



From the Hill | May 2026

York Enrollment Spotlight



Through Their Eyes: A Shield Ambassador

"When I think about the vibe at York, I'd describe it as a passionate energy. You're surrounded by students who are genuinely pursuing their interests, and as you grow, you get more opportunities to shape your classes around what excites you. Everyone is here because they want to be, which makes the community feel more enthusiastic and intentional."

"Looking back, my biggest worry was whether I'd find my place. I'd tell new students: be yourself. The right friends will find you. York is a place where you can truly belong!"

— Sofia Navarro-Macias '26, Shield Ambassador

York's Shield Ambassadors, student leaders who support the admissions process, play an integral role in welcoming new families. Working closely with the Enrollment Department, they host prospective students, lead campus visits, and share their York experience both on and off campus, while also supporting community and philanthropy efforts.

As prospective families explore York, these student leaders offer an authentic perspective on what it means to join this community and why students feel a true sense of purpose and belonging once they're here.

York Student Spotlight

8th Grader Alexander wins at Model UN Conference

We are incredibly proud of 8th grade student Alexander Guerrero Morgan!

Recently, Alexander attended the 16th Annual Model United Nations Conference for Middle & High School Students, hosted by the Lyceum of Monterey County at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. During the conference, Alexander earned recognition in the Middle School division for his outstanding position paper.

Congratulations, Alexander, and thank you for representing York School with such excellence, thoughtfulness, and professionalism!



New Student Body President Wins at National Level

We are thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of our wonderful student, and incoming 2026–27 Student Body President, Diarmuid Murphy!

Diarmuid recently earned 2nd Place in the High School Heritage Group (Singing Category) at the National Chinese Talent Contest, organized by the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools. For the competition, he selected an especially challenging song featuring intricate lyrics and devoted an incredible amount of thought, preparation, and effort to his performance.

Beyond this impressive achievement, Diarmuid truly embodies the qualities we value most in our York students. He is bright,

kind, curious, and driven, consistently approaching opportunities with humility, dedication, and heart. We are so proud to see him representing York School in such a meaningful way.

Be sure to check out his singing video [HERE](#).

York Faculty Spotlight

Highlighting Our Mandarin Teacher

Earlier this month, while working on video projects for Mandarin class, our students took the opportunity to shine a spotlight on someone they deeply appreciate: their beloved Mandarin teacher, Ms. Jasmine Hsu!

Ms. Hsu is a favorite on campus, known for her dedication to the classroom, gentle nature, and genuine investment in each and every student. Her kindness, encouragement, and passion for teaching make a lasting impact on our community every day.

We are incredibly grateful to have someone as thoughtful and inspiring as Jasmine here at York School, guiding and connecting with our students in such meaningful ways.

Be sure to check out the [special highlight video](#) our students created to celebrate Ms. Hsu!



York Alumni Spotlight





Alumni Meet the Challenge on Day of Giving

York's alumni community continues to demonstrate the power of generosity and lifelong connection to the school. During this year's Day of Giving, a lead challenge gift from Board Chair and alumnus Mark Kerman '78—along with support from three fellow

alumni trustees—helped build excitement and momentum across the community.

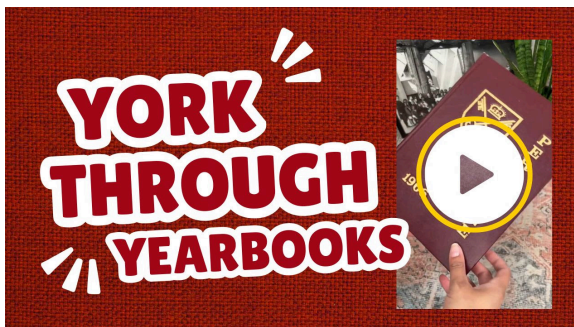
Their leadership inspired alumni participation at every level, with each gift helping strengthen academics, expand tuition assistance, support exceptional faculty, and sustain the programs that define the York experience. Alumni giving is especially meaningful because it reflects a shared understanding of the transformative impact of a York education and a continued investment in future generations of students.

