a community of faith or community organization that might need a speaker for a program, please let me know.

What's the Issue book club for students in grades K-2 has been a huge success the last few years. This year, we will be meeting in September, October, November, January, February, and April. Children or parents can voluntarily sign up for this reading club that meets to discuss issues found in children's books. Children have the chance to read and apply the information from books to their personal lives. For additional information, please contact me.

Students in all grades are invited to participate in small group counseling sessions. Children, who share a common concern, meet together with me to receive support through talking, learning and sharing. Our topics this year will include divorce, anger, social skills and self-esteem. To enroll your child in one of the groups, please contact me.

Rachel's Challenge is a program that promotes kindness and compassion in our schools. Rachel Scott was the first victim in the Columbine High School shooting. Kindness and compassion are two traits that characterized Rachel. We do not focus on or discuss the nature of her death, but instead on how she lived her life and the challenges she set forth for us all: influence, goal setting, journaling, acceptance and kindness. We have a group of 5th grade students called KC Club. They work together to promote kindness and compassion in our school. Together with Stuco, they work to encourage giving back to our community.



The first week in October is Bullying Awareness Week. We are recognizing the week with a variety of activities throughout the week. If you need resources to visit with your child about bullying, please don't hesitate to call.

We will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week the week of October 24-31. You will be notified of the ways we will recognize each day of that week. Please encourage your child's participation and use this as an opportunity to discuss the importance of being drug free with him/her.



My goal as a school counselor is to work with parents and students in making this school year a positive one. I have experience in the school setting as well as a clinical mental health setting. Please allow me to be a resource for you and your child in any way. I invite you to access my page on the school website and to call or email me at any time. And thank you for being willing to share your child with me. We are blessed with wonderful families here in Cheney!

Jeanine Long
CES Counselor



Cheney High School-Ron Traxson, Principal
 “You are educated. Your certification is in your degree.
 You may think of it as the ticket to the good life.



Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world”
 ~~Tom Brokaw

Principally Speaking.....Ron Traxson

Well here we are, already closing in on the end of first 9 weeks of the 2011-12 school year. By the time you read this Homecoming will have come and gone, and students will be eying Thanksgiving Break as the next milestone in the first semester.

Starting a week later this year really threw us into the mix quickly. It’s amazing what one weeks difference made in settling-in before activities inundated our schedule. It seemed like we’ve been rushing into things from the start this year.

The school classifications are out. Cheney is once again 4A; listed 2nd from the bottom of 4A. It is somewhat discouraging having 261 in at CHS while the largest 4A school has 717 (a 456 student difference). This is a distinct difference from 3A, which for example only ranges from 162 to 254 (92 students). Enough whining... here are the CPL school numbers this year;

<u>Central Plains League</u>	9 th -12 th	KSHSAA
	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Wichita-Trinity Academy	299	4A
Cheney	261	4A
Douglass	230	3A
Chaparral	229	3A
Conway Springs	223	3A
Wichita-Independent	212	3A
Garden Plain	210	3A
Belle Plaine	196	3A
Bluestem	183	3A
Medicine Lodge	144	2A

The Interactive **Mathematics Program** Continues to Prepare Students

Cheney High School’s current math program has been in effect for a decade. It has changed somewhat over the years as instructors have learned to utilize its strengths and improve its weakness’. One example of these changes is the success we have experienced with having students prepared for college algebra 2nd semester of IMP IV.

Students in IMP IV can actually take College Algebra for credit at that time, and we have been pleased with the success students have had with this arrangement.

The IMP curriculum looks and feels dramatically different from the programs that have existed in the school for many years. IMP focuses on points learned from studies, such as the TIMMS, that show proven areas of instruction. For example, IMP:

- is problem-centered;
- is integrated;
- expands the content scope of high school mathematics;
- focuses on developing understanding;
- includes long-term, open-ended investigations;
- can serve students of varied mathematical backgrounds.

