



The Path We Walk

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Cherokee Central Schools

2022-2023 Annual Report



Physical Address:

264 Ravensford Drive

Cherokee, NC 28719

Purpose

This document provides a description of the educational programs and activities at Cherokee Central Schools for the school year 2022-2023. Cherokee Central Schools utilizes the annual report in various ways, including compliance (Bureau of Indian Education) and public relations.

Cherokee Central Schools

Cherokee Elementary School, Cherokee Middle School, Cherokee High School



Drone Footage taken by CHS students in the STEM Drone Fundamentals Course

CCS Vision

Empower our students; preserve our nation; ensure our future.

CCS Mission

Cherokee Central Schools, in partnership with its families and community, will develop lifelong learners by providing challenging educational experiences that empower students for cultural stewardship, civic responsibility, future readiness, and academic success in a safe and healthy learning environment.

School Website

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Cherokee Central Schools School Board
2022-2023

Community	Position	Name
Yellowhill	Chairperson	Dr. Jennifer Thompson
Big Y	Co-Vice Chairperson	Tara Reed-Cooper
Birdtown	Co-Vice Chairperson	Melanie Lambert
Big Cove	Secretary	Kristina Hyatt
Painttown	Member	Regina Ledford Rosario
Wolfetown	Member	Roberta Toineeta
	EBCI Tribal Council Representative	Bo Crowe
	EBCI Tribal Council Alternate Representative	TW Saunooke



Dr. Jennifer Thompson, Melanie Lambert, Roberta Toineeta, Kristina Hyatt, Regina Ledford Rosario, Tara Reed-Cooper

Introduction

Cherokee Central Schools (CCS) is a tribally operated school system located on the Qualla Boundary, which is nestled next to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Although schools of some type (i.e. religious, boarding) have operated on the Reservation since 1804, CCS was formed in 1962 and was initially operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1990, Cherokee Central Schools became a tribal grant school under P. L. 100-297. CCS consists of three schools – 1 elementary school (PK-5), 1 middle school (6-8), and 1 high school (9-12).

Governance and Leadership

Cherokee Central Schools is governed by a six-member elected school board, along with a representative (or alternate) from the EBCI Tribal Council. Each member serves a four-year term, and terms are staggered.

Central office personnel consists of the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and fourteen directors. The central office administrators facilitate programs in special education, talented and gifted, testing, curriculum, staff development, Cherokee language and culture, human resources, finances, facilities, custodial, child nutrition services, information technology, PK/preschool programs, Career and Technical Education, ESTEAM, security, and community affairs.

A principal leads each of the schools. Cherokee Elementary School has two assistant principals, with one specifically assigned to curriculum and instruction. Both Cherokee Middle School and Cherokee High School have an assistant principal. Principals at each school have formed and rely on a school leadership team.

Campus

Cherokee Central Schools is housed on a state-of-the-art Green campus. Opened in August 2009, the campus houses all three schools, central office, facilities/maintenance, Hope Center (PK and Preschool programs), IT, and alternative learning programs.

When opened in 2009, the campus was the largest green building project in the region, achieving Silver LEED certification. Ninety percent of the waste generated from the construction project has been recycled, and it is projected to use 35% less energy. The campus boasts of daylighting in over 75% of its space, and CCS also harvests rainwater to flush some of the toilets.

The campus includes computer labs, science labs, cultural centers (including the 350 seat Gathering Place), alternative learning centers, 1040 seat Performing Arts

Center (the Chief Joyce Dugan Cultural Arts Center), sports arena, stadium, stickball field, and boys and girls fitness centers.

With the increase in enrollment in recent years and the addition of programs, CCS embarked on an Expansion plan. The tribe approved the funding and plans were made during the 2019-2020 school year. The expansion project allowed CCS to open three new buildings during 2021-2022. See Special Projects > Expansion.

Calendar

The school calendar originally provided for 180 instructional days for students, and it included teacher workdays. See Appendix > 2022-2023 Calendar.

Federal, State, and Tribal Mandates

Cherokee Central Schools' school board policy requires that each school implement North Carolina's Standard Course of Study, which is currently a modified version of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) implemented its Standards, Assessments, and Accountability System in 22-23, and CCS received a one-year waiver at that time from the BIE and DOE. The CCS school board voted to pursue a 5 year waiver on 16 August 2021, and a two year waiver was granted on 1 February 2022. The waiver allowed Cherokee Central Schools to continue to teach the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and administered their End of Grade and End of Course assessments.

Students in grades 3-8 are administered North Carolina's End of Grade (EOG) assessments in Reading and Math. They are also administered the science EOG in grades 5 and 8. High school students are administered four End of Course (EOC) assessments - Biology, English II, Math I, and Math III.

In addition, CCS provides families of new students with a Home Language Survey (HLS) to determine which students may need screening for English language proficiency. In accordance with BIE guidelines, the district screens students with WIDA's Screener, and students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) are administered WIDA's ACCESS assessment annually.

As do other students in the state, CHS students must also complete a CPR skills assessment as a graduation requirement.

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Successful completion of Cherokee Language is a local graduation requirement. Implemented this school year, another local graduation requirement is the successful completion of a Personal Finance course.

Funding

Cherokee Central Schools is primarily funded through the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). CCS receives ISEP (Indian Student Equalization Program) and Title (ESSA) funding through the BIE.

Education is a priority for the tribe and the tribal leadership provides funding for Cherokee Central Schools as part of its budget.

The district is also fortunate to have secured outside funding through grants to support initiatives and programs. The Cherokee Preservation Foundation has been hugely supportive of the Personalized Education initiative and other programs implemented by Cherokee Central Schools.

Additionally, the district was successful in applying for Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP) grant which allowed it to hire a CTE/STEAM Director and add new career pathways and programming to the curricula the previous year. Other minor grants that support students and teachers include the Data Literacy Grant partnership with National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET) as well as the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant that includes Birth to 5, Elementary, and Secondary grant money to support student literacy.

Enrollment

According to the Native American Student Information System (NASIS) on the last day of school (05/24/2023), Cherokee Central Schools had 1,407 students enrolled; 5 more students than on the last day of the previous school year.

Of the 1,407 students enrolled in 2022-2023, 93.53% were American Indian students, mostly enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian (EBCI). See Table I.

Table I. May 2023 Ending Enrollment - All Students, All Schools

Grade	Enrollment		Grade	Enrollment		Grade	Enrollment
PK	58		4	117		9	92
K	99		5	102		10	105
1	107		6	109		11	89
2	112		7	106		12	105
3	113		8	93		Total	1407

Academic Programs and Services

The HOPE Center and PK

The HOPE Center includes a home-based FACE program, Infant toddler program, a Preschool program, a center-based FACE classroom, and an Adult Education classroom.

The HOPE Center director oversees the Pre-K classrooms(three classrooms of 4 year old students, and one FACE classroom with 3 and 4 year old students). The HOPE Center has a waiting list for the Pre-K program.

