

## Enroll in Any Grade

The advantages of starting at a private high school when you're ready



PG

Senior

Junior

Sophomore

Freshman

**The earlier the better, but high school doesn't have to begin with freshman year. For some students, starting later or repeating a year is best!**

Independent schools like Cheshire Academy offer tremendous advantages and value for most students. The experience places attentive students in classes with other kids who want to learn. Instead of large classes of 25-30 students, they enjoy the attention of teachers in class sizes of 8-10. In this setting, students ask questions, are heard, and they collaborate with their peers and with their teachers, advisors, and coaches. It's full engagement in an immersive, challenging, and supportive school community. The weekly and year-long schedules are aligned with today's lifestyle and designed for student success.

**For each grade, the benefits are compelling. Here are several reasons an independent school should be your child's next step, regardless of the year they join:**

**9<sup>th</sup>  
GRADE**

### As a freshman or sophomore...

Starting high school, students begin a new chapter in their lives during one of the most influential stages. Freshman and sophomore year serve as a time of change, challenge, and growth. They're leaving their middle school years and issues behind, eager to find a different kind of learning environment and be surrounded by equally motivated peers of varying backgrounds, or just seeking a more personalized educational experience. They will quickly learn that teachers and other adults are attentive and supportive, and genuinely care about and connect with each student, helping them to define and succeed on their individualized path to college and beyond.

At an independent school, your child will not fade into the background, or get lost in the crowd. They'll find independence away from home, follow a college-like

schedule, and reignite their spark for curiosity by living and learning with peers who share similar goals, pushing each other to look forward, reach further, and aspire for more. They will participate in familiar and new programs, whether that means diving in to study new subjects, stepping up on stage, gearing up and getting onto the field, or picking up a new instrument.

In this challenging academic setting, goal setting is encouraged. They'll develop new skills and refine their talents, and learn strategies for success both in academia and in the world beyond.

**11<sup>th</sup>  
GRADE**

### As a junior...

The halfway point of a typical high school experience, junior year serves as an integral period to influence your child's collegiate pursuit. At an independent school, your child will experience a highly personalized and comprehensive college preparatory program, with a deep dive into the research and recruitment process for colleges of their choice, all while continuing to build upon their academic, artistic, and athletic strengths.

Junior year is when your child is confident and familiar with their high school experience, breaking away from the newness that earlier years presented. They will open up to new horizons, interests, skills, and challenges. They will identify and create the level of independence they want prior to college through a supportive environment, full of caring faculty and staff. They can carve out their niche, explore and consider different degrees and career opportunities, and gain the experience and skills necessary to find and pursue their passion.

In the classroom, in club meetings, and in service programs, your child will take on leadership roles, organizing and motivating their classmates. They will broaden their world by expanding their friend groups and interests, interacting with students from all backgrounds and countries around the world.

(continued)

## 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE

### As a senior...

Senior year is a culmination of the experience, a chance for students to refine and enhance their profile, and it's a great way for them to experience, just in time, the boarding and day lifestyles prior to attending college.

Independent schools reward older, mature students with more social and academic flexibility, extracurricular opportunities, and higher-level experiences in a college-like atmosphere that simply cannot be achieved through public school.

On campus, they'll share space with dormmates, classmates, and friends, experience the community lifestyle of a school campus, and build lifelong connections with like-minded individuals. They will be treated more like adults than children, and can earn the respect and responsibility that comes with being a leader and mentor, guided by the adult role models around them. Unique programs await them, allowing them to try new things, or hone their skills in passions they already have.

## PG YEAR

### As a postgraduate...

Attending an independent school as a postgraduate student is the perfect opportunity to enhance a student's athletic prowess and academic profile, and is one of the best ways to prepare for college life if they have never attended a boarding school. PGs form bonds with other very driven students—including other postgraduates—all while filling in academic and athletic gaps through a focused program and expanding their knowledge on all subject matters, improving their college-prep resume.

As important, postgraduates will take college-level courses specifically designed for PG students, taught by faculty members who understand and focus on their unique goals and priorities. This year serves as a chance to improve upon and expand college choices, explore options they might not have considered, and even find a new passion to pursue at the collegiate level.



### By repeating a year, or reclassifying...

Repeating a grade or reclassifying are not a reflection of poor choices; in fact, they are becoming more common at the independent school level as a way to improve upon a student's skill set, and to advance academically, athletically, and socially without stigma, fully supported and inspired by others who see what you see in your child – potential, readiness, and an eagerness to do well.

These programs offered at independent schools are geared toward the individual student, their strengths, and challenges they may have faced. The result is a

student who is more mature, capable of taking on even greater challenges, with more strength, knowledge, and drive. They are encouraged and celebrated for what they achieve and become.

**Regardless of when a student begins their independent school experience, there will never be another time in a child's life when so many caring and attentive adults will be around them, supporting and encouraging them.** As honest guides, mentors, advisors, and sounding boards, independent school faculty in particular are objective, patient, and experienced in helping navigate each student's individual path to growth. As a parent, entrusting your student to these professional adults expands upon and furthers all you have done to get them to this stage of life.

### At Cheshire Academy, your student will:

- Be met with the desired amount of rigor and with the necessary amount of support
- Receive a personalized, relationship-based education
- Be surrounded by teachers, coaches, advisors, counselors, instructors, and others who will truly get to know them
- Experience an academic environment centered on student engagement
- Engage with, learn from, and share experiences with peers with diverse perspectives and backgrounds
- Build a college resume to get accepted into a university that's right for them
- Have unfettered access to teachers
- Participate in a vast array of academic and extracurricular opportunities, at all levels, in a small school setting
- Learn how to learn
- Be proud of themselves. *Students at CA feel they've accomplished something: because they have!*

### Take the next step.

Learn more about Cheshire Academy by reaching out to our Admission Office. You can schedule an online chat, a Zoom meeting, or a phone call. And, when the time is right, you can visit the CA campus.

### We look forward to meeting you.

CHESHIRE  
ACADEMY

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**Grades 9-12 and Postgraduate  
Coed, Boarding and Day**

10 Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410  
Tel.: 203-439-7250

**CheshireAcademy.org/Change**