The IMP curriculum requires an expanded role for the teacher, a more active role for the students, involves extensive oral and written communication, and expects that students learn both as teams and independently. The program incorporates graphing calculators, and has been thoroughly field-tested. The primary goal of the staff is for students to be able to retain and transfer knowledge while engaging in rigorous mathematical questions and/or topics. Formal evaluations of the program show documented success of students in various settings.

In prior review it presented itself as the logical progression to the Every-Day Math Program at the CES, and the Math In Context at the CMS which had been already established. The Cheney Board of Education was impressed with the findings of the study and approved commitment and resources for the program to be implemented.

If you are interested in learning more about the IMP program, visit their website at <http://www.mathimp.org/>

Rumors are that colleges do not accept IMP math credit. This is simply not true. For a decade not one CHS student has been denied entry due to the math they took at CHS. I'll let you on a little secret...it's not your high school math, it's your ACT score that colleges look at. Provided below is the **CHS ACT 5 Year Performance Scores**, which shows math to be one of our strongest areas;

Grad Year	Total Tested		English		Math		Reading		Science		Composite	
	CHS	KS	CHS	KS	CHS	KS	CHS	KS	CHS	KS	CHS	KS
2007	60	23,196	20.1	21.4	20.2	21.6	20.3	22.4	20.9	21.7	20.5	20.5
2008	46	23,687	21.4	21.5	22.1	21.8	23.0	22.6	22.8	21.8	22.5	22.0
2009	58	23,147	20.7	21.4	21.9	21.7	21.0	22.4	22.4	21.8	21.6	21.9
2010	58	23,342	21.5	21.4	21.5	21.7	22.3	22.3	22.7	21.9	22.1	22.0
2011	47	23,628	20.9	21.4	22.2	21.8	22.0	22.3	22.2	21.9	21.9	22.0

Currently CHS continues to evaluate and improve its math program, as well as all the programs provided in our curriculum. Careful study and consideration of student gains are maintained. To-date we have been very pleased with results, but as with any program we maintain a critical eye on the process to further develop and advance efforts for student results.

Administration and math instructors welcome the opportunity to share what we studied going in, what we have learned over the past nine years, and what our expectations for the future are. It has become painfully aware that there are those that are adamantly against a change from traditional delivery of math despite our educational belief and studies that more students are able to take their math skills to a higher level of understanding through a more interactive student centered program such as IMP. It is important that before opinions are formed that you get all the facts. Please feel free to solicit our facts, findings and beliefs before forming a final opinion.

As for parents struggling with working through this program, yes – the program is challenging...that is our goal. We do not prepare as we did 20 years ago for now, we prepare now for the future and what it holds.

Excerpt From The IMP Webpage

IMP has created a four-year program of problem-based mathematics that replaces the traditional Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II/Trigonometry, Pre-calculus sequence and that is designed to exemplify the curriculum reform called for in the Curriculum and Evaluation Standards of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

The IMP curriculum integrates traditional material with additional topics recommended by the NCTM Standards, such as statistics, probability, curve fitting, and matrix algebra. IMP units are generally structured around a complex central problem. Although each unit has a specific mathematical focus, other topics are brought in as needed to solve the central problem, rather than narrowly restricting the mathematical content. Ideas that are developed in one unit are usually revisited and deepened in one or more later units.

CHS cont'd...

The IMP curriculum has been thoroughly field-tested and enthusiastically received by hundreds of classroom teachers around the country. Their enthusiasm is based on the success they have seen in their own classrooms with their own students. These informal observations are backed by more formal evaluations. Dr. Norman Webb, of the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, has done several studies comparing the performance of students using the IMP curriculum with the performance of students in traditional programs.

For instance, Dr. Webb has found that IMP students do as well as students in traditional mathematics classes on standardized tests such as the SAT. This is especially significant because IMP students spend about 25 percent of their time studying topics that are not covered on these tests. To measure IMP student's achievement in these other areas, Dr. Webb conducted three separate studies involving students at different grade levels and in different locations. The three tests used in these studies involved statistics, quantitative reasoning, and general problem solving.

In all three cases, the IMP students outperformed their counterparts in traditional programs by a statistically significant margin, even though the two groups began with equivalent scores on eighth grade standardized tests.