This year the HOPE Center and Pre-K program was fully open after the COVID pandemic. Students attended regular school days following the school calendar. Families brought students to the HOPE Center to receive services. FACE staff planned and held monthly FACE Family Circle Nights each month beginning in August. These meetings included a meal for families, guest speakers, cultural activities, and a time for family fellowship. Pre-K staff planned monthly family activities in each classroom which allowed parents to come into the classrooms during the school day and participate in an activity with their child. The Pre-K and FACE classrooms also had a field trip to the WNC Nature Center this year, and parents were invited to attend. We were also able to invite several guest speakers to each classroom throughout the school year to share their knowledge of Cherokee language and culture with our youngest students. We were also thrilled to have had a Pre-K graduation ceremony for our students in May-our largest class ever! Our Pre-K graduates also participated in a Graduate Walk with our CHS Seniors-many of our 2023 Seniors were a part of the very first Pre-K classrooms at CCS during the 2009-2010 school year. Our youngest and oldest students shared a very special connection this year.



The HOPE Center also provided developmental screenings for children enrolled in the childcare centers across the Boundary. In addition to screening children the therapists saw students and provided therapy to those students on their caseloads, and also served students on campus at the HOPE Center for families who chose that option. HOPE Center staff also provided speech/language, developmental, hearing and vision students for all students in the Pre-K classrooms. The HOPE Center received many referrals from childcare centers, pediatricians, and parents. After receiving the referrals the HOPE Center therapists started the process of evaluating those children for possible educational needs. This included evaluations for speech/language deficits, developmental delays, fine motor/sensory concerns, and Autism.

In addition, transition services were provided for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) or Individualized Family Plans (IFSP). Children enrolled in the Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA) had transition services to transition them into the Preschool Special Education Program within the HOPE Center before their 3rd birthday. The students with IEP's going into kindergarten also had transition services to prepare them for elementary school. This included individual transition meetings with teams including HOPE Center staff, Kindergarten staff, and parents, and classroom tours for students and parents facilitated by the FACE Adult Education teacher.

The Home-Based FACE Program completed Family Transition Plans for 10 families at the end of the school year, and all 10 of those three year old students will be attending the Center-Based FACE classroom at CES in the fall of 2023. Our FACE Adult Education and Parent Educators also enrolled 126 children into the FACE Growing Readers Program, which sends free books to children ages 0-8. The total number of

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students enrolled in the program has grown to 494 students in the past two school years.

Table II indicates the number of children in each Hope Center program.

Table II. Hope Center Enrollment, 2022-2023			
Baby Face Program	Infant Toddler Program	Preschool Program	PK Program
33	14	49	58

Exceptional Student Services

Special Education

Cherokee Central Schools' special education department provides students with different abilities with instruction, support and services as determined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The department follows the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Special Education department served 287 students in grades K-12 during 2022-2023. Disability categories of the children served are found in Table III.

Table III. Disability Categories, 2022-2023.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• traumatic brain injury• autism• multiple disabilities• emotional disturbance• intellectually disabled• specific learning disabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hearing impairment• orthopedic impairment• speech impairment• visual impairment• developmental delay• other health impairment.

Table IV. Ending Enrollment in Special Education, 2022-2023.			
Preschool	K-5	6-8	9-12

Cherokee Central Schools provide individualized services for students eligible for special education. Services include the continuum of services ranging from inclusion, to resource services, as well as services for those with more severe cognitive delays that require intensive services in a self contained classroom. The Department and IEP teams make every effort to ensure that students with different abilities are provided instruction with their non-disabled peers.

The district also provides related services in the areas of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language services, orientation and mobility, visual services, deaf and hard of hearing services, audiology and psychological services in the way of evaluations, the interpretation of evaluation results and therapy for students. Related Service personnel work closely to provide integrated services to ensure our students succeed.

The Special Education department also provides an alternative learning program, Pathseekers, for students in middle and high school who have severe emotional and behavioral needs. The program consists of two teachers, a paraprofessional, and a social worker.

The Department works closely with the Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication related handicapped Children (TEACCH) to implement their methods as delivered and supported by the UNC School of Medicine at UNC Chapel Hill and participate in training provided by the regional centers throughout North Carolina. Due to student needs, we are also working with a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to support our efforts.

The department, based on student's eligibility determination, provides extended school year services during the summer months to support student learning and reduce the educational loss during the summer months.

Typically, there are family nights scheduled for parents and families of students with disabilities in the fall to address transitioning from one school to another. We usually meet to get to know their new special education and classroom teachers, discuss the changes in schedules and the expectations for the new school year. With our new Parent Liaison, there are monthly meetings to share information, provide them with practical strategies to support students and help families at home. To ensure parents and families are able to attend, we offer these meetings twice, at different times to give them a choice based on their schedule.

The Special Education department provides a special education teacher and teaching assistant for each grade level, K-12. The department also consists of one school psychologist, a transition specialist, an employment educator, a student success advocate, a parent liaison, several related services team members, and an administrative assistant, in addition to the director.

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Each year, staff members receive Autism training, CPI training or are re-certified in non-violent crisis intervention to learn decision making skills, de-escalate techniques and are able to directly intervene in a crisis situation.

We continue to increase community partnerships that provide our students with opportunities to work off campus. During this time, the employment educator goes with the students to support them while they learn valuable job skills. Allowing them to work while in school, sometimes results in them being hired once they leave school.

Special Education students again participated in a regional SMART Tank competition. The high school life skills team earned 2nd place this year and one of our students came in second place for her shirt design.

Our students also participate in athletics on campus to help them earn a school letter jacket. The special education department and the athletic department collaborated to determine appropriate criteria. The jackets are presented to them during special events. to allow them the opportunity to earn their jacket. The students



Talented and Gifted (TaG) Program

The TaG program included 26 students in 2021-2022, but has jumped to 53 in 2022-2023. The program serves students in grades 4-12 and is staffed with two teachers and a paraprofessional. Activities for students included a trip to the Biltmore House to see the Van Gogh Alive exhibit, which included an exceptional multisensory portion. They also went to various colleges and universities for enrichment activities as well as in consideration of future academic pursuits. TaG students act as mentors in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in our community. During the summer months, many of the TaG students are participating in various programs throughout the state, including MedCat, Aspironaut, Western Carolina University sponsored programs, STEM related internships and various local opportunities of cultural and educational significance. TaG students take advanced placement courses as well as cooperative coursework through the North Carolina School of Science and Math, Southwestern Community College, Appalachian State University and other higher learning institutions.

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Table V. Ending Enrollment in Talented and Gifted (TaG) Program, 2022-2023

4-5	6-8	9-12
10	20	23

English Learners (EL)

A new EL Specialist/Coordinator role was added to CCS, which has already provided a boost in student services and accurate documentation.

All new enrollees complete a Home Language Survey (HLS) that provides our schools with information on whether to screen for English proficiency. If so, the school then administers the WIDA Screener. Students who are identified for the program are re-assessed each year with the WIDA ACCESS assessment. Students may exit the ELL program based on their WIDA scores as determined by the criteria set by the BIE.

EL teams develop plans for students who are identified as English Learners in order to provide a path towards English proficiency. Modifications and accommodations are provided when appropriate. Classroom teachers utilize ELL strategies for the students. Tutoring and intervention services are also available. The district also provides digital resources (e.g., Achieve 3000, Edmentum) to assist EL students.

