







At Cushing Academy, there isn't a specific person that you should be. Rather, our goal is to help you become the best version of yourself. Because of that philosophy, our students are diverse. They are scholars *and* artists *and* athletes. They come from across the country and around the world. And each student brings their own unique hopes, dreams, talents, and ambitions.

Like you, we believe in the power of each person's potential. That's why our faculty and students can't wait to get to know **YOU**. As soon as you step on campus, you're greeted with warm smiles from future friends. We know that believing in one another is at the heart of forming a strong community.

Come to Cushing, and you'll quickly see what we mean.

of our students are international

96% of Cushing students live on campus

50 miles from Boston





A close, connected community

"At Cushing, everyone is friends with everyone else.
There aren't really separate groups, it's like we're all one big group together. That's even true for teachers. They come to our sports games and bring their dogs and little kids to hang out with us on the weekends. Everybody's close. My teammates are a huge part of my community.
Our coaches make it fun while we're working hard."

Curiosity abounds

"I love that during science classes, teachers actually do the labs and have fun learning with us. I feel like in other schools, teachers aren't in it with you in the same way. In chemistry last year, we read food labels and then did an experiment where we burned foods to understand which things burned faster and slower. My chem teacher was experimenting right along with us. The teachers here lead by example."

Life lesson: determination

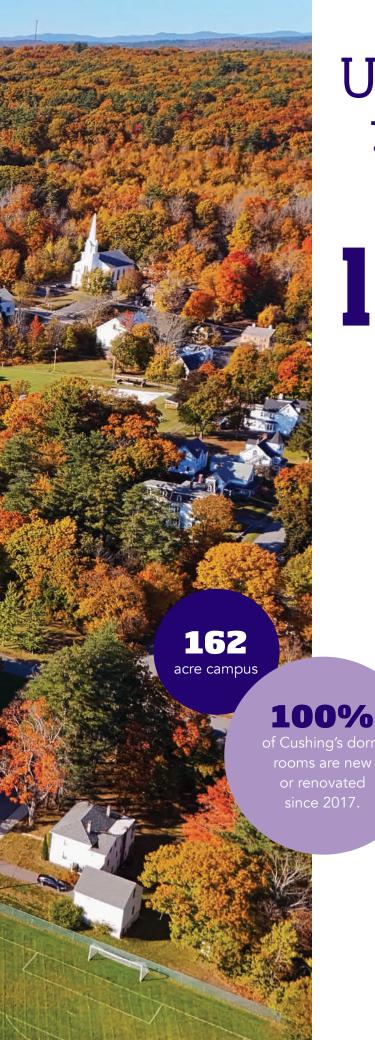
"Both athletics and academics at Cushing have taught me all about determination. We learn to push through to achieve our goals, whether it's in a classroom or in a game. Honors Spanish IV was one of my hardest classes last year – but I was so determined to stick with it. And I'm so glad I did. I ended up getting a good grade and dramatically improved my conversation skills."

"As a parent, you know Cushing always has your kid's best interest in mind.

The classes are very challenging, but the support is there. Teachers have a really good beat on every kid. Students know they can succeed if they put in the time and effort."







Unparalleled facilities in an ideal location

Everything students need to balance academics, athletics, arts, and social activities is right here.

Thanks to ongoing investment, Cushing continues our 150-year educational tradition on a 21st-century campus that blends historic architecture with state-of-the-art facilities for academics, arts, and athletics. In addition, Cushing is located in a picturesque small New England town, where students can easily walk into town for ice cream or sushi.

This setting, combined with our dedicated faculty, motivates students to take full advantage of the opportunities at Cushing.



A community that finds you

"I've been playing soccer all my life. At Cushing,
I successfully made it to varsity and made some of my
first and closest friends. There is intense bonding because
you practice together, then see each other in class and in
the dining hall. I've built so many great friendships just
through living in the dorms and participating in activities."

Tackling new academic challenges

"As a sophomore, I started taking AP European History. That is a very academically challenging class. It requires a lot of reading. I vividly remember the first day we were assigned 20 pages of textbook reading and asked to write a 300-word note. The workload will be even more challenging this year, but with the amazing faculty and the practice from AP Euro last year, I believe I will thrive."

