



From the Hill | September 2026

Head of School Spotlight

Dear Members of the York Community,

As the late-summer sun warms our hilltop and the ocean breeze sweeps up from Monterey Bay, I'm writing to send my warmest greetings to the extended York family. The rich variety of our constituents, from current families to alumni from across our nearly seven decades of history, is one of the strengths of our institution. Regardless of when and how York has been part of your life, there is something timeless about our campus at the start of a new school year that would feel familiar to you—a rhythm of quiet mornings giving way to vibrant days filled with joy and laughter, and the unmistakable energy of a community diving headfirst into learning.

While York continues to evolve - with a new academic schedule, enhancements to our college counseling program, and the launch of our Distinguished Scholars initiative—the heart and soul of the school remain familiar to all who've been part of this community at any point in time. York School is soaring purposefully into the future while staying firmly grounded in the core values - honesty, respect, responsibility, and compassion - that have always been its hallmarks.

As if to prove this point, already in this young school year, some of the perennial elements of the York experience have manifested themselves:

- **In the Arts:** Our Chamber Choir has performed the National Anthem at venues ranging from Laguna Seca Raceway to the Monterey Bay Football Club's stadium.

- **In Athletics:** Our Falcon sports teams are off to an outstanding start. We've already seen early victories for several of our teams along with some hard-fought and valiant defeats.

- **In the Classroom:** Parents recently joined us for Back to School Night, and the overwhelming consensus was a sentiment you might recognize: "I wish I could go back to high school at York!" Our dedicated faculty continue to challenge and support students at the highest levels, preparing them not only to succeed academically, but also to be thoughtful, well-rounded contributors to the world.

All of these achievements are possible due to the unique and nurturing environment that exists within our beautiful surroundings. Because of those core values that have always defined York School, our students know that they can take bold risks and tackle new challenges, secure in the awareness that their friends and classmates will have their backs, come what may. This sense of safety is what has allowed generations of York students to grow into the best versions of themselves.

Thank you for being the foundation upon which this incredible institution continues to flourish.

Best wishes,



Matt Micciche
Head of School

York Enrollment Spotlight

Welcome to York Class of 2031!

Greetings. My name is Michael Borrowman, and I have the pleasure of teaching the 8th grade about Medieval World history. I will also teach these students Modern World History next year. Already, I have been so impressed by how industrious they are and how quickly they settle down for tasks. They are curious and interested and have already asked so many questions. I am also glad to see that they prefer to come up with their own thoughts and ideas rather than use AI. They are kind and supportive to each other and are tremendous fun to be involved with.

York Student Spotlight

Senior Sunrise

by Yehuda Cruz and Maya Barahona

The Class of 2027 started the school year with an eventful Senior Sunrise, a tradition in the senior class, where students gather together in the dark of the morning to watch the sun rise on the day and which signifies the beginning of their last year of high school.

As the sun rose, the members of the Class of 2027 gathered in the Gawain Family Outdoor Theater to eat food, take lots of pictures, and hang out with friends, classmates, and chaperones. There was an abundance of food, including piping hot pancakes fresh off a camping griddle, delicious pastries, hot chocolate, and more.



The Class of 2027 has always been such an enthusiastic and close group throughout our school years. Senior Sunrise was such a special moment for us seniors. Being together and sharing the moment truly brought our class closer together even more than we previously were.

At the end of the school year, the senior class will enjoy their last moments watching the sunset to end their journey in high school, but for now, we look forward to enjoying our last school year and making all the memories that will come with it!

York Alumni Spotlight

A Partnership Built at York

What makes York special isn't simply what happens in the classroom.

It's the relationships.

For many alumni couples, York became the place where they first met someone who would eventually become a lifelong partner. Years later, they still share memories of favorite teachers, school traditions, lifelong friends, and experiences that helped shape who they are today.

Their stories remind us that York's impact extends well beyond graduation. The values learned here—curiosity, resilience, kindness, and community—continue to influence lives, careers, families, and future generations.

Much like peregrine falcons that return to familiar places year after year, alumni often find themselves returning to York. They attend reunions, volunteer, support students, and remain connected to the community that played such an important role in their lives.

York is more than a school. It is a place where meaningful relationships begin and continue to grow.

Peter Lee '03 and Ashley Berry '02

The flashback / flashforward mechanism is common in storytelling but can be confusing, so remember the years 1998, 2020, 2022, and 2026.

In 2022 Ashley Berry and Peter Lee got married in Carmel with their families and began the rest of their lives.