Alumni participation in Day of Giving continues to demonstrate the strength of the York community and the lasting connection former students feel to the school. Each gift—regardless of size—helps sustain the programs, opportunities, and experiences that support York's mission to inspire and prepare a diverse community of creative, independent thinkers.

What makes alumni giving especially meaningful is the shared understanding of what York provides. Alumni know firsthand the value of small classes, close relationships with teachers, meaningful extracurricular opportunities, and a community that encourages students to become creative, independent thinkers. Their generosity reflects both gratitude for their own experience and belief in the students following in their footsteps.

York is deeply grateful for the many alumni who continue to stay engaged, give back, and strengthen the community year after year. Their support not only sustains the school today—it helps shape York's future for generations to come.

York Philanthropy Spotlight



The Generosity of YOU!

York School's recent Day of Giving was a tremendous success, bringing together 96 donors who collectively raised nearly \$90,000 in support of the school's mission. The remarkable level of participation and generosity demonstrated the deep commitment of the York community to ensuring students continue to thrive in an

environment that inspires and prepares a diverse community of creative, independent thinkers.

The impact of Day of Giving extends far beyond a single day of philanthropy. Every contribution helps strengthen the foundation of a York education by supporting exceptional academics, tuition assistance, innovative programs, and the dedicated faculty who guide students each day. These gifts help ensure that talented students from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds have access to the transformative opportunities York provides

both inside and outside the classroom.

Equally important was the sense of momentum and connection created throughout the campaign. Alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends of the school came together around a shared belief in York and its students. Participation at every level reflected the strength of the York community and reinforced the idea that every gift matters.

Day of Giving also highlighted the lasting relationships that define York. Donors gave not only to support current students, but also to invest in the future of the school and the generations of students who will follow. The enthusiasm surrounding the campaign served as a powerful reminder that York's community extends far beyond campus and continues to grow through shared purpose and generosity.

York is deeply grateful to every donor who participated and helped make this year's Day of Giving such an inspiring success. The collective generosity of the community will have a meaningful and lasting impact on students today and for years to come.

Supporting York's Mission — Today and for the Future

While Day of Giving may have ended, there is still time to make a meaningful impact on York students. Every gift helps provide transformative opportunities that allow students to grow as creative, independent thinkers—both inside and outside the classroom.

Your support strengthens rigorous academics, tuition assistance, athletics, the arts, experiential learning, leadership development, and the close faculty mentorship that makes the York experience so distinctive. It ensures that students from a wide range of backgrounds can access an exceptional college preparatory education and fully participate in the programs and experiences that help them discover their passions, build confidence, and prepare for meaningful futures.

At York, students are challenged to think boldly, engage deeply, and contribute to a supportive and connected community. Every contribution helps sustain these opportunities and invest in the success of current and future students.

To make a gift, please click [here](#).

For questions about York Philanthropy or ways to get involved, please contact us at giving@york.org.

Thank you for your continued partnership in advancing York's mission.

GIVE NOW

York Sports Spotlight

Spring Sports Wrapup

Spring Sports have wrapped up after a great season! Check out the Spring Sports wrap up provided by Athletic Director Steve Peters at the following [link](#).



York Upcoming Events Spotlight

York Scholars and STEAMships Showcase

We are excited to invite the entire York School community to the York Scholars & STEAMships Showcase on Friday, May 15, from 5:00–7:30 PM.

Join us for an inspiring evening where ideas, research, creativity, and passion come to life. The showcase marks the powerful culmination of the work our students have developed throughout their journey in the York Scholars Program, highlighting innovative projects and meaningful exploration across disciplines.

Guests will have the opportunity to experience firsthand how curiosity turns into impact, and how our students are actively shaping the future through research, storytelling, science, the arts, and beyond.