Cherokee Cultural Department

The Cultural Department provides Cherokee Language instruction for each grade level at Cherokee Elementary and Cherokee Middle schools. Immersion classes are also available. At the high school level, Cherokee I and II are taught along with an Immersion class and a Cherokee History Class. In addition, the Cultural department provides paraprofessionals for third grade through its Title VI grant.

Cherokee Elementary and Cherokee Middle School students complete a Cherokee Language pretest at the beginning of the school year, a mid-term test, as well as a post test at the end of the school year. In high school, a post test consisting of one-half written phonetics and one-half verbal is given. The successful goal is to have 80 percent of the students pass the test.

The Cultural department offered a two week, full day, in-person Cultural Summer Program during June 2023. Enrollment for the two week program was 130 students. The classes offered were pottery making, drama, soapstone carving, native plants, sewing 18th century clothing, traditional food cooking, art, beadwork, designing gourds, corn shuck doll making, basketry, and the making of pucker toe moccasins.

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The camp also provided classes in traditional singing, Cherokee dances, Kahoots in Cherokee, Bingo in Cherokee, traditional games, and as well as writing in the Cherokee Syllabary. Regular Cherokee instructors provided in-class instruction in the Cherokee language for each class offered. Members from the Cherokee Community were brought in to present story telling and music to the Cultural Summer school students and staff.

An ongoing project for the Cultural department is the Shiyo app. Level I has been available for some time and work continues on level II and Level III.

The Cultural Department also offered professional development to teachers. The Cultural Department offered staff the opportunity to participate in pottery making, beadwork, basket designing and field trips to culturally significant sites such as Kuwohi in the Smoky Mountains, a historical bus trip to the Middle Towns towards Murphy, North Carolina and Hayesville, North Carolina was provided. A trip to the Sequoyah Birthplace in Vonore, Tennessee was also well attended. A workshop on historical trauma was also provided to all the staff.



Sacred Path

The mission of Sacred Path is to build a classroom and school-wide community and to empower students by providing leadership opportunities and conflict resolution skills while teaching the values and traditions of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Sacred Path:

- Empowers our students
- Provides leadership opportunities
- Builds community
- Retains the dignity of our students
- Turns negatives into positives
- Is Cherokee inspired
- Helps establish the identity of our students
- Makes teaching more effective
- Provides the foundation for learning to take place
- Is a platform for relevant concerns of our students (conflict resolution)
- Satisfies North Carolina Course of Study requirement for character education

Students at each school participate in age-appropriate Sacred Path activities. At the elementary school, class meetings are structured after tribal government, incorporating the roles of chief, vice chief, and recorder.

Curriculum

Core

Teachers in all grade levels follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (SCS). Currently, for English Language Arts and mathematics, the SCS is North Carolina an adapted version of the Common Core State Standards. All core areas have locally developed curriculum guides based on North Carolina's SCS. Cherokee language, culture, and history are integrated in all content areas. Blended Learning skills are taught and modeled by the faculty. Teachers use formative and interim assessment data to adjust their instruction.

The Arts

In addition to the core subjects of English Language Arts, mathematics, social studies, and science, Cherokee Central Schools offer several arts courses and programs. All schools offer visual arts and chorus programs. The middle and high school also offer students the opportunity to participate in band and piano courses with performances and recitals offered throughout the year.

Students have the opportunity to participate in musical theater. In a typical year, the students would choose a musical to perform for the public in the spring. The musical theater students presented *Sister Act*, in May 2023 for the community.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Cherokee High School offers Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses (whole or in part) in several career and technical pathways, including Health Sciences, Auto Mechanics, Agriculture, Technology, Broadcast Journalism, Graphic Design, Public Safety, Python Programming, Drone Technology, JROTC, Wood Shop and Family and Consumer Sciences.



The high school Health Sciences students participate in HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) activities throughout the year. Frequently, they plan and assist with Blood Drives on campus and the community. In addition, HOSA attends state and national conferences, participating in the organization's competitions, and they also run for and serve in HOSA leadership offices.

Cherokee Middle School also offers a variety of Career and Technical Education courses.

Table VI. Middle School Career and Technical Education Courses, 2022-2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Exploring Career Decisions● Introduction to Agriculture● Carpentry● Broadcast Journalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Computers● Exploring Personal Finance,● Graphics Design 1● Introduction to Healthcare● Robotics
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Physical Education (P.E.) and Health

Each school offers Physical Education and Healthy Living courses. One Health and P.E. course is a graduation requirement.

Special Olympics

The district will continue as a Unified Champion School District by Special Olympics NC. Students have gained and improved skills that help them succeed, both in the classroom and outside. There are elements at each school; at the elementary school level, we have a Young Athletes' Program for students in grades K-2, where they participate in a skill development program with their non-disabled peers. Grades 3-5 and 6-8 participate in Special Olympic sports competitions with their non-disabled peers as teammates. CHS has a Unified Champion physical education class where students train with their non-disabled peers to learn skill development and compete together against other schools in the area.

Virtual Courses and Dual Enrollment

Students in high school may opt to take online courses including college courses, Advanced Placement courses, and North Carolina Virtual Public School courses.

At the beginning of 2021-2022, Cherokee Central Schools realized that in rare situations a student might need a virtual option for education. CCS offered the Cherokee Central Virtual Academy (CCVA) for those students who were medically fragile or had other extenuating circumstances. This service was provided through Edmentum.

Most students transitioned back to the regular face-to-face program by the start of the second semester.

STEM-related Programs and Activities

ESTEAM Camp

The CCS summer E-STEAM Camp was run for two weeks in June 2023. The camp is designed for elementary and middle school students. Students get the opportunity to expand their knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math through numerous activities such as building rockets, hot air balloons, and building cardboard boats. Students are also provided fun activities such as roller skating and pool trips.

Table VII. ESTEAM Camp, Number of Attendees, Summer 2023

CES	CMS
85	22



SMART Tank

With generous funding from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, WRESA held the fourth annual SMART Tank, a regional competition modeled after the show Shark Tank. CCS was represented by the High School Exceptional Children's team that won second place and a student from the Cherokee High School one 1st place in the High School division for the t-shirt design.

Mobile Unit

Cherokee Preservation Foundation also supported The Science House to do lessons at Cherokee Central Schools and model the use of science equipment and engaging lessons. Pre and post-evaluations were conducted and 2 opportunities in each school. the lessons were Water Purification, DNA Dilemma, Vaping, Heart Rate and Hydrology (2 days) and they all aligned with content standards.



Jason Carter from The Science House conducting a session in a Biology classroom

STEM-E Conferences

For the second year the fall and spring STEM-E conferences were held virtually and were sponsored by WRESA (Western Regional Education Service Alliance) and funded by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. WRESA provides conferences in the fall and spring. Conferences are offered for each grade span - elementary, middle, and high.

