

Remarks from the Senior Class
Ben Goth '21

Fellow students, families, and faculty:

Despite significant alterations made to the 2020-2021 academic year, I think we can all agree that the amount of thorough planning that went into determining multiple scenarios where students will still be able to receive an adequate education, whether on campus or not, should be praised with the utmost respect, so I would like to start off by thanking those who were part of that process profusely. Because of you we are able to be back on campus while keeping everybody safe. It was very clear that the whole community was kept in mind during that process, thank you so much!

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's that we should not take any moment for granted. And let's not kid ourselves, I think that we're all guilty of doing that at some point. I'll be honest, I got lost in the moment whenever I was having conversations with teachers before class or just talking turkey with friends in the student center or the Black Box, so I was really looking forward to doing all those things again after spring break last year; but then I found myself seldom messaging friends, sometimes only saying 'hi' or 'what's up'. I haven't even seen or talked to some of you since early March. The pandemic has surely put some type of psychological toll on all of us, and I'm sure that none of us who are physically on campus want to experience another long quarantine away from school.

But here's the good news: we as a community will not have to go through a similar incident this year so long as we follow the guidelines given to us by Cheshire Academy, the state of Connecticut, and the Center for Disease Control. For example, simply wearing a mask can reduce your risk of transmission by sixty percent! We've seen what can happen on a national scale when the rules are not followed; the positivity rate skyrocketed and the country shut down. Even on a much smaller scale, those same results can occur if we don't take this seriously. Cheshire Academy, as it is for many others, is like a second home

to me, and for some it's their first. My guess is that none of us want to be away for another few months, so please, for the sake of public health, for the sake of your friends, for the sake of your family, wear a mask and wash your hands. If we all chip in, we will be able to have a safe, happy, and somewhat normal school year.

For those who are only able to participate in remote learning, I am incredibly sorry that you are not here. I'm sorry that this global crisis is keeping you away from your peers and educators. Diversity is part of what makes CA the school it is. So here is my message to the international students and to the students in U.S. hotspots: things will be different this time around, but I promise you that we on campus, students and teachers alike, will try our very best to make you feel included and make campus not seem all that far away. Whether it's over Zoom or in person, I very much look forward to being here with all of you again, meeting new friends and teachers, trying new clubs or extracurriculars, and having a huge part of my life back. Thank you!