Learning to be okay with failure

"The International Club election was my first time giving a speech. I didn't win the vote, but I believe that even trying and failing is great practice. Things in life don't always go the way you want, and Cushing is a great community that gives you support to get up and try again. Later I was elected class representative, and now I'm a proctor. It's good to learn that you can grow from your failures as well as from your successes."





"Rony is a more well-rounded person than he was before.

Cushing helped him develop his personality. The school's culture helped him grow athletically and academically."

-Bill & Ada P., parents







Powered by Collaboration

Everything sabout Cushing is student-centered

In small classes, Cushing faculty focus on getting to know you as an individual. Advisors help you customize your academic path, choosing from a wide range of options that include foundational courses, plus honors and Advanced Placement classes. Our faculty are experts in finding the balance of challenge and support to maximize each student's growth. We pride ourselves on inspiring students to build the skills and confidence to step into a world in which we are learning all the time.

Academic Support

All Cushing faculty track student progress closely and encourage students to seek extra help as needed during study hours. About 15 percent of Cushing students are enrolled in our Academic Support program, which has served neurodiverse learners successfully for more than 45 years. These students meet regularly with Academic Support faculty either individually or in small groups. Our seven full-time specialists help students capitalize on their strengths and acquire the strategies and self-sufficiency to pursue their goals now and in the future.

Average class size

130+

classes to choose from

honors and AP courses

English as a Second Language

our dedicated ESL program enhances fluency and builds the research and

Inspiring students

"Cushing faculty work intentionally to create classroom spaces where every student feels that what they have to say is valuable. We help students experience success and then leverage that foundation to expand learning. Because faculty interact with students in so many ways — as teachers, coaches, dorm parents, and advisors — we can encourage them to stretch themselves and start to make their own paths."

Why we teach

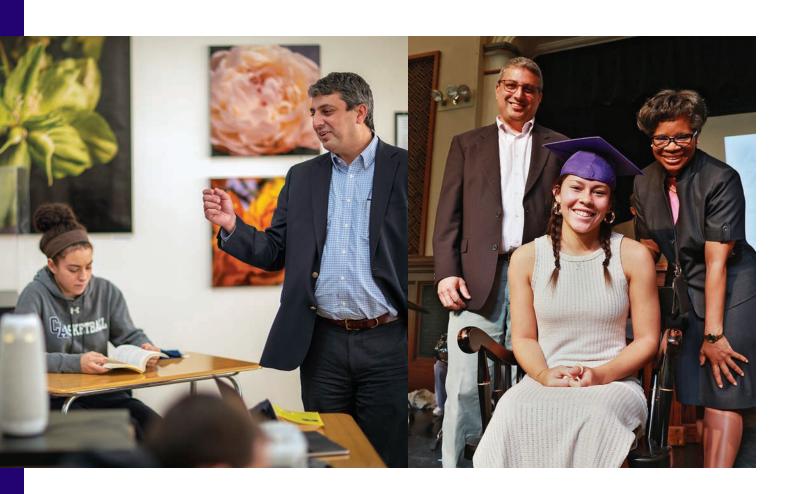
"My colleagues and I often hear from young alumni who find themselves well prepared to take advantage of an opportunity and connect that readiness to the education they received at Cushing. They reach out to tell us about working with a professor or choosing a career path that reminds them of life lessons they gained here. It's affirming to know that the work we are doing in the present translates into the future."

Lessons for life

"I teach an English seminar that is popular among seniors titled *Recognizing the Call.* We explore how protagonists in coming-of-age novels discover their passions and what they do with that newfound awareness. The seminar resonates with students because it shows how literature is a vehicle for reflecting on and making sense of their own lives."

Incubating community leaders

"Being a boarding school gives us many opportunities to build a cycle of empowerment and help students magnify their own impact. Faculty guide students to a deeper understanding of how their actions shape communal spaces — from being a constructive voice in class discussions, to being empathetic with a roommate, to motivating others as a teammate."





Powered by Opportunities

Learning takes place

everywhere on our campus



Advisors make a meaningful impact

"Cushing advisors want each student to feel known and seen. We work to balance a sense of autonomy and support so that students learn that the choices they make matter. My favorite moments are seeing students make everyday choices that stretch their comfort zone and lead to growth experiences."