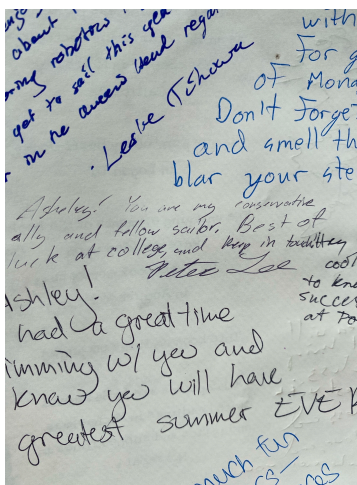
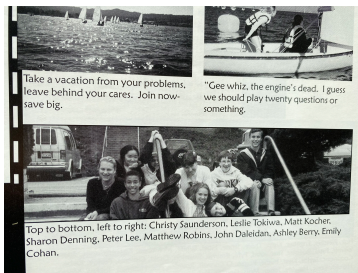
In 2020 – in the midst of the pandemic – Peter finally read a Facebook message Ashley had sent three months earlier, and soon after they went on their first unofficial date, trekking across a frozen lake and hiking up and down a number of snowy mountains on a beautiful winter weekend in New Hampshire. Ashley likes to emphasize that it was nine hours and we came back in the dark; Peter just remembers that it was a lovely hike.

In 1998 Ashley was a freshman at York and Peter was an eighth grader. They sailed together, including capsizing into the frigid Pacific while dodging hungry seals; debated liberals, sometimes at JSA (Peter wrote in Ashley's senior yearbook "Ashley! You are my conservative ally and fellow sailor, best of luck at college and keep in touch! Peter Lee"); sawed away at string instruments in orchestra; and learned chemistry together from Mr. Fink. They never dated, but they did become friends (and Ashley says she had a small crush on Peter that she

harbored off and on for eighteen years; Peter says Ashley was an “older woman” (in fact only 6 months, but anyway)).

Now in 2026 they are happy that York helped prepare them for their professional careers (Ashley went to Pomona (with Will Swanson '02 and Gabe Klapman '02 – her York senior prom date!) and then medical school (UCSD, then UCLA residency) to become an anesthesiologist and is a partner in private practice; Peter went to Harvard and then MIT for a master's and loves building things in quantitative finance). But they are happier that York laid the foundation of their connection so that they can spend the rest of their lives with together with their children, Ethan (3) and Audrey (1).

That is too sappy an end to this life update, so we will close, in a rather York way, with something silly and something serious. Silly, by noting that the Lee boys, Peter and Hans, together married 8% of the girls of the York class of 2002 (20% of the subset of the '02 York class that started in eighth grade!), and they are grateful to have each other and their families (shoutout to Courtney Lee née Clark '02 and their daughters, Emmaline, Charlotte, and Lilibeth) in their lives. And also serious: we both had a great time at York, and it is worth highlighting some of our favorite things: our classmates, our teachers (who were invested in individual students' success and personal growth – and some of whom are still there!), the high standards of academic excellence, and the sense that you could be yourself. But we are still most grateful that we met each other at York. (Yes, we know that is a sentence fragment. But when you know the rules you can break them, right? Maybe? And definitely too many sentence fragments. And what would Mr. Murray say!!?)





A Journey Begins

Marisol Chiu '44 began her journey to becoming a York alumna by making her first visit to the Sunny Hilltop with her parents, Harry Chiu '08 and Chantal Chiu. She also loved her keychain bear!



Keep Us Up-to-Date on Your Life!

We'd love to hear from you! Whether you're embarking on a new career, raising a family, pursuing a passion, or simply enjoying the next chapter of life, your story is an important part of the York community. Please take a few minutes to share an update with us—let us know where life has taken you, what you're doing, and some of the experiences that have shaped you since your time at York. We're always excited to celebrate the accomplishments, adventures, and journeys of our alumni and to stay connected with the people who make the York community so special.

You can update your contact information [here](#) or reach out and email us directly [here](#).

York Philanthropy Spotlight



Want to be part of bringing the Gala back? Contact [Michelle Lange](#), Assistant Director of Philanthropy, to join the 2027 Gala Committee.

The York Fund: Where Generosity Meets Opportunity

A York education comes to life every day—in classrooms, on stages and playing fields, through mentorship, and in moments of discovery.

The York Fund helps make those moments possible.

Tuition alone does not cover the full cost of a York education. Annual giving helps bridge that gap, providing flexible resources to support the students, programs, and opportunities that make York exceptional.

Throughout the year, we'll share stories of philanthropy in action and ways our community can make a meaningful impact.

Every gift begins with a conversation about what matters to you and what you hope to make possible at York.



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