

Reflection of Cheney

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The genesis of the whole experience can be traced to 8th grade. It was around the middle of the year, and representatives from Windham, Cheney, and Rockville high schools came to talk in my school's auditorium. I was in the comfy, blue seat, next to my friend, Troy. I was interested in the computer programs by Windham and Cheney, but not the farming programs of Rockville. My friend went to Rockville and I had to determine where I was going. I visited Cheney and the school seemed nice, the IT place was busy and seemed to be a good shop. I went to Windham and the IT place seemed worse than Cheney's, so I enrolled in Cheney.

The first part of 9th grade started in the summer. The summer program introduced me to several teachers like Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Kinley, and Mr. Miliken, and it even introduced me to the bane of 11th grade, ALEKs. I don't remember much, but the school was somewhat impressive. It was large, it had an astroturf field, and even had air conditioning across the whole building, which is more than can be said about my middle school.

9th grade fully started and I am on the bus. We are dropped off in front of the school, and we are directed to the lunchroom. I sit at the table with everyone else from Stafford. Eventually, we go to our classes and I am in Mr. Arroyo's homeroom. Later in the year, I got to pick my trade, and I went with IST. The IST class had so many more people then than now. In total, I think IST has lost at least seven people in the span of all four years. As the year went on, I developed a new website, TBWE (The Best Website Ever), that would let my friends play games during study hall. We were let back to trade eventually, and I found myself sitting next to some guy, named Alaric, that my teacher John Buxton put there last year. This guy asks me for a video of something to edit for an assignment, so I told him to go to <https://rkreid.github.io/project5>, and Rick Astley greeted him. I rick rolled him, but he used the video anyways and put a public domain ukulele song over it. We did stupid stuff on our computers and worked together on some assignments. Later in the year, We had a football game the entire school went to on a half day, and it ended with the Cheney beaver getting hit with a yellow golf ball. That ended quickly after that, and I found myself waiting to go home in Mr. Arroyo's class. On the PA system, I hear Mr. Shoshan, a vice principal, say, "Would the owner of a yellow Wilson golf ball please report to the office." Did he really think that would trick the person into going there? Anyways, March came. It was like any other March, but we had been hearing of an outbreak of some coronavirus in China. We just ignored it until the middle of March when school would get 'two weeks' off to slow the spread. It ended up being over a year's worth of time. School became very boring and I just sat on my laptop listening to the Google Meet.

10th grade started similarly to how 9th grade ended, a boring Google Meet. The teachers assigned work and I did it. Not much fun there. It got monotonous and I stopped putting in as much effort into my work. I did put a lot more effort into a new project, TBWE5, my biggest best coding project at the time. Until we were let back into school, it was very boring. In school we did have frequent mask breaks where we would go outside, so it wasn't all that bad. Not much happened, but at the end of the year, we got to go back to normal classrooms and I reacquainted

myself with a person I met in freshman year named Collin. Collin was strange, but entertaining. A new student came to IST (and actually stayed), named Cameron.

11th grade started and we were all in person. It was much better than google meets and I even had some of my friends in classes. I acquainted myself with Andrew, Jameson, and Isiah (of which I still can't spell his name right) from freshman year. I met more people such as Walter, Collazo, and even saw the elusive Malachi and Shelton in IST before they both left. Zack and David were back to IST after missing most of the year. This year was much more interesting, and in IST. We lost Johnny Buckets (John Buxton) in the first few months due to accusations made against him. Eddie K (Edward Koneckel) was out many days due to what is assumed to be a medical condition. We had fun playing some games when we had finished our work like Crab Game and Elden Ring. IST became repetitive as Mr. Koneckel kept having us do HTML unit D because he didn't like the test scores of some people. I got so bored that I started recreating the unit book's cover with just HTML and CSS, a clear sign I knew unit D and way beyond that. Back in academics, chemistry class was eventful. I sat next to Collin, who was very active. He interrupted the class and Mrs. Aresco, but he did make it a more fun class. He even tried to forcefully take Jameson's necklace because it had copper wire, but he failed. Later in the year we were on break, I was in Maine and at a Dairy Queen sitting in the car eating ice cream. My mom read the latest cheney announcement, which was about the passing of Adriel, a now former IST student. From what I've heard, it was a suicide. He didn't seem depressed, but he still did it. I went to his wake with my mom and most of the IST class, Mr. Koneckel and Mrs. Aresco. I followed along to the funeral and the speech from his parents brought me to tears. A few months later, I was back in academics. Collin, for some reason really wanted to play undertale, so he had me download it. We had a picture of Gustavo Fring on a phone leaning against the monitor, staring at Collin. This prompted me to mod the game to make it much better. I made Gustale, truly one of the games of all time. Collin enjoyed it and could never defeat the last boss, who was Walter White.

12th grade started and I found myself in Mr. Mccarthy's English class with a few friends. I then went to the rest of my classes and indeed found someone in each class I could sit with. Mr. Koneckel retired and we had this new teacher named Ismael Caro. I'd never heard of him. During the first IST day, I feared he would be some grumpy old man slacker, but he was a basketball coach who knows about computers. He's a good teacher, and he cleaned up the curriculum that the former teachers left and he always "kicks rocks." He brought us through the remaining Testout certifications we had left. We do have some free time in IST, so usually Alaric pulls me over to his computer so we can play something. Malachi and Shelton have officially left the school, so now IST only has Javoni, Tarrick, Jayvon, Damian, Myself, Cameron, Zack, Alaric, David, and Logan left. In english, when we finish work, Alaric, Jameson, Andrew and I talk. In math, now that I have finished four credits, I do some experiments with an AI chatbot or play some minecraft with Isiah (still can't spell his name right). Now with two months left, I will miss this place. The people made this place much better. Despite the problems of the school, it was still a good time. I was disappointed by the lack of teachers, so the school has to close and

use permanent substitutes. And the smell outside can be horrible because of the neighboring dump (yes, there is a dump, look up the school on google maps). Otherwise Cheney was good.

My advice to the freshmen is to do their math. Don't get behind in ALEKS, you will regret it. ALEKS will come for you. Just do the math and if you can't understand it, ask a math teacher. Just don't get behind.