**“Do not confine your children to your own learning,
for they were born in another time.”**
~Chinese Proverb

SCHOOL CLASSIFICATIONS: A HOT TOPIC **by Greg Rosenhagen, 6-12 Activities Director/Assistant Principal**

The classification of Kansas State High School Activities Association member schools is again a hot topic. School classifications and school enrollments were recently released using the combined enrollment of all four high school grade levels. This is the first time all four grade levels have been used to calculate enrollment and determine classifications. This was due to the last Kansas school now becoming a 9-12 building.

Once again, a proposal will be discussed at the October 24 Fall KSHSAA Regional Administrative meetings held at Maize High School. There are additional sport specific proposals on the table for discussion purposes including a proposal to play the entire State Volleyball Tournament in one day. However, the classification issue will likely be the most notable item on the table.

The classification issue is based on securing an answer to the following question, “Should the KSHSAA modify Rule 5-2-1, regarding the classification of schools in Classes, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A as follows: Change Class 4A from the current 64 schools to a total of 48 schools by moving the 16 smallest enrollment Class 4A schools down into Class 3A. Class 3A would remain at 64 schools by moving the smallest enrollments of 16 schools from Class 3A down to 2A. Class 2A would remain at 64 schools by moving the smallest enrollment 16 schools from 2A down to 1A. Class 1A would gain the 16 schools moving down from Class 2A which in part would offset some of the loss of Class 1A schools being experienced due to school consolidations and closures.

No action will be taken on these proposals but results from the 7 different Regional meetings will be taken into consideration by the KSHSAA.

Cheney Middle School-Amy Wallace, Principal
“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire”
~William Butler Yeats



News from the Middle....

The days seem to be flying by, and things at CMS are running smoothly! We are looking forward to another great year.

OHANA/UNITY DAY: Cheney Middle School students had a great first day!! As students arrived at school, they were greeted by teachers in matching shirts declaring OHANA with the quote "we're all in this together." UNITY DAY kicks off our year long theme at CMS, Ohana which means "family." CMS staff opened the assembly by performing a lip synch for the students. Students spent the morning team building, getting to know each other, and creating a banner and a skit to perform in front of the entire school. Then, all students and staff members descended on the gym floor to perform the "Cha Cha Dance" line dance. Events like this take a great deal of planning and buy-in from the teachers. Thank you to the committee of teachers who worked on this event for several months to make it all come together, and thanks to all the teachers and staff who made the day possible.

WELCOME TO CMS We have a new 6th grade Communications teacher! His name is Jason Nichols and he comes to us from Wichita. He has taught for ten years. Welcome Mr. Nichols!! The position was opened when Mrs. Sherri Conrad moved to the Reading Specialist/Curriculum position. She will be running the Reading Lab and will also be helping at all three buildings with curriculum.

TEAM TIME: A nice feature at the middle school is our team planning time. All core teachers meet together every other day to plan for your students. This is an excellent time to call the school and have the opportunity to visit with four of your child's teachers at once. 6th grade math, science, social studies and communications teachers meet together on RED DAYS from 2:17-2:55. From 2:17-2:55 on BLUE DAYS, 7th and 8th grade teachers of math, science, social studies and communications meet together.

CITY GOVERNMENT DAY: On September 27 our seventh graders had the opportunity to participate the annual City Government Day. City employees planned an exciting day for the students, as they were able to see the inner workings of our town. Students visited the police and fire station, participated in a mock city council meeting, toured the water tower, visited the golf course and much more. The students had a fabulous time, and I would like to thank the many employees that made the day possible.



COMMUNITY SERVICE: Did you know that each week a group of CMS students walk over to the Golden Age Home to play games with the residents? If you have other ideas of projects our students can do to serve our community, please let us know!!

SUPER SPELLERS

The following students qualified to compete at the State Fair Spelling Bee on Monday, Sept 12: Haley Albers, Taton Bennett, Sydney Dalton, Addie Dewey, Trevor Lies, Mercedes Rich, Sabrina Rich, and Madison Schneider. They represented our school well, with Haley, Addie, Trevor and Sydney making it past the written competition and on to the oral rounds. Congratulations to all these super spellers!