—Dr. Jennifer Willis Director of Teaching and Learning Varsity Field Hockey Coach JV Girls' Basketball Coach

Thriving in the classroom, on teams, and as a person

"At Cushing, we help students excel both as students and athletes. The systems we instill here allow our kids to manage their day-to-day responsibilities and learn accountability. The possibilities for growth are endless – in the classroom, on the sports field, and in the community. Most importantly, we develop character and leadership, and that translates beyond Cushing and into our students' lives."

—Ryan Bourque '09 Varsity Boys' Hockey Coach Advancement Officer







Building life-long skills in the classroom

"In the English department, we help students make real-world connections through literature. Studying characters, their emotions, and the struggles that they're facing, helps draw students in – and our lively discussions help develop their critical thinking, analytical skills, and even their empathy. In addition to becoming better readers and writers, our goal is that students experience 'ah-ha' moments in our classrooms that stay with them well beyond their time at Cushing."

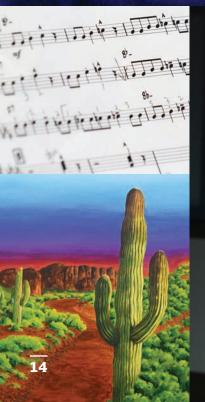
—Courtney Lavin English Department Chair Varsity Field Hockey Coach JV Girls' Hockey Coach

Powered by Confidence

The perfect place to develop yOUIT art

Cushing is known for its impressive arts program. Our distinguished faculty create a dynamic, welcoming space for you to cultivate your talents, problem-solving skills, and self-expression. Whether a dedicated artist or discovering a new inspiration, Cushing students radiate with pride when their creative vision and dedication to craft come together in a unique work of art that resonates with others.











Visual arts

Cushing Academy is home to one of the nation's most highly respected secondary school programs in visual arts. Offerings include more than a dozen classes and afternoon activities, including architectural design, ceramics, drawing, fused glass, metalsmithing, painting and photography. Student work is featured in our Visual Arts Magazine, and Cushing visual artists are regularly honored in the national Scholastic Art Awards.

Studios for drawing, painting, pottery, photography, and metalsmithing — along with the Maude Bowen Carter Gallery — are located in the 12,800-square-foot Emily Fisher Landau Center for the Visual Arts.

Performing arts

Cushing students enjoy more than a dozen performing arts events each year and can choose from 11 classes, including acting, chamber music, C-Tones (chorus), dance, filmmaking, jazz ensemble, and more than a dozen options for private instruction in voice, instrumental music, and dance.

Studios and performance spaces for theatre, dance, and music are located in an 11,520-square-foot performing arts center built in 2006 as part of the Joseph R. Curry Academic Center. Cowell Chapel offers a large performance venue in our historic Main Building.

Flourishing as an artist

"The arts program is a major reason why I chose Cushing. I've always loved to make art, and I like to try different styles. Art classes here meet almost every day, and you can also choose art as an afternoon activity. Having so much time in the studio and working so consistently has definitely improved my technique."

Living with your friends

"The best part of living in a dorm is being so close to your friends. Everyone wants to hang out with one another here, so if they see someone new, they start a conversation to get to know you. There are a lot of fun events on campus. I especially like the dances and the haunted house that seniors produce at Halloween."

Support leads to success

"Working with my teacher in the Learning Center keeps my work from piling up. We talk a lot about how to organize and prioritize my assignments. The classroom teachers here also are very understanding and it's easy to ask for help, even outside of class. Having that academic support makes me feel less stressed and more confident."





"Cushing gets the best out of students by helping them to believe in their own ability to achieve.

The teachers really get to know your child and provide thoughtful feedback."

-Kiernan B., parent





Hone your competitive edge

athletes have been drafted or

> 25 **NEPSAC** Championships in the past 20 years

Cushing coaches care about you as an athlete, as a student, and as a person. They also know what it takes to help young athletes achieve their goals. Coaching here is built on relationships and trust to help students discover their own intrinsic motivation to challenge themselves and nurture the values of integrity, teamwork, and excellence. We offer multiple levels of competition in each sport so that highly competitive athletes find the expert coaching they seek, while novices are also welcomed to the field. At every level, Cushing students draw strength from the camaraderie of being on a team and feeling the whole school cheer them on.



