



From the Hill | August 2026

Head of School Spotlight

Dear Members of the York Community,

Welcome to this latest edition of "From the Hill." Our goal with this newsletter is to keep you, however far you may find yourself from campus, informed about all the remarkable developments taking place here at York. As I write to you, we are in the midst of the proverbial calm before the storm. In just a few days, our faculty will return to campus, and beginning the week of August 10, we'll welcome the full student body!

As former students ourselves, we all recall the range of emotions that accompany this time of year - excitement about reconnecting with old friends and making new ones, nervousness about taking the next step academically and socially, poignant regret for the loss of the carefree days of summer, and eagerness to jump in and get started. And our students are not the only ones dealing with these feelings. I can say that last night I had my first (though certainly not my last) teaching anxiety dream of the year, featuring my fumbling and futile attempts to get the copy machine to work on my first day of class!

While those of us here on campus prepare for the opening of school, we want to share with you some of the highlights of the recent past. The 2025-26 academic year was full of the joys, pains, triumphs, and challenges that accompany the glorious messiness of school life. Our students impressed us, as always, with their genuine intellectual curiosity, their eagerness to learn and achieve, and their kindness towards and care for their peers and teachers. These are qualities that I know are familiar to and fondly remembered by our alumni, who have cited to me many times the ways in which the unique and nurturing environment at York - along with the encouragement and support of the faculty - made it possible for them to become better versions of themselves.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for Reunion Weekend on October 23-24, to reconnect with your classmates and to help remind us of the legacy that we are striving to uphold. If you can't make it to Reunion, please consider stopping by whenever you're around. I'd welcome the chance to talk with you about your York experience, and to show you the exciting work taking place on campus now.

Best wishes,

Matt Micciche

Matt Micciche
Head of School

York Enrollment Spotlight



Welcoming Our Newest Falcons to York

Every school year brings fresh energy, new perspectives, and exciting opportunities to the York community. This fall, we welcome our newest Falcons from more than 25 public, independent, charter, international, and homeschool programs across the Monterey Peninsula, throughout California, other parts of the United States, and China. They bring a rich diversity of cultures, experiences, and perspectives that will enrich our classrooms, athletic teams, performing arts programs, clubs, and the traditions that define York.

While every student's journey is unique, they share a common goal: to be part of a community where they are known, challenged, supported, and inspired. From their very first day on campus, these newest Falcons will join a school that values academic excellence, meaningful relationships, and opportunities to discover their passions both inside and outside the classroom.

The enrollment of each new student reflects months of relationship-building, campus visits, conversations with families, and a shared belief in York's mission. We are grateful to the families who entrust us with their students' education, to our current families and alumni who serve as enthusiastic ambassadors for York, and to the faculty and staff whose dedication gives prospective families a genuine glimpse of what makes this community so special.

As we begin another exciting school year, we look forward to the many ways our newest Falcons will enrich our community. Together, we continue building a community where students are inspired to lead lives of purpose, curiosity, compassion, and impact.

Here's to an incredible year ahead. Go Falcons!

York Student Spotlight

Summer Travels With CIEE

York School has developed a strong partnership with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), creating meaningful opportunities for students to engage in transformative learning beyond the classroom. Through this collaboration, international travel has become an integral part of the York experience.

Each year, all ninth-grade students travel to Monteverde, Costa Rica, where they participate in an immersive program centered on environmental science, sustainability, and biodiversity.

By exploring one of the world's most ecologically diverse regions, students deepen their understanding of global environmental challenges while developing independence, cultural awareness, and a sense of responsibility as global citizens.

Preparing students to become Global Participants and Community-Minded Citizens is a cornerstone of York School's mission. To further this commitment, York proudly offers High School Study Abroad opportunities through CIEE. These optional summer programs provide students (and faculty!) the chance to live and learn abroad for three to four weeks. With more than 40 destinations around the world and a wide range of academic and cultural experiences, students are able to pursue their individual interests while gaining invaluable cross-cultural perspectives.

During the summer of 2026, nine York Students and one faculty member participated in the following CIEE study abroad programs:

- Culinary Arts & Culture - Kyoto, Japan
- Marine Ecology & Sustainability - Palma de Mallorca, Spain
- Engineering & Robotics - Tokyo, Japan
- Architecture & Culture - Athens, Greece
- Honors Spanish Language & Culture - Madrid, Spain
- Filmmaking & Storytelling - London, England
- Marine Ecology & Sustainability - Lisbon, Portugal
- Architecture & Culture - Paris, France
- Global Entrepreneurship - Berlin, Germany
- Creative Writing & Culture - Edinburgh, Scotland

These experiences exemplify York School's commitment to experiential learning and to preparing students to thrive in an interconnected world. By living, learning, and engaging with communities across the globe, our students return with expanded perspectives, greater confidence, and a deeper appreciation for the diversity of cultures, ideas, and experiences that shape our world.

