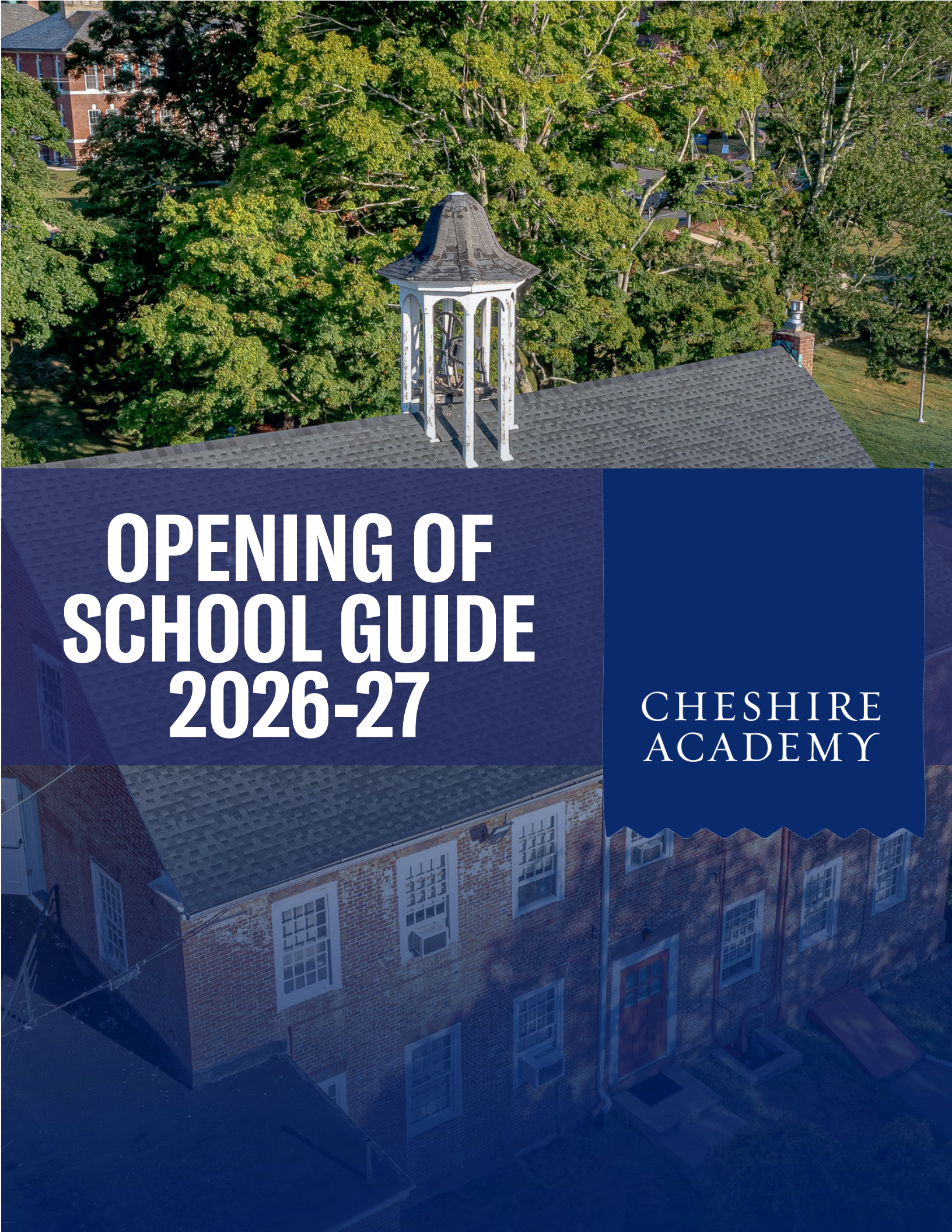


An aerial photograph of a large, multi-story brick school building. A prominent white bell tower with a grey, domed roof sits atop the building's roofline. The building is surrounded by lush green trees, and a grassy field is visible to the right. The image is partially covered by a dark blue overlay at the bottom.

OPENING OF SCHOOL GUIDE 2026-27

CHESHIRE
ACADEMY

2026-27 Opening of School Guide

Welcome from the Head of School

Dear Students & Families,

Welcome to Cheshire Academy!



We are thrilled you have chosen to become part of our community, and we can't wait to welcome you in person on campus this fall. We're busy preparing for **Opening of School, August 31-September 7**, a week of preseason athletic sessions, orientation activities, family events, and more, to help you settle into the 2026-27 academic year.

In this guide, you'll find important information on arrival dates and times, as well as events, whether required or voluntary, to welcome you to a new year at Cheshire Academy. Your participation helps the school year get off to a positive start for everyone. **We've color-coded events for your convenience based on how you're connected to us** — whether you're new to us, returning, day, boarding, international, an athlete, or student

leader, **please read through the whole guide** to ensure you're not missing any events meant for you.