Assessment and Accountability

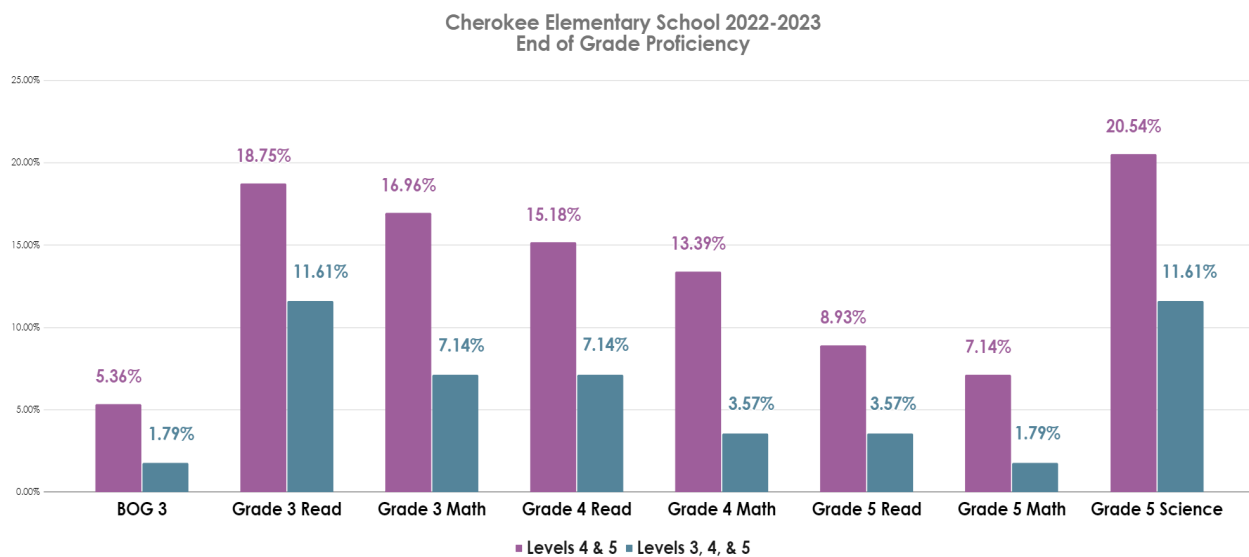
Although the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) implemented its Standards, Assessment, Accountability System during 2019-2020, the Cherokee Central Schools school board requested a waiver from the BIE assessments. The waiver was initially granted for 2020-2021, but CCS applied for a five (5) year waiver in October 2021 and was granted a waiver for two years (2021-2022 and 2022-2023). CCS continued to administer the state assessments.

State Assessments

Assessments include North Carolina's End-of-Grade (EOG), End-of-Course (EOC), NCEXTEND1 (alternate assessment), and Career and Technical Education (CTE) post-assessments. The EOG, EOC, and NCEXTEND1 results are used for federal accountability purposes.

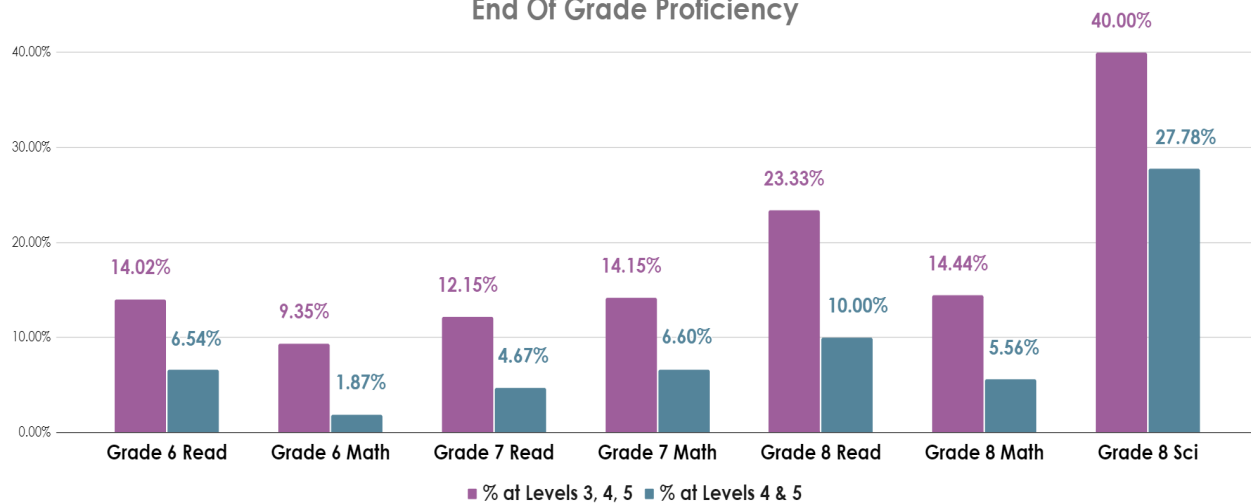
Cherokee Elementary School and Cherokee Middle School are participating in NCDPI's Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority (IADA) pilot program for new through-grade assessments.

Results from state assessments used for federal (BIE/DOE) accountability are found in the following charts.

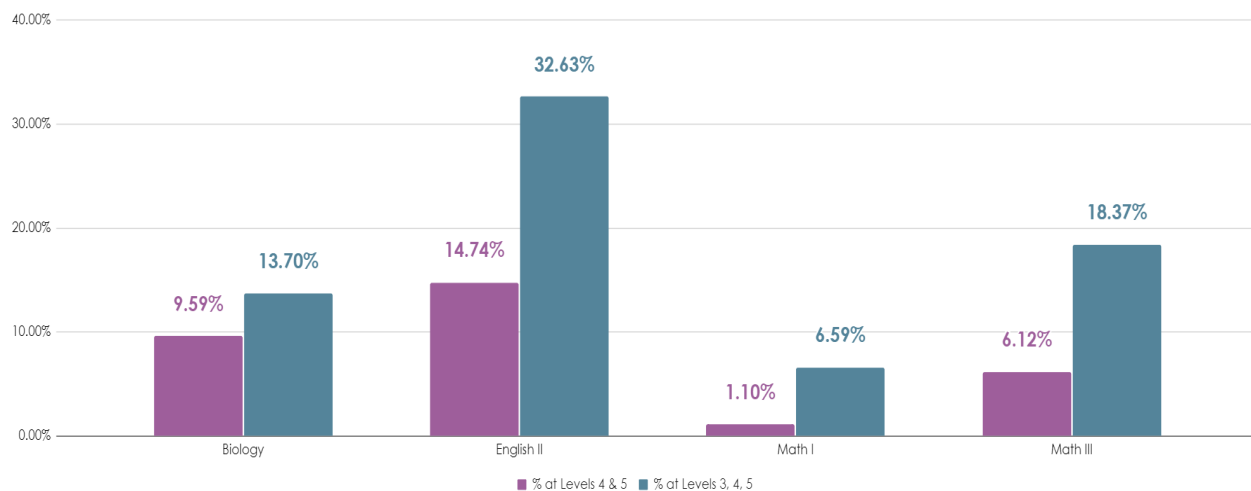




Cherokee Middle School 2022-2023 End Of Grade Proficiency



Cherokee High School 2022-2023 EOC Proficiency Rates



Other Assessments

ACT Plus Writing

Cherokee High School provides the ACT Plus Writing at no cost to grade 11 (primarily) and some grade 12 students through the ACT's District Testing Program. The number of students taking the ACT in 2022-2023 was low. Two students in grade 12 completed the assessment, and 13 students in grade 11 completed the assessment in 2022-2023.

