

ALL SCHOOL READ

Fostering Community Through Literature

At Cheshire Academy, we believe that shared literary experiences have the power to transform our community. Our All School Read program creates meaningful connections across our diverse campus through the simple yet profound act of reading together.

Shared Stories, Lasting Connections

All School Read (ASR) is designed with three core objectives: to create authentic community experiences centered around literature, to strengthen our commitment to diversity and global citizenship, and to expand intellectual horizons for everyone in our academic family.

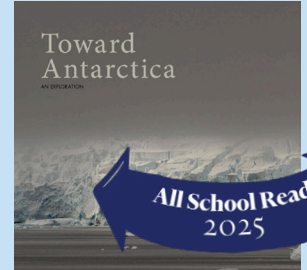
Our initiative is truly a collaborative endeavor, bringing together voices from every corner of campus. Students and faculty across all disciplines contribute to its development, implementation, and success. Far from being a single-day event, our program unfolds over approximately six weeks, weaving the selected text into classroom discussions, evening gatherings, special events, and residential life.

This immersive approach culminates in a celebration of learning featuring the visiting author, engaging workshops with alumni participation, and moments of discovery that resonate throughout our community. Through these shared experiences, we reinforce the values that make Cheshire Academy a place where belonging and intellectual growth flourish together.



Elizabeth Bradfield

Balancing literary acclaim with hands-on fieldwork, Bradfield's poetry collections include the forthcoming *SOFAR*, *Toward Antarctica*, and *Interpretive Work* (Audre Lorde Prize winner). Published in *The New Yorker*, *The Slowdown*, and *The Atlantic*, she's earned Stegner Fellowship honors while co-creating award-winning anthologies. Bradfield teaches at Brandeis and leads Broadsided Press.



Toward Antarctica

This collection transforms firsthand experience as an Antarctic guide into a multiform exploration that challenges traditional views of the continent. Using photography, compressed prose, and poetry, she probes relationships between wilderness and tourism, expertise and wonder. This complex love provides authentic ground-level perspective on one of Earth's most mysterious landscapes.



Reading Unites



Author Aimee Nezhukumatathil speaks at ASR 2024.



MEET THE ORGANIZER



Allison Bass-Riccio

Coordinator of Cheshire Academy's Writing Center, Bass-Riccio also teaches literature and creative writing. The former department chair organizes the annual All School Read experience and earned the D. Robert Gardiner Excellence in Teaching Award. With degrees from Western Carolina and Southern Connecticut State, she is currently completing her MFA in creative writing at Southern while curating environmentalist Hazel Hawthorne Werner's legacy and writing a memoir about her experiences.

Cats' Stats



Alumni Connections



(L-R): Alums Jeff Nelson '07, author of the 2024 book *Ninja Punks, @*%& OFF*, led a workshop on the concept of the hero's journey to self-discovery, and Gary Graham '72 and his wife, JoAnn, presented a session on their own trip to Antarctica. Both were speakers at ASR 2025.