Choose from 36 teams across 13 sports

Fall

- > Cross Country
- > Field Hockey
- Socce
- > Volleybal

Winter

- > Basketbal
- > Ice Hockey
- > Ski Team

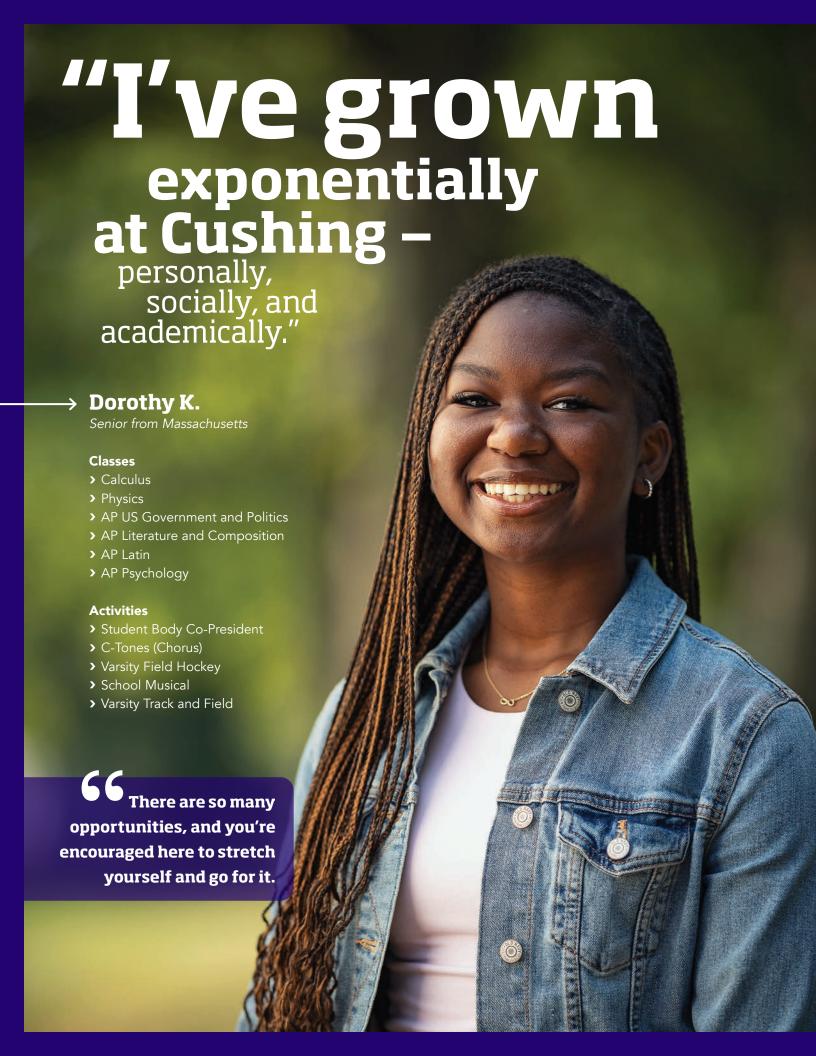
Spring

- > Basebal
- Golf
- lacrosse
- Softball
- > Tennis
- > Track and Field

Facilities

- > The Watkins Field House, built in 2016, is a 30,000-square-foot athletic facility that houses two courts for basketball and volleyball, plus a fitness studio and training center.
- > The Theodore L. Iorio Arena, renovated in 2023, has ice throughout the entire academic year for hockey, figure skating, and recreational skating. The facility includes locker rooms as well as strength training and cardio fitness studios.
- Quimby Field, renovated in 2017, features high-tech synthetic turf with lights for evening games and community events.
- Additional facilities include six natural grass fields, six tennis courts, a ropes course, and a cross-country course.







Becoming a more curious, eager learner

"At Cushing, I have grown in thinking critically and analytically. I've discovered that you might think you know something, but you really don't because there are so many perspectives and things to consider before really knowing something. That's opened my eyes. I feel that I can now say, 'I don't know this very well at the moment, but I will down the road.""