VETERAN'S DAY: We are planning a special Veteran's Day Assembly at Cheney Middle School. All Cheney area veterans are encouraged to come and participate. The program is also open to the public and we encourage as many people to come and join us as possible. The program will take place at 1 PM in the High School Gymnasium. Watch the Times Sentinel in the coming weeks for more information.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES: Conferences are coming up soon!! Please call the office at 542-0060 to schedule a time.

- ◆ 6th GRADE: October 24 and 25, 6-9 PM (Mr. Nichols will be gone on the 24th)
- ◆ 7th and 8th GRADE: October 24 and 25, 5-8:30 PM.

Cheney Elementary School - Jamie Rumford, Principal

“There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child.

There are seven million.”

~Walt Streightiff



CES Enrollment

School enrollment at CES is slightly up this school year. We have about 370 students served in grades Pre-School – 5th grade. This is about 25 students more than we had three years ago in 2008-09. I'm always impressed with new parent's reasoning for coming to Cheney. The majority of the time, our school's reputation and prior success are the key reasons. I'd like to offer a big "Thanks!" to all staff, students, families, and community members for making Cheney an outstanding place to raise kids!

Target Time

Cheney Elementary School is continuing our model of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) into our schedule. I've explained this approach in past newsletters, but to review, this approach allows us the opportunity to provide direct reading instruction to address individual student needs efficiently. The process at CES is as follows:

1. Students are tested with grade level assessments
2. Teachers analyze the data from the testing.
3. Teachers group students according to their specific needs.
4. CES schedules a time during the day for multiple staff members to instruct small groups of students. This allows staff members the chance to work with smaller groups and make quicker gains.
5. Groups are adjusted as needed throughout the school year as students improve or show further need.

We call this process Target Time because we are targeting student's specific need and providing them the instruction we feel they need. This process takes a lot of planning from our teaching staff, but we feel like our students continue to make solid gains each year.

This year, we have made our first steps toward implementing a similar system for Math. As we've worked at implementing this, we've found that finding assessments and data has not come as easy as it did for reading. Because of this, our approach has been targeted specifically on math facts.

We've implemented a program called Rocket Math that targets students' fluency with math facts. This program begins when students are ready for it, and we've found that 2nd grade on up is able to start this at the beginning of the school year. Kindergarten and 1st grade will work at preparing their students for the program and we hope to get them started later in the school year. We're also starting to research other ideas that target math fluency in the primary grade levels. The 10 minutes that was added to our school day was implemented into each grade levels' schedule, providing more time for teacher to implement this program. Our goal is to improve basic math fact skills so that students will be better prepared for more difficult math concepts in the future.

Healthy Snacks

The district Wellness is encouraging healthy lifestyles for all students. We have taken some action on the foods we provide at school, but would also like to encourage parents to do the same. Keep this in mind when you:

1. Send a snack to school with your student.
2. Send a lunch to school with your student.
3. Provide a birthday treat for your child's class.
4. Organize a classroom party.

There is a list available on the PALS website that gives some ideas for these types of snacks. This website can be accessed at www.cheney268.com, then click the Elementary School tab, and then go to the PALS tab.

**“Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body,
It is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity.”**

~John F. Kennedy

We are off to a great start to the 2011-12 school year! We have some great programs going on in PE and in conjunction with the City of Cheney:

- ◆ The City of Cheney was awarded a \$250,000 Safe Routes to School grant from the Ks Dept. of Transportation. This grant will allow our city to add sidewalks in many needed areas to help students with safer routes to school. There will also be ADA accessible ramps added at many street corners. Danielle Young, city clerk, did a fabulous job working on this grant! Our school is involved with the grant in many ways. We are encouraging students to walk or bike to school each morning/afternoon and have started a “Walking School Bus” in one part of town. We are looking for more volunteers to walk students to school. If you are available and would like to do this, please contact Mrs. Tolar or CES and we will work to get this going! It is a great thing to encourage more physical activity!!
- ◆ International Walk to School/Work Day is Wednesday, October 5, 2011. The City of Cheney is encouraging ALL people to participate in this. Our 4th and 5th grade students made posters to post all over town and Jim’s Foodliner has flyers to put in sacks to advertise this! We are hoping for a great turn out!
- ◆ Our 6th Annual Jump Rope for Heart Event will be held at Cheney Elementary School on Friday, October 14, 2011 during PE/Music times. The students will be encouraged to dress up in their spookiest Halloween costume to “Say Boo to Heart Disease”. We will have a contest for the best costumes as well as several stations set up to do various jumping activities. Each CES student (K-5) has been sent home with a packet for sponsorship during the event. We thank the community for all their support in the past! We have been able to help many people with the generosity from Cheney! We have a goal of \$10,000 this year and that will get Mrs. Tolar taped up to the wall again! If we reach \$11,000, our teachers will get to spray Mr. Rumford with Silly String too! We are looking forward to a great event! Thanks for all the support! J
- ◆ We received a grant from the Kansas Health and Wellness Coalition for \$800 to help promote physical activity and healthy eating in our school. We have called the program “Fun, Fit, Fridays”. On the last Friday of each month, we will have a presentation on fitness or healthy eating for our K-5 students. We held our first one on Friday, September 30th and had Heidi Wells, RD, speak to our students on the addition of the “My Plate” to the food pyramid. After that, we headed outside on the recess grounds and were led in a great Zumba workout by Jennifer Hoeme. It was a great time by all! For the month of October, Mrs. Meyer and Mrs. Tolar will be teaching the dance “Thriller” in PE and Music and then the students will do that dance Zumba-style with Mrs. Hoeme, along with a demonstration on how to make a healthy trail mix.
- ◆ Your child(ren) will bring home at the start of each month a Fitness Calendar or Bingo Sheet. This is to go along with our Fun, Fit, Friday program. We ask that the students work on completing the Calendar or Sheet by the end of the month. This is to encourage more physical activity and to include parents and family for some fun time together! When they students have completed the sheets, they are to return them to Mrs. Tolar and they will receive a prize for their efforts! We ask that they complete ALL of the activities and are able to do more than one activity per day, if they wish. If parents would sign the sheet after it is completed, that would be awesome!!
- ◆ **REQUEST FOR PE EQUIPMENT:** If you have any old towels that you are interested in getting rid of, don’t throw them away, we can use them in PE!! Thanks so much for your help!
- ◆ The school nurses, Jessa Albers and Jennifer Bartlett and Mrs. Tolar have applied for a grant through Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The grant we applied for gives out numerous \$1,000 grants to schools to improve physical activity. We have applied to double the number of Physical Activity Bags that we have had students check out over the last year and a half. This is a great program and sometime through the year, students can check out a backpack with physical activity equipment. They check out on Thursdays and are to be returned on Mondays. These are a fun addition to our PE program.

Healthy Tip:

10 Tips to a great plate: 1) balance calories, 2) enjoy your food but eat LESS, 3) avoid oversized portions, 4) eat more fruits, veggies, whole grains and 1% or fat-free dairy products, 5) make half your plate fruits and vegetables, 6) switch to fat-free or 1% milk, 7) make half your grains whole grains, 8) eat these less often: cakes, cookies, ice cream, sweetened drinks, pizza and fatty meats such as hot dogs, ribs, and bacon, 9) compare sodium in foods and choose lower-sodium products, 10) drink water instead!

Artists Corner
By Michaeline Kohler, K-8 Art Teacher

“My mother said to me, ‘If you are a soldier, you will become a general. If you are a monk, you will become the Pope.’ Instead, I was a painter, and became Picasso”
~Pablo Picasso

Cheney Elementary School...