Achieve 3000

Students complete Achieve 3000 Reading Levelset assessments three times per year. Because of the district's remote status for much of the year, administration of the Levelset was difficult to complete. The table below indicates the average lexile growth and other data points in Achieve 3000.

2022-2023	CES	CMS	CHS
Average Lexile Growth	120 L	94 L	85L
# of completed lessons	22,346	14,315	17,081
Avg. Activities per student	67	45	42
Average Activity Score	56.6	71.2	73.3

Table VIII. Achieve 3000 data points for 2021-2022.

The Achieve 3000 monthly new article featured Cherokee Central Schools and their work with best practices regarding Achieve 3000, effective strategies, and PLC teams. Teachers looked at data, identified a strategy to address learning and continued the process.



mCLASS

Cherokee Elementary School teachers complete mCLASS reading assessments for students in grades K-4 and for students with disabilities in grades 3-5. On the Beginning of Year (BOY) assessment, 0% of the Kindergarten students assessed were on or above grade level. At the End of Year (EOY) assessment, 18% of students were on or above grade level.

In grade 1, 2% of students were at or above grade level on the BOY, and by the EOY the number had increased 26% to 28% at or above grade level.

Grade 2 saw a 30% increase from BOY (8%) to EOY (38%) of students at or above grade level, which saw the biggest jump in those at or above grade level.

Professional Development

Professional Development (PD) is a big part of the continuous improvement process and how Cherokee Central Schools continues to adapt and grow with the changing learning environment. Training topics varied depending upon the needs of the school and individual teachers. Some topics included curriculum guide and assessments, Literacy, mentoring, MTSS, team building, PLC, Managing Stress, digital resources, IEP training, and others. Schools focused on literacy, social and emotional learning, and blended learning strategies throughout the year. School's also adapt to provide training by utilizing walkthroughs to guide adjustments in the the classroom environment.

The district's three instructional facilitators provided support to staff on MTSS and PLCs on an on-going basis. Based on some data from teacher working conditions surveys, a need for next year will be around providing training on culturally relevant teaching strategies to close the achievement gap. The instructional facilitators do a lot of job embedded work and provide data driven support.

Cherokee Elementary School had a second cohort participate in the LETRS training. This training aligns with the training that teachers in North Carolina are receiving for literacy instruction.

For several years, the BIE has supported teachers wishing to pursue National Board certification through bonuses, registration and component fees, and salary supplements. This year, the BIE discontinued the program. Several CCS teachers were in the certification process or were interested in beginning the process. Using Title II funding, CCS was able to continue supporting these teachers with the National Board certification process.

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

To assist the district with its implementation of MTSS, CCS utilized some of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for an MTSS Coordinator position. This position was filled during the fall semester, and the coordinator began working on implementing the work throughout each of the schools. By using scaffolds for students to meet high expectations, each school has implemented a variety of interventions available to all students who require extra support. Academic Intervention Specialists have been hired to meet with small groups of students throughout the day to accelerate learning to help students meet grade level expectations.

CES implemented the Leveled Literacy Intervention Program for Grades K-5. This is a powerful, short-term intervention that provides daily, intensive, small-group instruction

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conducted by the CES Academic Intervention Specialists, which supplements classroom literacy teaching, using high-interest leveled books and fast-paced, systematically designed lessons.

CMS and CHS have designated academic supports throughout the day using Academic Intervention Specialists using supportive measures to assist with grade level expectations in both ELA and Math.

Although the MTSS Program is in its early stages at CCS, our administration and staff have been eager to establish the groundwork for implementing MTSS to its fullest potential.

Accreditation

While the three schools that make up Cherokee Central Schools have been accredited by SACS and later AdvancED for decades, in 2011-2012 the school system decided to strive for district accreditation, which they achieved. CCS successfully hosted another Quality Assurance Review team in the school year 2016-2017 for reaccreditation.

During the 2021-2022 school year, CCS hosted another quality assurance review team from Cognia (formerly AdvancED) as part of its 5-year accreditation renewal cycle. The team completed self-assessments, surveys, and data analysis as preparation for the visit. The visit was a success, and all standards were assessed at the Impacting or Improving level. The district obtained a 330.81 Index of Education Quality (IEQ) score. Cherokee Central Schools is accredited by Cognia for the next five years, and the district will be up for re-accreditation in 2026-2027.

For the district's Executive Summary and the accreditation report, visit the [CCS website](#).

Cherokee Elementary School (CES)

Students returned to Cherokee Elementary School in August 2022 for in-person instruction. Students ate breakfast in their classrooms due to lunch room capacity. Grade blocks had designated lunch times to make sure we met capacity and did not exceed the number given.

Cherokee Elementary School's core program includes reading, mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, art, Cherokee language, and music. In addition, the school continues to focus on social and emotional learning for students to address increased needs due to the continuing pandemic.

Teachers focus on continued implementation of personalized education through blended learning by incorporating appropriate technology and digital resources into their classrooms. Hands-on and inquiry-based activities are encouraged. One such activity was in 3rd grade. The students are learning about Earth in the universe and recognizing that a shadow's length and direction change based on the changing position of the sun.



Cherokee Elementary School entered their second year of implementing the MTSS process. The four interventions helped with classroom small groups and also provided support to teachers during the year. The interventionists served a total of 160 Tier II students in grades K-5. These students worked with the interventionist in small groups for 30 minutes each day. The intervention groups were very successful. MOY to EOY data shows an increase in lexile scores for these students.

The elementary school created a book walk for students, staff, and families to enjoy. The book walk is located in the elementary school courtyard. Students, teachers, and families enjoyed walking through the courtyard and reading a book. Each quarter we change out the book so students can enjoy walking and reading different books throughout the year.

Before returning to school, CCS hosted a back to school bash for all students Pre-K-12th grade. Students and their families were able to meet their teachers, explore their classrooms, and have an evening filled with activities, vendors, and fun.

In the fall, teachers held parent conferences where they could talk to the parents about their student's progress. The elementary school held student led conferences in March. The conferences gave students the opportunity to showcase their work and take ownership of their data. We were also able to bring back Kindergarten registration night. It was held in May. New families and students came to visit kindergarten classrooms and meet the kindergarten teachers.

The elementary school hosted its Healthy Halloween event for students this year. This is an event that allows community organizations and businesses to support students and the school while celebrating Halloween in a healthier way than traditional trick or treating.

Cherokee Elementary School continued its partnership with Cherokee Indian Hospital to offer an Integrated Classroom, which is staffed by CES personnel and Hospital employees. The Integrated classroom is for students that need more support emotionally and behaviorally than what is traditional offered within a regular classroom setting.

CES student's were able to participate in spirit weeks that were Christmas themed and Test Preparation themed. CES all participated in the "Your the one we love day" for a former student that was battling cancer.

In March, we held an Art show along with a book fair. This event was for our families to see the amazing artwork our students created and it also gave families the opportunity to discover and purchase books for home.