A roommate who is like a sister

"Being away from home, naturally, you have to come out of your shell. I don't have siblings, so having a roommate was definitely different, but it was the best experience. I was shy at first, but a few hours after meeting each other, I realized this was going to be great. Now, it's going to be four years of us being roommates. We're always hanging out, even in the summertime."

Growing into bigger roles

"The leadership opportunities are endless on campus. It doesn't necessarily have to be standing on stage or talking in front of people. It can be the way you make everyone around you feel noticed and welcomed. That's how I became a class rep – and I loved doing that, which led to more opportunities. It's the kind of environment that made me grow as a leader."

"Dorothy has always been a good student, but now she's more determined to achieve her goals. It's because of the environment at Cushing.

She's taken it to another level here."

—Ziwazano & Lorra K., parents



Powered by Community



friendships start here

59

Afternoon activities, from community service to dance and photography With almost all Cushing students living on campus, afternoons and weekends are filled with fun and chances to get to know friends from around the world. Whether you are an elite athlete or have never played before, there are amazing sports options each weekday afternoon. Prefer the arts? We offer everything from theater and dance to metalworking and ceramics. Want something different still? Literary magazine, service learning opportunities, filmmaking and more beckon.

Dozens

of student-led clubs and organizations, from Model UN to Film Club to CA SuperFans Afternoons and weekends are filled with fun

Weekends present a chance to stay close – think arts performances, dances, treats from the Raft (our own campus food truck!), Turf Nights, Coffee Houses, and much more. Or go farther afield (Hot Pot in Worcester? A Red Sox game in Boston? Skiing at Mount Snow?). No matter how you decide to spend your time, you'll be making fun memories and lifelong friendships with fellow Penguins.





connections and engage the entire student body. They may feature a special guest speaker, Dorm Olympics competitions, or dynamic programming like our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) weekend.



Powered by Moments

A community nurtured by

traditions



At Cushing events big and small, longstanding and new knit us together. We start and end each year with an All School Handshake. Our signature traditions include those with an academic tie-in, such as Community Read and others that get us all out on the fields, including XBL, our version of wiffle ball. And we LOVE good-natured competition (Dorm Olympics!) and tasty food. Holiday Stroll, where students decorate their dorms and serve festive treats, features both of those. Woven throughout all our traditions all is a sense of connection to each other and to a wider community of Penguins. On Purple Fridays, it is customary

for students and faculty to don our colors to show extra Penguin pride!

385
Cushing classmates to greet during the All School

Mountain Day

For nearly a century, Cushing has cherished this beloved tradition. Each fall, classes are cancelled for a day as the whole school — including students and faculty — piles into buses and heads to nearby Mount Monadnock for a quintessential New England experience. American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote about this mountain. Henry David Thoreau did too. After climbing 3,166 feet to the summit, you are rewarded with a spectacular view of six states. Everyone assembles for a group photo at the summit and then hikes back down for a celebratory picnic.



Tony Fisher Day of Service

Community — and community service — are big parts of the Cushing experience. Each year, students and faculty come together on our Tony Fisher Day of Service to give back to our community through local service projects. Ranging from rehabbing the trails at Walden Pond to working with the Ashburnham Food Bank to sorting clothing donations for the Boston-based charity Cradles to Crayons, it's a tremendous opportunity for Cushing students to make a difference.

100 Days Celebration

The 100 Days Celebration is a special reception for seniors that marks their final 100 days at Cushing. One of the highlights of the evening is when students receive personal notes from faculty.

Capping Ceremony

A tradition unique to Cushing Academy, during the Capping Ceremony Seniors celebrate the individuals that have helped them the most in their Cushing Journey. Each Senior asks up to two individuals to "cap" them — formally place their graduation mortarboard on their head for the first time — in front of the school in a fun and celebratory ceremony a few days before graduation

Marcus B. Sophomore from California Classes > Honors Precalculus > Physics > Advanced Photography > Honors Literature and Composition II Modern World History > Honors Spanish II > Connections 10 **Activities** Varsity B Boys' Hockey > Varsity Boys' Lacrosse > Special Olympics > Investment Club > Fellowship of Christian Athletes **56** Even when I'm on the other side of the world, I'm still connected with my Cushing friends. "I've made some of the est friends I've ever had at Cushing."