While every CIEE program is unique, each participant returns with stories of discovery, growth, and unforgettable experiences. From navigating new cities and languages to collaborating with peers from around the world, our students embraced challenges, built lasting friendships, and gained new perspectives that will stay with them long after the summer ended.

The reflections that follow offer a glimpse into these transformative journeys. Through their own words and photographs, our students share the moments that challenged them, inspired them, and helped shape their understanding of the world, and of themselves!

Stephen Koo '29

Arriving at the airport on the departure date, I was extremely nervous because it was my first time flying alone without an adult. I was sweating, and I could not keep my thoughts straight. However, at the check-in desk, I saw this girl with the exact same blue CIEE t-shirt, and she was on the same flight I was, so naturally I thought to myself, "Hey, she's probably in the same program I'm in, and she's on the same flight, so why not talk to her?" Easier said than done; I spent almost an hour contemplating whether I should talk to her or not. Eventually, I plucked up the courage, and we started talking and getting along really well, and this was great for both of us because we were both nervous about travelling alone and navigating around the Japanese airport. Then, I found out that she was in a different program in Tokyo, so we could never meet up, but at the Japanese airport flying back to California, I saw her at my gate, and we finally got to exchange numbers and keep in touch. Ultimately, this girl that I randomly decided to talk to made the entire airport journey more comforting for both of us.

Sage Martin '29

This summer I had the opportunity to travel with CIEE to Athens for Architecture and Culture. I had such an amazing experience that really shaped the way I see architecture as both a profession and an art form. For 3 weeks I learned from an incredible architect and explored a beautiful city. I made a great group of friends who I'm still in contact with every day, and who I already miss. By the end of the 3 weeks I felt so used to a new city, I could navigate its metro system, my friends and I had a usual coffee shop, and I could mispronounce a few words in Greek. I had such an amazing experience and would totally consider doing CIEE again next summer.

Grace Yoon '29

After a 12-hour plane ride, a 5-hour layover, and another 2-hour flight, I had finally reached my destination. I was thousands of miles away from home and completely sleep-deprived. However, I was far too excited to feel exhausted. For the next three weeks, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, would be my home.

During my time there, I had the chance to explore the Mediterranean Sea and experience marine life up close. Not only was I taking marine biology classes, but I also participated in hands-on field activities. These classes weren't just about swimming in the ocean—they taught us about marine conservation and the importance of protecting the environment.

In addition to learning about marine ecosystems, I was immersed in a new culture, cuisine, and daily way of life. Meeting and communicating with people from different backgrounds gave me a greater appreciation for the world beyond my own community. Although there were challenges along the way, they helped me become more independent and confident.

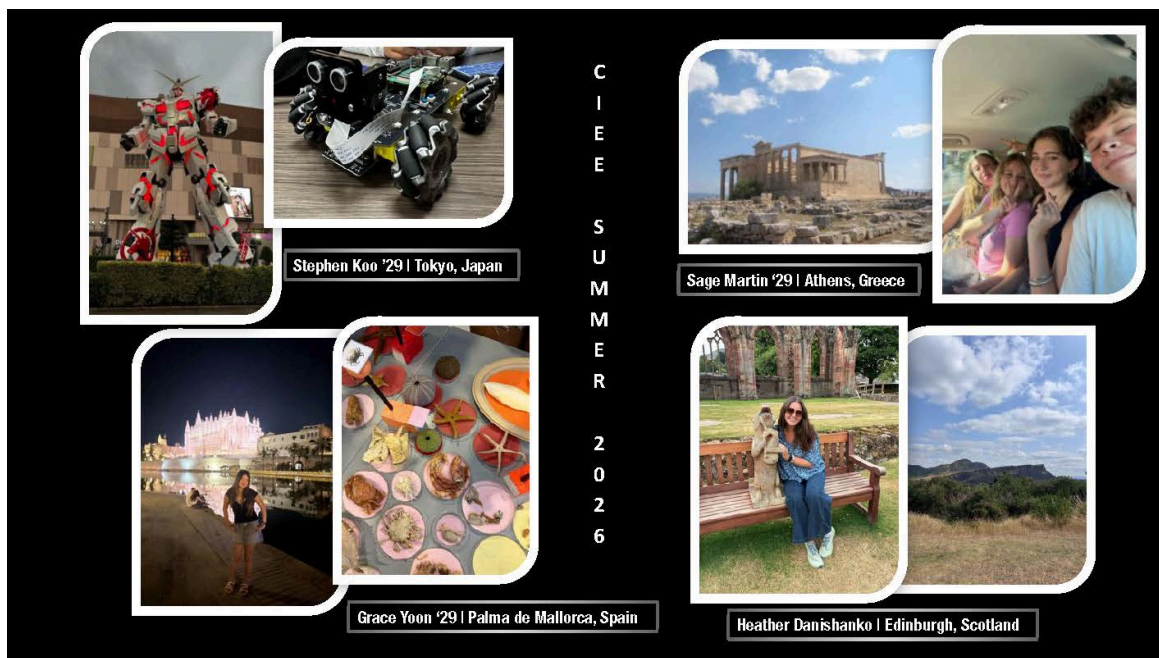
I returned home with unforgettable memories, new friendships, and a deeper understanding of our planet, the Spanish language, and the value of experiencing another culture. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to study abroad and will carry these lessons with me for years to come.

