



Superintendent's Message

January 1, 2024

WELCOME to 2024

We can close the books on 2023 and begin writing a new chapter for 2024. Each year we strive to be better than the year before. It will be hard to top 2023, but I know that we can and will make 2024 better.

Just a few highlights of last semester

USD268 ranked 5th in Kansas for academics (schooldigger.com)
 USD268 awarded Commissioner's Award for post secondary success
 Cheney Middle School - 1st place - State of Kansas vocab competition
 Cheney Cardinal Football - State Champions - 1st in Kansas
 Cheney Cardinal Volleyball - 4th place in the State tournament
 Cheney Cardinal Girls CC - 4th place in the State tournament
 Cheney Cardinal's Golf qualified two girls for the State tournament
 Cheney Cardinal Band advanced to State competition

It's a Great Time to be a Cardinal!

New Graduation Requirements

New graduation requirements were approved by the Kansas State BOE and will be in place for the 2024-2025 freshman class. Cheney has already met many of the new graduation standards. Because of this, our incoming freshman class will not see much change in regards to class requirements. There are, however, a few noteworthy changes that will affect our freshman. An upper level math, science or CTE course will be required and two post secondary assets will be need to be met.

Students will need to complete two or more post secondary assets from either of the two categories listed below. These assets must be aligned with the student's independent plan of study.

Career & Real World Examples	Academic Examples
Senior exit interviews	ACT composite (Score of 21 or higher)
40 or more community service hours	9+ college hours
90% attendance in high school	Work Keys Level (silver or higher)
Workplace learning experience directly related	State Assessment scores of 3 or 4 for math,
Industry-recognized certifications	SAT score (1060 or higher)
Two or more high school athletics/activities	Completing Board of Regents curriculum
CTE Scholar	International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
Eagle Scout or Gold Scout	Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
4-H Kansas Key Award	ASVAB per requirements of military branch

Board Meeting in Review

- Ryan Holley and Tammy Cook were awarded the December Spotlight recipients.
- CMS teachers reported on the new mission and vision for the middle school.
- The 2023 Kansas Communities that Care survey was presented to the BOE. This survey is an opt in survey and has 53% return rate from 6-12 students. The survey mirrored very closely the parent survey in terms of responses.
- USD268 continues to look at various insurance options. Additional proposals are expected within the next month.
- Two buses have been in the shop this month due to the turbo going out. The new buses are doing well and are currently being used on routes.
- The KSDE audit was conducted and USD268 is down in enrollment from last year by 39 students (PK not included)
- Reality U is coming to CMS and CHS. This program teaches students financial literacy and provides them real life financial simulations...taxes, interest rates, credit cards, etc.
- It was approved to sell the property at 106 Shadybrook for \$199,900. By law the KS legislature has first right of refusal.

Unofficial Minutes [HERE](#)

Job Offerings

Derek Heckel CHS Asst. Wrestling
Resignations
 Kayla Martin CES Para
Retirements
 Tammy Black CES Kitchen
 Renee Teague CHS Chemistry
 Laurie Thisius CES 4th Grade Teacher



Dates to Remember

1-4	School Resumes
1-8	BOE Meeting 7:00 pm
1-15	No School—MLK Day
1-25	CMS Winter Sports Pictures
1-29	Kansas Day
1-31	CHS—Casual Individual, Winter Sports and Group Pictures