

# 59<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT CLASS OF 2023

Saturday, May 27, 2023  
11:00 a.m.



**York**  
SCHOOL

# Class of 2023

Aria Kelly Asmuth	Zola Hoffmeister
Vanessa Barragan	Wuyue Huang
Lily Dale Berrysmith	Robert Alexander Julian
Cass Jacana Brent-Nurse	Chamberlain Douglas Key
Maya Angelina Brent-Nurse	Quincy Michelle Key
Adrianna Brown	Myra Vong Khieu
Eli Covell Campbell	Benjamin Louis Lakind
Karla Gisselle Cardenas	Annie Barclay Lin
Ryan Maxwell Dicus	Ian Alexander Partlow
Josef Rondeli Elyoussoufi	Nikolas Nathan Peralta
Nayeli Farias	Tristan Thoreau Von Pfleger
Qijin Gao	Jingtong Sheng
Jack Owen Germann	Joseph Lawrence Smock
Madeleine Sophia Gill	Sophie Marie Sukyas
Allison Griffin	Alondra Valdes
Jiawei Guo	Hanyou "Hannah" Xu
Maya Gupta-Lemus	Tianyi Zhang
Simon James Henrard	Joseph Zhao
Faith Evan Hill	Anbang "Brian" Zheng

# 2023 Commencement

## Procession of the Class of 2023

Greeting Doug Key, Head of School

Welcome Maddie Gill '23, Student Body President

"Another Room in  
Your Head," York School Choir

from *Alice by Heart*,  
written by Sheik and Sater

Valedictory Address Joseph Zhao '23

Charge to the Class June Trachsel

Presentation of Awards York Faculty

Recognition of Service Doug Key, Head of School

"Landslide"  
Arr. by Aria Asmuth,  
written by Stevie Nicks  
York School Choir Seniors

Welcome New Alumni Victor Ochoa '93

Awarding of Diplomas Norelle Boyce, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Doug Key, Head of School  
Jon Zeljo, Director of Teaching and Learning

Class of 2023 Farewell Simon Henrard, Class of 2023 President

Closing Doug Key, Head of School

Recessional York School Jazz Band



### HONOR REGALIA LEGEND

Red & Black: Honor Roll Recognition

Blue & Green: Distinguished Global Scholar

Red & Yellow: Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica

Blue, White & Red: La Société Honoraire de Français

Dark & Light Purple: National Chinese Honor Society

Honor Pin: Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society

# York School Awards

*Presented at the Awards Ceremony on May 23, 2023*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARD

### **The Rising Falcon Award**

*Presented to a rising senior who shows great character and extraordinary academic promise*

Normandy Filcek '24

## ACADEMICS

### **Honor Roll Recognition**

*Presented to seniors who have earned honor roll recognition for at least six of eight semesters during high school*

Aria Asmuth '23, Vanessa Barragan '23, Lily Berrysmith '23,  
Cass Brent-Nurse '23, Adrianna Brown '23, Ryan Dicus '23, Qijin Gao '23,  
Maddie Gill '23, Jiawei Guo '23, Wuyue Huang '23, Robert Julian '23,  
Myra Khieu '23, Ian Partlow '23, Jingtong Sheng '23, Joe Smock '23,  
Joe Zhao '23, Anbang Zheng '23

### **English Award**

Cass Brent-Nurse '23

### **History Award**

Adrianna Brown '23

### **World Languages Awards**

Mandarin Chinese – Jonny Goldberg '24

French – Adrianna Brown '23

Spanish – Alondra Valdes '23

### **Kylan Alexander Huffman '90 Humanities Award**

*Presented to a rising senior who demonstrates excellence in the humanities, including English, history, and language*