Our theme this year is “Illustrators as Artists”. The artists we study this year may not be as familiar to you as last year’s Van Gogh, Picasso, Monet and Seurat; but all are book illustrators. Our first artist is Marcus Pfister, a Swiss artist who has written and illustrated 50 children’s books. One of his most famous is “Rainbow Fish”. We have explored his style of watercolor painting fish, colored fish, made wire sculpture fish, printed fish, stuffed large fish and 2nd grade has done a fish collage. We are exploring more of Pfister’s books, with different grade levels working on assignments from different books. “Dazzle the Dinosaur” is the inspiration for the K-2nd grade. 3rd grade has a 2 part assignment with “Milo and the Magical Stones”. They will be creating sculptures of Milo, a mouse, and making their own magic stone out of clay. 4th and 5th grade artist will use the book “Just the Way You Are”, a great story about being happy that you are different from everyone else. Both grades will work with animal drawings to improve their use of the elements of design. More Pfister books will be explored.

The National Visual Arts Standards emphasized the most this year will be #5 Reflecting upon and Assessing the Characteristics and Merits of Their Work and the Work of Others and #6 Making Connections between the Visual Arts and the Other Disciplines. Seeing how art connects to reading and writing is a powerful message and one that will be stressed this year.

Cheney Middle School...

Art classes have had some schedule changes. 6th, 7th and 8th grade art are now trimester classes (12 weeks long) for ½ of a block. That translates into 38 minutes every other day for 12 weeks. We will continue to strive for high quality work that meets the National Visual Arts Standards, but students will be able to do fewer projects.

6th grade concentrates on the elements of design. They have completed an “Identity Pole” modeled after totem poles that they learned about in the 5th grade. It is a personal statement about them, their family and their friends. They are learning design techniques, drawing self- portraits and constructing a three dimensional object. They will learn about the color wheel and color mixing. We plan to a sculpture project in clay also.

The 7th grade class is working on design with special emphasis on the principles of design. Beginning the year with a mixed media project dealing with their name or initials; their work continues by designing a relief sculpture. Layers will be built up with cardboard, matt board and papers. The completed relief will be covered with foil and antiqued with india ink. Clay and still life drawing are included in the plans for the class.

8th graders started with a “Thinking Inside the Box” assignment. Each student was given a box and asked to construct a sculpture that is a statement about them. Certain criteria must be met, but the problem solving and creativity is all their responsibility. The boxes look fabulous and will be displayed in the cases by the middle school office. We will be learning printmaking and brushing up on drawing skills.

The lone semester class is called Art Enrichment. Because this class has an extra 9 weeks, the expectations for more time consuming projects was added. This group is starting with an altered book; they take a discarded library book and recreate it into their own. Certain elements had to be included, but the subject matter and problem solving is their own. This class will also include a larger clay project, chalk pastels and value drawing with pencils.

We are off to a great start and the students continue to meet and exceed expectations.

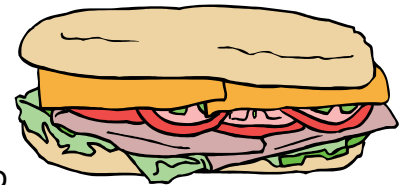
P.A.L.S. (Parents Assisting Local Schools)
By Stacy Harrison, President

**“Just don’t give up trying to do what you really want to do.
Where there is love and inspiration, don’t think you can go wrong.”**
~Ella Fitzgerald

Cheney PALS is collecting Box Tops again this year. Last year we raised \$1,339! Our goal this year is \$1,600. There are collection boxes in some of our local businesses. Please drop them in those boxes or bring them to the Cheney Elementary School and help us reach our goal.

Keep your calendars open for Saturday, November 5th. We will be having a movie night again in the Multi-Purpose room. Concessions will be available for purchase. So, bring a pillow, get comfy and come join us for some fun! We had a great turn out for our last movie night.

Also in November, we will be selling Subway coupon books. They are \$5 a book. The coupons will be great for a fast, healthy meal during the busy basketball season. We are also selling Rusty Eck Raffle Tickets. They are \$10 each ticket with 100% of the money coming back to the school. Please remember we sell tickets, coupons, and t-shirts so we do not have to sell door-to-door.



Cheney PALS appreciates your support in our efforts to help our school in this time of need!



Sincerely,

Stacy Harrison
PALS President