

Remarks from the Senior Class
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Hello everyone, and welcome to Cheshire Academy's Convocation Ceremony in honor of our 227th school year. Today we mark the beginning of one of the strangest school years we have ever experienced.

I came to CA as a freshman, looking for new opportunities, passionate teachers and administrators, and a sense of a community like no other. It didn't take long for me to realize that the CA community was my new home. As many of us know, March 2020 truly changed what this community looked like. At first, I was nervous about the effectiveness of online school. I worried that I would be disconnected from my friends, teachers, and the community as a whole. In all honesty it felt like my world was crumbling down around me.

Prior to COVID, I spent a lot of time on campus, eating dinner, studying in the library, and just hanging out outside on nice warm days. So obviously I didn't really go into online learning with a very optimistic perspective. Luckily, I was incorrect. Although online learning from my lime green spare bedroom felt physically different than being on campus, I could still feel the community coming together. We were all in this together. (High School Musical, 2006). Clubs still met. Teams conditioned. Musical groups performed over Zoom. We were still a community, even through the most difficult of times.

Obviously, this is not what we thought the upcoming school year would look like. But, if I can give any tips from last school year, I would say to be optimistic, flexible, and continue to make connections with the diverse and interesting students and faculty that make up the Cheshire Academy community. Optimism will help us continue to push forward through these difficult times. It is important to have faith in the strength of our community, even if the future seems uncertain. Cheshire

Academy has always required us to have flexible minds, whether that be through experiencing new perspectives or through trying new things. This year flexibility is needed in all aspects of life on campus, at home, and around the world. It is important for us to remember that these times are unprecedented and everyone in our community is trying their best to make this year work.

Finally, I greatly encourage students both new and returning to build connections with one another. Whether that be in person or virtually. I have met some of my best friends here, and even through these difficult times we have grown closer. No matter what this year looks like, the Cheshire Academy community will be strong and united, by upholding our values of the Eight Pillars of Bowden—Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Civility, Fairness, Trustworthiness, Morality, and Citizenship—and by broadening our world view, even if our new friends are worlds away. I want to wish you all the best of luck this year: stay safe, stay healthy, stay flexible, stay motivated, and most importantly stay optimistic.

Thank you!