



Established in 1865 as the first coeducational boarding school in New England, Cushing Academy was the vision of Ashburnham native Thomas Parkman Cushing. In its first year of existence, 122 students were enrolled; most were from Ashburnham, but others came from throughout Massachusetts and neighboring states. Today there are 384 boarding and day students, representing 31 countries and 25 states.



From its founding through the early 1960s, when the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District was established, Cushing proudly served as the town's public school.

Since July 2018, Dr. Randy R. Bertin has served as the Academy's thirteenth Head of School. Under Dr. Bertin's leadership, the 155 members of the administration, faculty, and staff work with the Board of Trustees to fulfill the Academy's mission: *Cushing Academy exists for students and develops curious, creative, and confident learners and leaders.*

With a focus on support for student learning and opportunities for growth, Cushing offers exceptional academic, artistic, athletic, and student life opportunities alongside excellent teaching. Students can choose from a wide selection of traditional and innovative courses.

In 2021, Cushing donated \$50,000 to the Town of Ashburnham to complete the paving of Pleasant Street. In addition, Cushing incurred costs of approximately \$168,000 in labor and materials to upgrade the underground drainage system, initial grading and sidewalk installation. Prior commitments to the Town have included contribution of labor and materials for the renovation of the William J. Bresnahan Scouting and Community Center and a gift of \$270,000 for the public safety building in 2007. In 2004, when Cushing Academy and the Town agreed to discontinue the use of portions of School/Academy Streets as public ways, Cushing gave for the construction of the public safety building: 5 acres of land on Central Street, a \$1.5 million cash payment, and \$500,000 payable over 20 years.

Fiscal year 2022 was the final year of the Academy's Five-Year (2017-2022) Strategic Plan: *Embracing Our Legacy and Positioning for Our Future*. The plan's implementation during the pandemic enabled the Academy to weather the global crisis with a never-wavering focus on our students. Since a return to our pre-pandemic community life, we have enjoyed a renewed celebration of all the traditions and experiences that are part of a Cushing education. In early 2023, we began work on a new strategic plan to chart the road ahead for the next five years.

Cushing Academy is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and completed its most recent 10-year review in 2018.

A multi-year comprehensive facilities renewal is underway, transforming the Cushing campus and experience. Work began in 2022 on a new dormitory and wellness center to be completed in the Spring of 2024, replacing Sawyer-Hopkins Hall.



*Dormitory and Wellness Center to be completed in Spring 2024*

Over the last ten years, this campus renewal has included the construction of four new dormitories and the Watkins Field House, the renovation of three additional dormitories, the expansion of the Fisher-Watkins Dining Commons, and the refurbishment of campus grounds and athletic fields. The Iorio Arena has also been renovated, benefiting the local hockey community that also uses this facility.

This report covers the fiscal year through June 30, 2022.

Cushing alumni are leaders in the fields of the visual and performing arts, athletics, business and other areas and industries. Our students, alumni, and faculty were recognized for many awards, achievements, and championships in fiscal year 2022. Highlights include:

- 100% of graduating seniors who applied to colleges were accepted.
- Cushing visual artists received 33 awards this year from the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.
- Fifteen members of the Class of 2022 were inducted into the Cum Laude Society, a national honor society recognizing scholastic achievement.
- The Varsity Softball team was the undefeated New England league champion, with a 20-0 record. Other teams seeing tournament play included Varsity Girls' Ice Hockey and Varsity Boys' Ice Hockey, Varsity Boys' Basketball, Varsity Girls' Basketball, Varsity Field Hockey, Varsity Girls Volleyball, and Varsity Alpine Skiing. Both Varsity Boys' and Varsity Girls' Hockey were in the Elite 8 tournaments.
- Approximately 20 students across 8 sports won a variety of league and tournament honors.
- 28 students committed to play athletics at the college level, in 9 different sports.
- Approximately 140 alumni played sports at the college level during the '21-'22 academic year.
- Luke Saunders '04, Founder and CEO of Farmer's Fridge, received the Cushing Academy Leadership Award and addressed the Class of 2022 at Commencement.
- Penguins signed by professional sports teams last year include David Duke '18 (Brooklyn Nets, NBA) and Joey Daccord '15 (Seattle Kraken, NHL). They joined a long line of Cushing Penguins over many years who have been professional athletes, including current veterans Keith Yandle '05 (Philadelphia Flyers) who reached Iron Man status for having broken the record for the most consecutive games played in the NHL (989), and Conor Sheary '10.