We are also proud to welcome keynote speaker Netta Avineri, Executive Director at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey and professor at California State University, Monterey Bay. Dr. Avineri is an applied linguistic anthropologist whose work explores critical intercultural communication, language education, and the power of storytelling to create meaningful change. With more than two decades of interdisciplinary experience, she brings a unique perspective that bridges individuals, institutions, communities, and government in pursuit of shared goals and collective impact.

York School

YORK SCHOLARS & STEAMSHIPS SHOWCASE

DISCOVER LIMITLESS POTENTIAL

Join us for an inspiring evening at the York Scholars Showcase, where ideas, research, and passion come to life. This event marks the powerful culmination of the work our students have developed throughout their journey in the York Scholars Program.

Come experience firsthand how curiosity turns into impact, and how students are shaping the future across disciplines.

FEATURED STUDENT PROJECTS

- Asya Wilson — Music Through Time
- Aless Gopasin — Local Pharmaceutical Access Disparities
- Aleks Simpson — Exploring California Water Management
- Nili Biblarz — Physiological Effects of Anorexia on Adolescents
- Matthew Lee — Creative Writing: Building a World of Your Own
- Justin Robles Parra — Building a Better System
- Haider Chaudhry — Preserving Dead Languages Through AI

With Keynote Speaker:

Netta Avineri
Executive Director at Middlebury Institute and Professor at CSUMB.

Dr. Netta Avineri is an applied linguistic anthropologist whose work explores critical intercultural communication, language education, and the power of storytelling to drive meaningful change. With more than two decades of interdisciplinary experience, she brings a unique perspective that bridges individuals, institutions, communities, and government to advance shared goals and collective impact.

5-7:30
15
MAY

YORK SCHOOL
Join us at 5 PM for a meal
Showcase starts at 5:30 PM



**York
SCHOOL**

COMMENCEMENT WEEK 2026

THURS. MAY 21	• Last Day of School • Awards & Recognition Ceremony 9-10:30 AM, <i>Gawain Family Theater</i> • Senior Recognition Celebration 1:15-2:15 PM, <i>Chapel</i> • Yearbook Distribution
FRI. MAY 22	8TH Grade Recognition Ceremony 6:00PM, <i>Chapel</i>
SAT. MAY 23	Commencement Ceremony 11:00AM, <i>Gawain Family Theater</i>

Commencement Week

Commencement Week is quickly approaching, and we are excited to invite the entire York School community to join in the celebration!

Our final day of school will take place on Thursday, May 21, beginning with our Awards Ceremony from 9:00–10:30 AM, followed by a special Senior Recognition celebration honoring the Class of 2026.

The celebrations will continue on Friday with our 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony, recognizing and celebrating our graduating middle school students.

Finally, we will conclude Commencement Week with our Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 23 at 11:00 AM in the Gawain Family Theater. We look forward to

celebrating these incredible milestones together as a community!

In Memoriam

Richard Louis Saylor

February 22, 1941 - April 28, 2026

Richard served on the York School Board of Trustees and he and his late wife, Martha, were parents to Basil Saylor '07. Professionally, Richard was an architect; however, he had many passions and hobbies such as restoring classic British cars, silver smithing and lapidary work with which he made his own jewelry.

Craig Christensen, M.D.

March 11, 1938 - April 27, 2026

Craig also served on the York School Board of Trustees. He and wife Linda are parents to Amy Christensen '89. Craig specialized in internal medicine and embodied the spirit of a dedicated healer. He was an avid reader who like to stay deeply informed of what was happening in the world around him. He will be remembered for his integrity, his gentle nature, and the meaningful way he dedicated himself to the well-being of others.

Is there someone who has inspired you in your life? A loved one, a current student, a faculty member, or another? **Give a gift today in their honor or memory!**

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York School
9501 York Road, Monterey, CA 93940