In April, CES held a parent night. This event was focused on providing parents with information on End of Grade testing. We provided sample tests and shared resources for families. This was also a night for parents to sign up for the CCS parent portal. Parents were given a tutorial on how to sign up and experts were on hand to help create accounts and help parents navigate the portal. After the informational session, we held a hot dog dinner for everyone who attended. It was a successful evening.



CES's Science Olympiad Club hosted their 1st annual Stem Night in May 2023. This was a very successful event for our school. They had many different activities for the families to enjoy and participate in. The Science Olympiad Club members created all the materials needed for the activities and fliers for the event.

This year, CES was able to conduct their annual award ceremonies for each grade block and graduation for 5th grade. Families were allowed to attend these events to help celebrate our student's successes. CES was also able to offer STEAM Camp for students in grades K-5th.

Cherokee Middle School (CMS)

Cherokee Middle School had an eventful year...

Core courses for Cherokee Middle School include reading, mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, and Cherokee Language, as well as several electives. Student at Cherokee Middle School enjoy being able to exhibit their creativity and talents through project-based learning. Students can be seen working on a social studies that was hands on learning.



6th Grade Social Studies class working on pyramids.



8th Grade Social Studies Paper Mache Bust of influential leaders.

During the year, Cherokee Middle School students responded well to teacher efforts to implement Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports in all three grades, having the least number of discipline incidents over the last seven years.

Cherokee Middle School's musical theater students, under the direction of Valerie Tissue, performed *Braves on Broadway* for the community in December 2022 and *Sister Act Jr.* in May to close out the school year.

Teachers at Cherokee Middle School, continue to infuse culture in their classrooms through the use of vocabulary, word walls, and each month there is a schoolwide cultural event that correlates with the cultural theme each month.

All three grades achieved at least 1.5 or more years in growth for the school year in mathematics. We saw major improvements in lexile scores each month as students utilized Achieve3000 and other reading resources.

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Cherokee Middle School saw the benefits of having a Mental Health Team in place; consisting of the School Guidance Counselor, School Social Worker, and a Licensed Clinical Therapist. Students received the additional support of the team on campus, rather than having to seek the same support from outside organizations in times past.

The Fly Fishing program continues to grow at Cherokee Middle School during electives, After School Program, ESTEAM Camp, and even during Professional Development Work Days at Cherokee Middle School.

With the help of the CTE Department Director at Cherokee Central Schools, Cherokee Middle School was able to begin implementing JROTC as an 8th grade elective. The students that chose to be part of the first JROTC class at Cherokee Middle School was able to be part of a combined team with the High School during Summer camp that was the first group of students at Cherokee Central Schools to complete the Rope Bridge Challenge and set a school record.

The CTE Department Director in conjunction with the Administration at Cherokee Middle School, was able to acquire funds to begin developing the first ever ESports program at Cherokee Middle School and High School. The program is expected to be participating in tournaments and competitions during the 2023-2024 school year.

CMS Athletics

The 2022-2023 CMS Athletics was a strong year. During the athletic season at Cherokee Middle School, we had several achievements both as a team and as individual athletes. During the Fall athletic season Cross Country runners set goals and by the end of the season we had two students receive the Runner of the Year. One of those students took the Conference Champion as the individual runner and the other athlete placed second.

Also, for the first time in Middle School history, the Lady Braves Volleyball team went undefeated and also won the Conference Championship. During the winter season, the Lady Braves Basketball team solidified another incredible season by going undefeated and defending the Conference Championship title. Even though the boys Basketball team did not take conference, they did win the Conference Championship during the tournament.

During the Spring sports we had a robust number of students participate in track and field, baseball, baseball. The Lady Braves softball team at Cherokee Middle School had another phenomenal season, as they took the Conference and won the Conference Championship. Another highlight to Cherokee Middle School Athletics is this year for the first time, Cherokee Middle School developed a golf club, which had 15 participants. They were able to participate in a couple of golf matches with surrounding schools. This is in preparation to have a fully participating team during the upcoming school years.

Cherokee High School (CHS)

Cherokee High School just graduated our largest class in school history: 100! Earning a CHS diploma represents four years of concerted effort in: core classes–math, English, history, and science; culturally relevant courses–Cherokee I & II, Cherokee History, Cherokee Immersion, woodcarving, and Cherokee Arts & Crafts; career and technical education (CTE) courses–health science, JROTC, agriculture education, family and consumer sciences, drone technology, python coding, auto tech, and graphic design; physical education–health & PE, strength & conditioning, and adaptive PE; the arts–musical theatre, dance, marching band, concert band, visual art, and ceramics; and dual enrollment courses through our partners–Appalachian State University, Southwestern Community College, and Western Carolina University.

CHS is also able to connect students with more advanced courses to help challenge them intellectually. In addition to offering honors sections of many of our core courses, we offer advanced courses, including AP, through North Carolina Virtual Public School, North Carolina School of Science and Math, Edgenuity, and Edmentum.

CHS provides support and training for students as they prepare to embark on their post-secondary dreams and plans. In addition to following the North Carolina career and college ready standards in each of our courses, students attend daily advisory with the purpose of working on goal-setting, literacy enrichment, social-emotional learning, and relationship & team building. CHS also helped host a Real Life Expo, established to expose juniors and seniors to adult economic situations through a simulation and community connections. In conjunction with our CTE department, CHS organized a CTE fair designed to expose students to and spark interest in careers within our Tribe and region. Our Guidance Department also arranged several career visits to Southwestern Community College and major area employers.

Not only does CHS support our students in the classroom and in post-secondary preparation activities, we also believe in providing social emotional care through our full-time mental health counselor, social worker, student support groups, and guidance office. We have alternative classrooms where students can be placed if they can be better served in these placements and if they meet the requirements of these alternatives: creative learning center, which began as a drop-out prevention program; alternative classroom, which is an alternative to long-term suspension for behavioral reasons; and pathseekers, a program serving students with IEPs and behavior plans.

CHS believes that student travel is one of the best ways for students to learn, expand their critical thinking skills, develop confidence, increase their perspective, and solidify their multi-cultural understanding. This year, our American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) students traveled to Palm Spring, California for the National AISES Conference. Our HOSA students participated in Space Camp in Alabama, and our Student Council spent a week in Washington, DC. The Spanish Club went to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji, and the CHS Travel Club was able to make their voyage to Japan. A small delegation of CHS students spent two weeks with the Maori learning about their efforts to preserve and revitalize their language and culture.



June 2023: Travel Club students in Japan.



April 2023: CHS students in New Zealand.

The graduation rate for 2022-2023 is 83.02%.



May 25, 2023: CHS celebrates graduation in the Ray Kinsland Stadium.

CHS Athletics

CHS offers and supports a variety of sports, including volleyball, cheerleading, soccer, football, wrestling, women's wrestling, men and women's basketball, cross country, indoor track and track & field, as well as men and women's golf.

Our Braves and Lady Braves experienced a phenomenal year across the seasons. The men's cross country team placed first in the conference meet, first in the regional meet, and second in the state meet. One of our female cross country runners placed first in the conference, first in the region, and first in the state! Our cross country head coach was once again named Coach of the Year in our conference.