Cushing Academy is proud to be located in Ashburnham and to participate fully in the Ashburnham community:

- Students and faculty donated food items, clothing, bedding, housewares and supplies to the Ashburnham Food Pantry and Community Closet.
- Cushing again hosted the Special Olympics Young Athletes program, for children with and without intellectual disabilities, with many Cushing students volunteering.

- The entire Cushing community spent a full day caring for others through acts of service on the nineteenth annual Tony Fisher Day of Service to Others. The many local service projects in April 2022 took place at five state parks and land trusts, two farms, three churches, two libraries, three food banks, two Little League fields, and one historical site. Each year, all students engage in community service on this day, working on projects locally and beyond.
- The Scouting for Food drive to support the Ashburnham Food Pantry was headquartered in Heslin Gymnasium, with Cushing students assisting.
- Cushing provided hot chocolate and cookies for the 2021 Ashburnham Tree Lighting.
- Students continued their work with Sea No Plastic to raise environmental awareness.
- Many members of the faculty and staff serve as volunteers with local organizations, including Ashburnham Town committees, schools, scouting groups, community organizations, and churches.
- Cushing continues to offer Girling Field for use by Life Flight for medical evacuations.
- Since we have emerged from the temporary pause due to public health considerations, meals are once again provided at no charge to on-duty Ashburnham Police Department and Ashburnham Fire Department personnel. Similarly, the Academy is pleased to welcome the Ashburnham community back to campus for performances and athletic events.
- Cushing has been pleased to host events and to offer facilities for free or at greatly reduced rates to area organizations. Typical community opportunities in recent years at Iorio Arena have included discounted ice time for the Oakmont Regional High School Ice Hockey Team, operation of the concession stand by an area hockey club as a fundraiser, and community skates.

During 2022, Cushing Academy provided approximately \$11 million in economic impact to Ashburnham and the surrounding communities.

This economic impact took the form of:

- The second year of Cushing's three-year commitment of \$11,400 for the Rave 911 Suite software package for Ashburnham Dispatch, enhancing public safety through increased communications capabilities.
- A \$117,100 grant to the Town of Ashburnham Police Department to provide for a second police officer on the overnight shift, providing greater public safety to all residents of Ashburnham. During April 2021, Cushing committed to providing this funding for another three years, through June 30, 2024.
- Cushing Academy paid over \$12,000 in permit and service fees to the town.
- Cushing Academy paid \$2.3 million to over 214 vendors, suppliers and independent contractors who reside or conduct business in Ashburnham or its surrounding communities. Our three most highly paid vendors – including the Town of Ashburnham itself – received a total of \$1,000,000 and all proudly call Ashburnham their primary place of business.
- Cushing Academy employs 18 individuals who own homes in Ashburnham. These families provide over \$124,500 in real estate taxes to the town.

- Cushing Academy provides over \$218,780 in grants and scholarships to enable 9 local students to attend the Academy.
- In 2022 Cushing Academy had a payroll of over \$9.9 million; over 39% of the total payroll was paid to Ashburnham residents. Another 38% was paid to individuals who lived in neighboring towns/cities.
- It is conservatively estimated that in 2022 Cushing Academy students, faculty and staff spent approximately \$300,000 patronizing local businesses and vendors, primarily in the town center. (This assumes that half of Cushing's 384 on-campus students and 75% of its approximately 200 residents and employees spent \$20 per week for approximately 44 weeks, including its Summer Session.)

Cushing Academy has been a proud partner of the Town of Ashburnham, and we look forward to continuing to work together.