Heather Danishanko, Dean of Students & World Language Department Chair

This July, I had the privilege of participating in a CIEE educator site visit in Edinburgh, Scotland, where I observed the Creative Writing & Culture High School Study Abroad program. During my time there, I experienced firsthand what makes these programs so transformative and gained a deeper appreciation for the impact they have on students.

Throughout the visit, I watched students engage with industry professionals, collaborate with peers from around the world, confidently navigate a new city using public transportation, and immerse themselves in meaningful, hands-on learning connected to their academic interests. What impressed me most was the remarkable growth in students' independence, confidence, and willingness to embrace new experiences.

I have always believed in the power of educational travel, but witnessing this program in action strengthened that belief even further. CIEE creates an environment where students are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, challenge themselves, and develop as global citizens, all while receiving the guidance, structure, and support they need to thrive. I returned even more confident in recommending these experiences to York students, knowing they provide opportunities for growth that extend far beyond the classroom.



York Alumni Spotlight



A York Tradition

One of the greatest testaments to the impact of a York education is the number of alumni who choose to return—not as students, but as parents. For many families, York is more than a school; it is a tradition that spans generations, rooted in lifelong friendships, exceptional teachers, and transformative experiences.

Melina Sukyas '93 and her son, Andre Sukyas '26, are a wonderful example of this enduring legacy. Looking back on his York experience, Andre says what he values most are the friendships he has built over the years. Those relationships have become an integral part of his high school journey and are memories he knows will last a lifetime.

For Melina, watching her son experience York has been especially meaningful. "One of my favorite parts has been seeing the familiar faces from my own time at York,"

she shared. "It has been incredibly special knowing that my children have had the opportunity to learn from some of the very same teachers who inspired me years ago."

Their story reflects what makes York unique. While the campus continues to evolve, the heart of the school remains the same—a close-knit community where students are known, challenged, encouraged, and supported. The relationships formed between students and faculty often last well beyond graduation, creating a sense of belonging that draws families back generation after generation.

Legacy families like the Sukyases remind us that a York education extends far beyond five years on the Sunny Hilltop. It creates lifelong connections, shared traditions, and a community that continues to inspire students and families for decades.

Some York Stories Never End

At York, we often talk about the friendships that begin on the Sunny Hilltop. For some alumni, those friendships become something even more remarkable.

In nature, peregrine falcons are known for forming long-term pair bonds, often returning to the same partner year after year. Their strength comes not only from individual ability, but from the partnership they build together.

York has its own version of that story.

Across generations, alumni have found lifelong partners within the York community. What began as shared classes, performances, athletic competitions, or study sessions eventually became marriages, families, and lives built together.

These couples share a unique bond—not only with one another, but with the school that first brought them together.

As we celebrate York's community, we invite you to reflect on the relationships that have shaped your own journey. Whether they began in a classroom, on a team, or at a school event, York connections have a way of lasting far beyond graduation.

Because some York stories never end.

Michael Anderson '03 and Ashleigh (Reibert) Anderson '04

Twenty-five years ago, we first connected outside the library at York. As a sophomore and junior, we could never have imagined that encounter would grow into 17 years of marriage, three incredible daughters, amazing adventures around the world, and even the opportunity to build a business together. We're so thankful that York is where our story began, and we'll always be grateful for the life that grew from that moment on the Hill.





York Philanthropy Spotlight

Together, We Rise. Together, We Soar.

Every school has a campus. What makes York extraordinary is its community.

This year, our theme—**Stronger Together. In Full Flight.**—celebrates the people and relationships that give York its lift. Like Falcons, we gain strength, lift, and momentum together. Whether you're stepping onto campus for the first time, cheering from the sidelines, mentoring a student, volunteering your time, reconnecting as an alumnus, or investing in York's future, every act of connection helps move our community forward.

Together, we are building more than a school. We are strengthening a community where every person belongs, every contribution matters, and every connection helps shape the future. Because when we move forward together, York reaches its greatest heights.

Throughout the year, you'll see this spirit reflected across every facet of York—from classrooms and athletics to the arts, philanthropy, alumni engagement, and community celebrations. It is a reminder that each of us has a role in helping York soar and that, together, we accomplish more than any one of us could alone.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Here's to a year of rising together, soaring farther, and reaching new heights.

GIVE NOW

In Memoriam

Stuart Pearson Satchell

August 16, 1958 - July 10, 2026

Stuart and his wife, Yvette, are the proud parents of Emma Satchell '16. Stuart was a true Carmel native whose lifelong passion was the outdoors. Wherever he went, he made friends.

The community he cultivated fed his soul - no matter where he spent his time. He loved deeply, was deeply loved in return, and will be greatly missed.

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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