In women's golf, five golfers qualified for regionals, and both our varsity football team and our varsity volleyball team made it to the second round of their respective NC state playoffs.

Winter sports brought additional successes. Both our varsity basketball teams traveled to Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to compete against other teams in the BIE system, and we hosted a Holidays on the Hardwood Christmas tournament with teams from as far away as Australia competing. Indoor track, which is relatively new to CHS, experienced much success with our men's team finishing the season as conference runner-up, and nine athletes placing first in their respective events.

Our junior varsity and varsity women's basketball teams finished their seasons with a first place conference finish and a first place conference tournament finish for each! The varsity women's team made it to the fourth round of the NC High School Athletic Association state playoffs.

In the spring, our men's golf team qualified for regionals as a team, women's varsity soccer team progressed to the second round of the state playoffs, and our men's track team earned conference runner-up accolades. Both the women's and men's track teams had several top finishers in the regional meet, and the same athlete who won a state championship in cross country also won a state championship in the 800 meter event!

The athletic department hosted various visitors throughout the year with Heisman Trophy Winner Ty Detmer speaking at our banquet and Lindy Waters, III hosting a basketball skills camp. We had several athletes sign to participate in athletics at the next level: 3 in football, 2 in cross country/track, 1 in basketball, and 1 in cheer.

The Lady Braves Varsity Basketball team won the CHS Principal's Highest Team GPA award for the 2022-23 school year!

Support Services

Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Division covers a broad range of activities and responsibilities. Included in the department is the Chief Joyce Dugan Cultural Arts Center, Development, Public Relations, CCS Afterschool.

Chief Joyce Dugan Cultural Arts Center (CJDCAC)

The CJDCAC host a plethora of events for the district and community. This includes everything from meetings to musical theater performances.

Laser Print Studio

The print studio filled 50 requests for engravings and printing services from posters to business cards, to notepads and coffee mugs. The department customized a variety of products with the laser engraver. These products supported various school programs and activities. For example, the department engraved medals and plaques for awards ceremonies sponsored by the schools.

Each year the department uses proceeds from the Laser Print Studio to make a donation to a local charity or organization.

Grants

Development facilitated 15 grants including the Personalized Education through Blended Learning and ESTEAM – Phase II grant funded by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. The department wrote or supported several grants submitted to the Harrah’s Scholarship Fund. Additionally, the department coordinates and tracks the STEM-E and NASA grants. This year the department also provided support on a federal grant, NACTEP, which has a CTE/STEM focus.

CCS received DOI GEER, DOE CARES, DOE CRSSA, and ARPA funding this year. The Community Affairs department managed all of these grants which included purchasing and tracking inventory.

Public Relations

The public relations function of the Office of Community Development facilitates ongoing communication with our families, community, and staff. The department maintains the district’s [Facebook page](#), CCS Athletics Facebook Page and IG accounts.

In addition to our Facebook page, Cherokee Central Schools utilizes the ConnectED program which provides us with another communication tool. The system allows us to call and text each student’s family and our staff.

After School

The Community Affairs department runs the campus wide after school program. This program runs 4 days a week during the school year (September through May). This includes a program in all three schools as well as our monthly Homework Dinners.

Community Outreach

The Community Affairs team works on maintaining strong relationships with our community stakeholders. This includes being active in many different community projects and collaborations. This year, with the help of one of the Jones Bowman Cohorts, we were able to partner with MANNNA foodbank and provide our families with additional food support to fight food insecurities our students might be facing.

Security

The security staff consists of 13 security associates, 8 full time and 4 part time when fully staffed. This includes a supervisor and director of security.

Training for security guards is ongoing, with a focus in de-escalation and CPR/first aid training this school year.

The district has numerous security measures in place on the campus, including perimeter fencing, automatic gate arms, internal/external cameras, and a shooter detection system.

The security camera network will expand to 220 security cameras with some housing four sensors per camera. The multi-sensor cameras assist in eliminating blindspots and in turn will increase multi channel capabilities. Video retention will be upgraded to 60 days per video channel. DSX gate software enables CCS to upgrade staff parking tags to access campus during allotted school hours and prevent unauthorized guests on school property. Axis Body Worn cameras are in production and available for all Security associates. The retention for these cameras are 30 days. Opengate weapons detection system is currently slated to be purchased. Allowing CCS to test the technology and ultimately aid in the decision making of a campus wide weapons detection implementation.

Several other key measures have been updated, like the Polaris GEMe4 full electric vehicles were purchased to aid in patrolling campus via a green alternative to gas fueled vehicles. Utilizing the GEMe4 saves around \$2,000 in gas fuel annually. VAPE sensors extended to areas not covered in previous years. These sensors have been upgraded to detect aggression and air quality issues. Say Something anonymous tip line is active for all students and staff in the middle and high schools. Say Something representatives are

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currently working on an MOA to include K-5 implementation. CCS received 123 tips this school year leading administration to assist students and staff.

The Rave Mobile Panic Button was used 170 times to report incidents, drills or information during the 2022-2023 school year, which assist in providing immediate alerts to staff when it was necessary.

Utilizing Google Suite, the Security Department has fully digitized visitor and incident documentation.

Other Programs

Inventory

One to One Plus Asset Management, had a total of 13,640 entries, active/inactive assets. This includes some assets that migrated from our Dell Kace inventory system. Each school and department within CCS, use One to One Plus to track each asset from the moment the asset arrives on campus to the end of life and the removal of the asset from campus.

Each school and department has a dedicated staff member that is responsible for inputting data pertaining to their school or department. These individuals are key during audits and accountability.

As each asset is placed into One to One Plus, it will have a status of active, in use or inactive, which may mean the asset is marked for disposal, recycling or repurposing. The status distinction allows CCS to monitor the lifespan of an asset and then allows for CCS to properly remove the asset from the system and ultimately of CCS' premises.

Furniture, kitchen appliances, sanitation machines, security cameras, mobile cabinetry and other items with monetary value over \$100 and have a number of years of use, are inputted into One to One Plus.

Custodial

When fully staffed, the Custodial department boasts 21 full-time and 1 part-time staff members. The director assigns staff members to various schools, departments, and shifts, in order to clean and sanitize the campus buildings properly. Staff perform a

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deep clean each summer. The Custodial staff also give support and assistance to other departments as needed.

The custodial staff provided normal and deep cleaning for the district. In addition, the department provided staff with extra cleaning and sanitizing products and hand sanitizer. Custodial staff provided daily emergency cleaning of the classroom if a student becomes sick in the classroom. The Custodial staff also cleans after sporting events and after school events and also provide any support services that are needed at these events.

Facilities

The facilities department maintains over 507,550 square feet of buildings and 14 acres of grounds. The facilities department works closely with the administration to plan future needs involving replacements and repairs. Facilities also oversee the 60,000 gallon of rain water storage in the underground cisterns in each courtyard and the 290 geothermal wells (450 feet deep) for heating and cooling.

Facilities staff averaged between 225-250 completed work requests each month which is an increase from last year's 215. These daily work orders are in addition to the preventative maintenance schedule. Monthly utility services include Duke Power, Cherokee Water and Sewer, PSNC Energy, and Orkin Pest Control.