Your journey starts when you arrive and **check in on the upper level of the Humanities Building**. Once there, school and team leaders will provide more detailed schedules for the days ahead, answer your questions, and help you find your way around.

Questions? Don't hesitate to reach out via the **Key Contacts** list below.

I look forward to seeing you on campus!

Go Cats!

Tom Woelper P'26 | Head of School

IMPORTANT REMINDER: To ensure a smooth arrival for every student and make certain that all health center clearance expectations have been met, students may **ONLY** arrive to campus during assigned arrival windows. Students who arrive to campus outside of a designated arrival period will be asked to return to campus during the designated arrival window. **Please note that there are NO arrivals from September 1-3, 2026, with no exceptions.**

2026-27 Opening of School Guide

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KEY

- Red = All students
- Green = New Students
- Purple = Returning Students
- Blue = Invited Preseason Athletes, Student Leaders

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PRESEASON & STUDENT-LEADER PROGRAMMING

Monday, Aug. 31

When: 9-11 a.m. Arrival Window

Who: *Invited Preseason Athletes, Student Leaders*

What to expect: *Team meetings, practices, student-leader training*

- 9:30-10:30 a.m. – Drop-in Office Hour w/Head of School Tom Woelper P'26, Hasel Room Library 111
- 6-8 p.m. — *S'mores Welcome Event* for *New Families*

Tuesday, Sept. 1

NO ARRIVALS

Who: *Invited Preseason Athletes, Student Leaders*

What to expect: *Team meetings, practices, student-leader training*

Wednesday, Sept. 2

NO ARRIVALS

Who: *Invited Preseason Athletes, Student Leaders*

What to expect: *Team meetings, practices, student-leader training*

Thursday, Sept. 3

NO ARRIVALS

Who: *Invited Preseason Athletes, Student Leaders*

What to expect: *Team meetings, practices, student-leader training*

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WELCOME WEEK

Friday, Sept. 4

When: 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Arrival Window

Who: **New Boarding Students**

What to expect: *Registration, evening dorm orientation & events, continued preseason*

- 10-11 a.m. – Drop-In Office Hour w/Head of School Tom Woelper P'26, **Hasel Room Library 111**
- 2-3 p.m. – Drop-In Office Hour w/Head of School Tom Woelper P'26, **Hasel Room Library 111**
- 3:30–5 p.m. — **Head of School Welcome/Faculty Panel for New Boarding Students/Families***
- 5:15–6:45 p.m. — **Boarding Student Family Social**, The Reading Room, Cheshire

**Note: Parents & students say farewells during welcome panel as student programming begins at 4 p.m.*

Saturday, Sept. 5

NO ARRIVALS

What to expect: *New boarder orientation*

Sunday, Sept. 6

When: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Arrival Window

Who: **New Day Students**

What to expect: *New student orientation, football preseason*

- 10:30-11:30 a.m. – Drop-in Office Hour w/Head of School Tom Woelper P'26, **Hasel Room Library 111**
- 12 p.m. — Parents/families say farewell; students required at 12 p.m. lunch
- 12:15-1:30 p.m. — **Head of School Welcome & Faculty Panel for New Day Parents**
- 1:45–3 p.m. — **Day Student Family Social**
- 8 p.m. — **Required programming for ALL NEW STUDENTS until 8 p.m.***
 - ***Day students** may be picked up between 8-9 p.m.

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Monday, Sept. 7*

**Required for all students*

When/Who:

9 a.m.–12 p.m. — *Returning Boarders* Arrival Window

1–3 p.m. — *Returning Day Students* Arrival Window

- 10:30–11:30 a.m. – Drop-in Office Hour w/Head of School Tom Woelper P'26, *Hasel Room Library 111*
- 2–3 p.m. – Drop-In Office Hour w/Head of School Tom Woelper P'26, *Hasel Room Library 111*
- 3:15–4:15 p.m. — CAPFA Meet & Greet Drop-In
- 5–6 p.m. — Convocation Ceremony, followed by Student/Faculty Community Dinner
 - Arrive 4:30 p.m.; *Formal dress required; new students* to receive patches upon induction; ties available for purchase in school store
- 6:15–7:15 p.m. — Head of School Reception for *Parents & Guardians* at O'Connor House patio
 - *Day students* may be picked up by approx. 7:15–7:30 p.m. when dinner concludes

Tuesday, Sept. 8

Classes & afternoon activities begin

2026-27 Opening of School Guide

Key Contacts

Academics

Sharyn Iadarola – Academics Office Manager | sharyn.iadarola@cheshireacademy.org

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Athletics

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Community Life

Colleen Altenburger – Dean of Students | colleen.altenburger@cheshireacademy.org

Alex Conaway – Associate Dean of Students for School Culture & Belonging | alex.conaway@cheshireacademy.org

Meg Melbourne – Associate Dean of Students for Campus Life & Engagement | meg.melbourne@cheshireacademy.org

Health Center

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International Students

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Registration Help

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Technology

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