Marie-Claire Davenport '24

# York School Awards

*Presented at the Awards Ceremony on May 23, 2023*

## **Mathematics Award**

Jonny Goldberg '24

## **R.P. Balles York School Mathematics Scholars**

*Recognizes the two most outstanding seniors in mathematics*

Jiawei Guo '23 and Joe Smock '23

## **Science Awards**

Biology – Sebastian Del Toro '24

Chemistry – Robert Julian '23

Physics – Jonny Goldberg '24

## **ARTS**

### **Instrumental Music Award**

David Oliver '24

### **Vocal Music Award**

Aria Asmuth '23

### **Theatre Award**

Lily Berrysmith '23 and Cass Brent-Nurse '23

### **Visual Arts Award**

Maddie Gill '23

### **Head of School Collection**

Ian Partlow '23

# York School Awards

*Presented at the Awards Ceremony on May 23, 2023*

## ATHLETICS

### York Sportsmanship Awards

Vanessa Barragan '23, Karla Cardenas '23, Nayeli Farias '23,  
Maddie Gill '23, Allison Griffin '23, Alondra Valdes '23,  
Wuyue Huang '23, Joe Smock '23, Joseph Zhao '23, Niko Peralta '23,  
Jingtong Sheng '23, Angbang Zheng '23

### The Falcon Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Athletics

Maya Brent-Nurse '23, Zola Hoffmeister '23, Robert Julian '23, Quincy Key '23,  
Myra Khieu '23, Tristan Pfleger '23

### York Cup

*An endowed award that honors two non-senior students who have distinguished themselves in athletics*

Taiga Minami '24 and Samantha Ortiz-Naranjo '24

### The Ben Doyle Award

Sebastian Del Toro '24

## SERVICE

### The Maurine Church Coburn Award for Community Service

Maddie Gill '23

# Supporting York's Mission

We are grateful for support from York's community of friends and donors — alumni, parents and grandparents, trustees, faculty and staff, community members, foundations, and businesses. Our donors ensure York provides educational programs of the highest quality, tuition assistance, new technology, classroom materials, faculty enrichment, vibrant arts and athletic programs, and campus enhancements.

We appreciate all of our donors and recognize below those who have created named endowed funds, provided named scholarships, or joined York's James R. Valentine Legacy Society. Their generous contributions ensure the well-being of the school we all love.

## Endowed Funds

Aqeel Family Financial Aid Endowment

Atwood Family Endowment

STEAMships, Sponsored by an Endowment given by William B. Atwood

Peggy Downes Baskin Endowment for Financial Aid

Margaret Pardee Bates Endowment for Financial Aid

Roger Bowen Endowment Fund for Faculty Support

Father Emod Brunner Scholarship Fund

William McCaskey Chapman and Adaline Dinsmore Chapman

Foundation Endowed Fund

Maurine Church Coburn Foundation Endowed Fund

Alfred Diaz-Infante Endowment for Financial Aid

Joanne Doyle Scholarship Fund

Norman R. Ehmann Scholarship Fund

Richard D. Enemark Endowed Scholarship

Lewis L. Fenton Endowed Scholarship

Janet Lynn Fisher '74 Memorial Financial Aid Endowment

Edward E. Ford Foundation Endowment

W. Edward Gallwey Scholarship Fund

Howard Goodkin Scholarship

Chuck Harmon and Elizabeth Miles Financial Aid Endowment

William Randolph Hearst Foundation Endowed Scholarship

Lt. Kylan Jones-Huffman '90 Scholarship

W.M. Keck Foundation Endowed Scholarship

Henry M. Littlefield Scholarship Fund

## **Endowed Funds cont'd**

Catherine L. & Robert O. McMahan Foundation Endowment Fund  
Mericos Foundation Endowed Student Aid Fund  
Donalinda Merillat Endowment Fund  
William Pomeroy Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Philip H. Rhinelander Fund  
Marshall Steel, Sr. Endowed Scholarship Fund  
Nicholas Sturch Endowment for Financial Aid  
DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Foundation Financial Aid Fund  
Karen Weitzman Scholarship Fund  
York Cup Endowment for Athletic Excellence  
York School Faculty Support Endowment  
York School Financial Aid Endowment  
Endowed Fund for Campus Maintenance

## **Constance H. Bishop Society**

*Acknowledging donations of \$10,000 or more that supported one or more financial aid awards in this academic year*

William McCaskey Chapman & Adaline Dinsmore Chapman Foundation  
The Estate of Sharon Damon  
Jeanne and Samuel Gesumaria  
Beverly and Lyman Hamilton  
Robert and Sheron Long