Growing alongside friends

"Cushing has changed who I am for the better. I've become a more compassionate friend to people since I am living with them. They've become a lot more like family rather than friends. One friend is from Korea, and we bonded really quickly. I loved hearing about the food and culture because I am half Korean. I am motivated to try new things because I am doing it alongside friends I am with literally 24/7."

Honing new skills in photography

"I've always loved working with cameras. At Cushing, I learned a lot of new techniques, like different types of angles I can use to make my photos more dynamic and convey more meaning. One of the first things our teacher taught us was leading lines, for example, using a railing pointing towards your center of attention. I've started using these techniques in my photography, and it's really changed how I frame the world around me."

Looking forward to helping others

"Tony Fisher Day is a really cool experience in the spring that is unique to Cushing. There are no classes, and underclass students stay on campus or in the local area, helping with cleaning up the fields and parks and other projects. Seniors go farther off campus or into Boston for their service. I feel like our efforts make a real difference in people's lives. I am looking forward to doing that again. I've also really enjoyed volunteering with the Special Olympics program for local kids that Cushing hosts on campus."





"Having a strong sense of community has been really healthy for Marcus.

He seems more relaxed and confident. I feel like he can excel, not because it's easy, but because there's a big blanket around him. He can push himself without trepidation, without fear of failing."

-Pearl B., parent

Powered by Possibilities

your college journey

College planning at Cushing is very individualized. Students begin getting to know our four dedicated college advisors as early as ninth-grade, when these faculty present to small groups in Connections class. In addition, students pop into our college counseling office, which is intentionally designed to be a welcoming place to do work and grab a snack.

Throughout your time at Cushing, these advisors are a resource for making informed decisions about academics and activities, exploring colleges, and even considering career paths. We help you build awareness of personal strengths and goals and take ownership of the process of identifying the right fit for the next step in your education. Cushing students take pride in articulating their own vision for their futures.

100+

colleges come to campus annually to meet with Cushing students

Connections Class

As part of our Connections curriculum, ninth and tenth grade students meet weekly in small-groups to discuss strategies for healthy living, building positive relationships, and making the most of their time at Cushing. This foundation helps build a strong sense of self and equips our youngest students with skills for not only navigating Cushing, but also their futures.





*Schools marked with an asterisk indicate multiple matriculations in the past five years.

Amherst College Art Center College of Design Babson College* Bard College Bentley University* **Boston College*** Boston University* Brandeis University* **Brown University* Bucknell University** Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts, United Kingdom Carnegie Mellon University* Clark University* Colby College* College of the Holy Cross* Colorado College* Columbia College Chicago Connecticut College*

Dickinson College*
Drew University
Duke University*
Elon University*
Fairfield University*
George Mason University

Cornell University*
Dartmouth College
Denison University
DePaul University

Harvard University Hobart William Smith Colleges* Hofstra University* Ithaca College
Lehigh University*
Los Angeles College of Music
Macalester College
McGill University, Canada*
Middlebury College*
Mount Holyoke College*
New York University*
Northeastern University*
Oberlin College
Pratt Institute*
Providence College*
Purdue University*

Rhode Island School of Design Rice University

Rochester Institute of Technology* Rutgers University*

Savannah College of Art + Design (SCAD)* Scripps College Skidmore College*
St. Lawrence University
Syracuse University*
The New School*
Trinity College*
Tufts University*

Union College*

University of California, Berkeley*
University of California, Los Angeles*
University of Massachusetts, Amherst*
University of Southern California*

University of Southern California*
University of Vermont*

University of Vermont*
University of Washington*

University of Wisconsin, Madison*

Vanderbilt University Virginia Tech Wellesley College

Wellesley College Wesleyan University* Wheaton College

The college counselors at Cushing helped me tremendously. My counselor helped me transition from the first set of schools that I identified to a final list that really matched my goals.

-Grace M., Senior

Alumni: Powered by Connection

"People

really shape your experiences in a place."