Facility Management provides a safe and comfortable environment for students and staff. The maintenance staff is knowledgeable and equipped to deal with unforeseen emergencies, such as equipment failure.

The department consists of a director, administrative assistant, carpenter, HVAC, electrician, plumber, and grounds crew.

Finance

The Finance department works with Cherokee Boys' Club (CBC), the fiscal agent for CCS, to execute and maintain budget alignment, accounts payable, and payroll processes appropriately.

The Finance Director meets with each principal and director, beginning mid-year to develop a budget for the next school year. Principals and directors must conduct needs assessments and set goals for their schools or departments prior to attending the budget meeting. For SY 2021-22, Google Drive was implemented to more efficiently streamline this process. Directors and principals were issued date and time deadlines to make any suggestions/input/adjustments to the new SY budget. That was met with rousing success from all involved as they were pleased with the effectiveness and expediency of

the input process. The actual time involved in the review process was minimal due to those changes being made beforehand.

The director works with the CBC Finance Department to develop an overall budget for submission to the School Board and Tribe.

Current Up-to-Date Budget Reports are provided to the CCS School Board on a monthly basis.

For SY 2021-22, the CCS Finance Department participated in the Accreditation process to ensure that CCS not only met the standards required, but exceeded them. CCS was extremely successful in that endeavor and scored very highly in their pursuit of that goal.

The CCS Finance Department is working with the CBC to incorporate the finance system MUNIS to develop a more efficient, effective and expedient means of relaying and responding to financial inquiries and requests.

Human Resources

Cherokee Central Schools in school year 2022 - 2023 employed 376 full time employees which is an increase of 39 individuals from 337 last year.

Employee type	Number of positions/staff
Licensed Teachers	116
Teacher Assistants	69
Licensed Support Staff (counselors, social workers, media specialists, instructional facilitators, related services)	30
Licensed Administrators (principals, assistant principals, central office)	17
Instructors	28
Support Staff – non-licensed	116

Table VIII. Number of full-time positions by type at CCS.

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One of the major functions of the CCS Human Resources department is to hire and on-board new employees and provide new hire training. The HR department provided a week of new hire training prior to the 2022-2023 school year.

All staff also receive Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) training annually, as mandated by Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

Background checks are also required of all employees. It is critical for the safety of all students that all employees are vetted extensively. These checks are performed in accordance to BIE federal standards.

Additionally, continuing education units (CEUs) are tracked for licensed staff to assist in the license renewal process. Providing tracking and assistance in this renewal process ensures all licenses remain up to date.

The Human Resources staff is committed to hiring and training great individuals to guide our students in their educational journey. It is critical that our students have great educational experiences that they take with them as they move forward into their futures.

Technology Department

The technology team imaged or re-imaged over 2500 desktops and laptops for all three schools and added the devices to the network to support our 1:1 Personalized Education initiative.

The wireless network is continually upgraded to accommodate more users and provide a stable connection throughout the three schools. Our device refresh cycle ensures that staff and students have the most up to date computers to accommodate rapidly evolving technology needs.

They provided troubleshooting assistance for tech work orders from staff, averaging 100 work tickets per month for the district. Additionally, the IT department services 500 staff computers.

The Technology department supported each of the schools during state End of Grade, End of Course, and CTE Post assessments. In addition, the IT department supported students, teachers, and counselors involved in WIDA ACCESS testing.

School Nutrition Services

The School Nutrition Program provides breakfast and lunch for each student at Cherokee Central Schools, at no cost to the student or family.

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Table IX. Average Participation of Students

	Breakfast	Lunch
Cherokee Central Schools	800	1200

Because of continued pandemic concerns, the school lunchrooms were not used until May 2022. To limit large gatherings of students and support social distancing and cohorting, the School Nutrition department transported all meals to the classroom. The dining halls were closed. The students had a Hot and Healthy meal at lunch everyday. The students were very Thankful for the meals. The students continue to use the dining halls.

Special Projects in 2022-2023

Expansion

The district's \$22M campus expansion project began in the summer of 2019. The school board approved Vannoy Construction as the Construction-Manager-At Risk for the project. In addition, the tribe has provided the school system with a project manager from the tribe's construction department to assist with overseeing the expansion plan. In early summer 2020, on-site work began with the construction of a North building, a South building (to complete the ring), and a new Gathering Place. The old Gathering Place was disassembled to make room for the South building. Because the district was in Plan C Remote-Only status for much of

2020-2021, the construction on the new buildings moved more quickly than anticipated. Some delays in materials occurred because of manufacturing and shipping delays due to the 2020 shutdown. However, the North Building, South Building, and the Gathering Place were completed in summer of 2021, and the district moved programs and offices into these buildings in September 2021.

Interior remodeling for the Cherokee Middle School began in spring/summer 2021. This remodeling phase saw additional office space for CMS administration along with the addition of a new culinary arts kitchen and classroom space for family and consumer science. Additional remodeling for the Cherokee High School began in September 2021 when the Central Office and Pathseekers moved out of R building into the new North Building.

Shortly after remodeling began in the P and R building, water intrusion was discovered. The P and R remodeling portion of the expansion plan has been on hold while the district determines the extent of the damage and implements repairs.

EBCI Tribal Council approved a resolution to assist with funding the water remediation project in May 2023.

Appendix

2022-2023 CCS Calendar

Date	Description
8/1/2022	Staff Returns –Teacher Work Day (TWD)
8/2 – 8/5/22	TWDs
8/8/2022	Students Return
8/25/2022	Elder’s Day Holiday
9/2/2022	Early Release
9/5/2022	Labor Day Holiday
9/19/2022	No school for students; Vertical PLCs (8:00 – 11:00); Sacred Path (1:00 – 3:00)
10/4/2022	Early Release - Parade
10/5/2022	Indian Heritage Holiday
10/6-10/7/22	Optional TWDs
10/14/2022	End of Quarter 1 (44 days)
11/11/2022	Veteran’s Day Holiday
11/23/2022	Administrative Leave
11/24/2022	Thanksgiving Holiday
11/25/2022	Tsali Day Holiday
12/21/2022	Early Release – End of Quarter 2 (44 days)
12/22-12/23/22	School Vacation Days; 12 month Admin
12/26/2022	School Vacation Day; Christmas Holiday Observed
12/27 -12/30/22	School Vacation Days; 12 month Admin
1/2/2023	New Year’s Day Holiday Observed
1/3/2023	Optional Teacher Work Day
1/4/2023	Students Return
1/16/2023	Martin Luther King Holiday
2/20/2023	Presidents’ Day Holiday
3/10/2023	End of Quarter 3 (46 days)
3/13/2023	No school for students; Vertical PLCs (8:00 – 11:00); Sacred Path (1:00 – 3:00)
4/7/2023	Good Friday Holiday
4/10-4/14/2023	Spring Break
5/24/2023	Early Release – Last day of school – End of Quarter 4 (46 days)
5/25-5/26/23	Optional TWDs

Legend:

TWD/Optional TWD = Green Holidays = Blue Vertical PLC/Sacred Path = Orange

Approved by CCS School Board on 2/24/2022.



TLTR

Cherokee Central Schools

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