## **James R. Valentine Legacy Society**

*Appreciating those individuals who have remembered York in their estate plans*

Anonymous  
Robert P. Balles  
Peggy Downes Baskin  
Estate of Margaret Pardee Bates  
Estate of Nancy Benham  
Kennon and Roger Bowen  
Patrick Brent  
Kevin and Beth Brookhouser  
Jason Burnett '94 and Melissa Burnett  
Agnes Chien  
Marian and Gordon Clemens  
Shirley Coly  
Mary Kay Higgins Crockett



## James R. Valentine Legacy Society cont'd

Jacqueline Cruz  
Estate of Sharon Damon  
Tomika Anne Dew '76  
Bill and Nancy Doolittle  
Kristine Edmunds  
Estate of Lewis Fenton  
Estate of Lowell Figen  
Nancy and William Fisher  
Jackie and Philip Frey  
Ellen and Paul Gaucher  
Jeanne and Sam Gesumaria  
Estate of Cecilia Graham  
Hector Grijalva  
Susie and Rob Gularte  
Debbie Hale and Andrew Ward  
Estate of Anne Hammond  
Chuck Harmon and Elizabeth Miles  
Estate of Monte Harrington  
Estate of Homer L. Heald  
Elizabeth and Joseph W. Heston  
Joseph Heston '04 and Kathryn Heston  
Estate of The Reverend David S. Hill  
Estate of Frederick Hofsas  
Estate of Edda Sislain Kaudy  
Blythe and Peter Kieffer  
Leonard N. Laub and Yvonne Ascher  
Douglas C. Lee  
Estate of Lloyd W. Lowrey, Jr.  
Estate of William H. McCullough  
Estate of Donalida Merillat  
Stephen Meyer '73  
Estate of Norman William Miller  
Benjamin Morgan '90  
Estate of Margaret L. Musser  
Mark Myers '73 and Barbara Myers  
Margarite Papenhoefer  
Eve Paretsky '91 and Karl Knaub  
Jane Paulsen  
Estate of Henrietta Pearce

## **James R. Valentine Legacy Society cont'd**

Estate of Stanley Pearce

Estate of Robert S. Ray

Stephanie Regevig and Wes Scheibly

Estate of J. Jackson Riggs

Karen and David Rossum

Edwin K.S. Ryu '69 and Julie Satake Ryu

Matthew Simis '88 and Michael Gray

Estate of Pauline S. Sinclair

Christine Sinnott

Estate of William Smith '74

Nicholas Sturch

Lawrence Tartaglino

Estate of James R. Valentine

Steven Webster

Julia Wedekind

Jamylonn and Mark Willaman

Nelly and Lance Wright

# York Commencement History

In 1959, York School opened its doors in Pacific Grove with 12 boys in the 7th grade. The School moved to its current location in 1964 and the next year held its first commencement ceremony. On June 12, 1965, 11 members of the Class of 1965 received their diplomas and were celebrated as the young school's first graduates.

In 1970, York became co-ed and three girls who enrolled as seniors that year graduated in 1971. York's first female valedictorian was Marianne Gawain in 1976. Including the Class of 2023, York has had a total of 75 valedictorians.

The first commencement, and almost all subsequent ones, was celebrated in the Coburn Commons. Only twice has the ceremony been held indoors due to inclement weather—in 1993 and 2012. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, commencement was held in the upper parking lot, and it was held in the Upper Field in 2021. York



Falcons are always resilient! The school started a new tradition in 2022, holding commencement in the Gawain Family Theater for the first time.

For the past 18 years, the ceremony has increasingly focused on our students and teachers. Featured speakers are members of the graduating class and a faculty member selected to speak by the graduates. The role of the faculty speaker is to deliver a "charge" to the graduates as they commence the next chapter in their lives.

Finally, the graduates are welcomed to the York Alumni Community by a representative from the ranks.

To date, 2,041 students have graduated from York School. Today, we add 38 more graduates to our alumni community, the Class of 2023. We commend this year's graduating class and look forward to seeing where their paths lead them. Congratulations!

# Thank You!

We are grateful to Caroline and Mark Cusenza,  
Hetty and Scott Yelland, and the Junior Class Parents  
for the floral decorations.



**We inspire and prepare a diverse community of  
creative, independent thinkers.**