-Manisah Islam '20



Building relationships

"I think about my Cushing teachers often — even teachers I didn't have in class, but who took time out of their day to build relationships with me. Having been around so many adult mentors at Cushing helps me form meaningful connections now. I recently worked for a company building technologies to help people in remote areas of Bangladesh access basic health care and in my Teach for America fellowship, I tutored and mentored a local student. I majored in economics, with a minor in cognitive science, because I'm interested in using economics to make communities more sustainable. I look forward to continuing to meet new people and be exposed to new experiences and ideas."

-Manisah Islam '20 **UCLA '23** Global Finance & Business Management

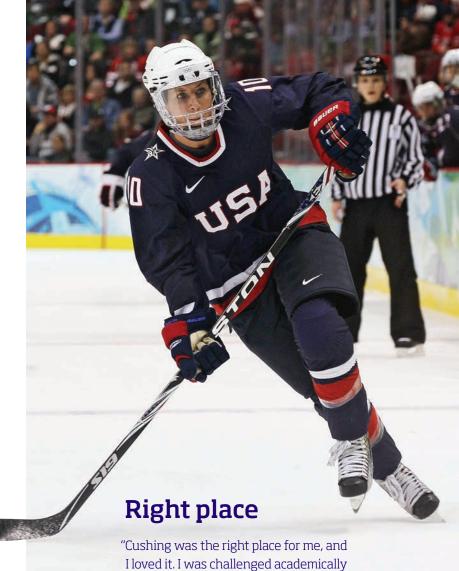
Analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co



Lifelong framework

"Cushing gave me a lifelong framework for learning and for working with people, both of which are important elements in life. The Cushing faculty really helped me learn how to look at a complex question and break it down into steps. I also learned a lot about leadership at Cushing. I was a team captain in several sports. That's where I recognized that even though I wasn't the best player on the team, I could make an important contribution by supporting the people around me. That lesson really stuck with me. In my job now, I like to say to my team: How can you be the best person you can be and do the best work possible? And how can I support you in doing that?"

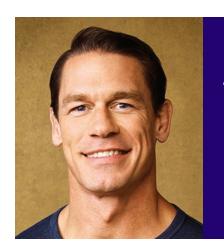
> —Jack Casady '15 Boston University '19 Marketing Manager at YourStake, a financial tech startup



I loved it. I was the right place for me, and I loved it. I was challenged academically and athletically; I grew as a person and a hockey player tremendously."

-Meghan Duggan '06

University of Wisconsin-Madison '11 USA Women's Olympic Hockey Team 2018 Gold medalist and team captain 2014 Silver medalist and team captain 2010 Silver medalist



Life lessons

"The life lessons that I learned at Cushing, I carry with me and use every day. Integrity, creativity, respect, discipline. I'm eternally grateful to Cushing Academy for giving me the drive that has led me to where I am today."

—John Cena '95 Springfield College '99 WWE wrestling champion Actor



See John Cena help announce our 2024 Head of School Holiday.



Coming to Cushing Academy is a complete student experience.

School spirit is palpable on our campus because students love being here. And why wouldn't they?

Everything students need to thrive is right here: They are surrounded by top-notch educators who are dedicated to helping them grow. They have access to state-of-the-art facilities for athletics and the arts. And they become part of a welcoming community where every student feels known and seen.

Our faculty are at Cushing Academy because they want to make a difference in students' lives. These caring adults inspire and mentor students in small classes, as advisors, through athletics and arts, in dorm life, and in every campus activity. In the context of this dynamic community, students are motivated to take healthy risks — and this is where growth happens. Success builds on itself as students find the confidence to embrace new challenges inside and outside the classroom.

At Cushing Academy, all of our decisions are made with an eye for what students need in the present moment and to prepare for their futures. We are continuously responding

to student interests and examining how students learn so that our curriculum is meaningful and impactful in a constantly changing world. Our campus life has structure to support students while also offering a sense of independence. As a result, parents often tell me how impressed they are by the maturity that they see emerge when their children come to Cushing.

As the parent of four Cushing students myself, I've also seen the power of Cushing Academy. Ours is a school where each individual student finds their people, their purpose, and their passions. That is what it means to "exist for students." That is what it means to be Cushing Academy.

We look forward to welcoming **YOU** to our campus.

Randy R. Bertin, Ed.D.
Head of School



