**Remarks – September 9, 2022**

McKenzie Krow ’23

Good afternoon, students, alumni, parents, faculty, and all members of the Cheshire Academy community. It's so nice to see you all here on this beautiful day. My name is McKenzie Krow, and I am a member of the senior class of 2023.

Like my approach to the many components of life, I have come to understand that nothing is ever black or white. I understand that there are many layers to not only myself but also to my experiences that have overall created opportunities for me. At a young age, my mother instilled certain values in me. She raised me to be hard-working, to be persevering, to take initiative, to be a team player, and to overall think for myself. This has led me to intriguingly live my life as an American from an immigrant perspective. It has been interesting as I draw from the positives of both worlds. While I cannot speak for every Ghanaian American, I can easily say that like many first-generation Americans, I understand what it is like to assimilate in my own way, often trying to fit in and not be ostracized. I have had the experience of living in different towns which have been rooted in rich multi-cultural heritages. Through these various experiences and environments, I found myself withholding a lot of who I am with much resilience.

In hesitation of what boarding life at Cheshire would be, I was often reserved trying my best to navigate through this new environment. But I must say it has been great. Throughout my academic experience at Cheshire Academy, I have learned the importance of persistence, setting goals, and implementing them through time management and teamwork. I am an individual who thrives on building successful relationships within my environment.

As we start another new year at Cheshire, I’d like to encourage you all to have a genuine curiosity for how people and things work. Try to welcome opportunities to problem solve. It’s how we grow both academically and individually. It is important to learn to be adaptable to change, malleable to the unexpected, yet calm when things go wrong and urgent to resolve issues. It’s important that we all try to immerse ourselves in CA’s grandeur and innumerable learning opportunities it serves to provide. Avail yourselves to everything it has to offer and let your unwavering spirit of academic excellence shine through your efforts all year round.