

Feb. 8, 2024

CHESHIRE
ACADEMY

1794

Dear Cheshire Academy Community,

When I first visited Cheshire Academy, it was to interview for a long-term substitute position teaching Spanish. That was 21 years ago this February, and I could not be more grateful for the opportunity to live, play, learn, and grow with my family at this wonderful school. Cheshire Academy is not just a workplace; it is where I witnessed Jenna '19 and Kamden '23 blossom, where Tom and I built a life, and where countless faculty and students have become cherished friends. So, it is with a mix of gratitude and sadness that I share that Tom and I will be leaving CA at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Serving as head of school these past seven years has been the most profound honor. I have collaborated with talented, resolute members of the Board of Trustees, a senior leadership team that challenges and inspires me, and a faculty and staff whose dedication has been a constant source of awe. Memories of laughter shared with students during open lounges in Motter Hall and heartfelt conversations with alumni, recalling their teenage pranks and sharing stories about beloved faculty members, will forever illuminate my life. These connections, spanning generations, are a testament to the enduring impact of CA and the incredible people who are a part of this community.

When asked why I have stayed at the Academy for so long, my response is two-fold: I believe in our mission, and I believe in our people. This is a community of diverse thinkers, leaders, backgrounds, histories, and perspectives, and I am a better human being for having been a part of it. I have found my family here—and that family extends well beyond my husband and children.

I am immensely proud of the work that I have been privileged to lead and know that the next head of school will be well-positioned to continue the growth and forward momentum of the school. We remain true to our mission which has guided the school since its founding in 1794 and have a clearly articulated vision and set of core values. Over the past seven years we have advanced the academic programming, including the International Baccalaureate® (IB), Roxbury, and today's curriculum; prioritized the recruiting, hiring, and nurturing of a talented faculty and staff; successfully managed through the NEASC and IB self-study and accreditation processes; enhanced campus facilities with the refurbishment of Simosa Field & Track and the addition of a second turf and several new tennis courts in the back fields; developed and implemented an unprecedented response to the COVID-19 pandemic; made diversity, equity, and inclusion a priority; and enhanced athletics and performing arts for all through the hiring of key positions, talented coaches, and directors.

While bittersweet, this is not an ending, but a transition. Over the next year, I will remain dedicated to advancing our mission and ensuring a smooth handover. But even beyond, the lessons learned, and bonds forged will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Gratitude fills me as I write this. To the entire Cheshire Academy community, thank you for making this journey extraordinary.

With love and heartfelt thanks,



Julie Anderson, P'19,'23
Head of School