

# Learning by Doing



The Costa Rica  
IMPACT REPORT  
2022-2023  
Climate Curriculum



Dear York School Community,

This past February, as a chaperone for our inaugural 10th grade trip to the Council on International Educational Exchange's (CIEE) Monteverde campus in Costa Rica, I planted a banana tree in the middle of the cloud forest. There was something satisfying about digging my own hole in the rich soil on a verdant slope in the middle of Central America and planting a juvenile tree by hand. It felt productive and useful.

Prior to planting our individual trees, in several sessions in class, we learned from the CIEE scientists about the vital role trees serve in absorbing carbon dioxide, a primary cause of global warming. Therefore, planting more trees, like we did in Costa Rica, means capturing more carbon dioxide, which can mitigate climate change. Key to our curricular approach for this immersive travel program was combining classroom instruction with experiential learning—in our view, this is a useful pairing of methods to be utilized across our entire curriculum for helping students understand ideas and concepts and putting those ideas and concepts into practice.

In addition to reading about Costa Rica in this Impact Report, you will also learn about our other successful efforts to design experiences where students are learning by doing—from our competitive Robotics program to our top-notch musical performances to our award-winning service learning program. Blending engaging classroom content and theory with interactive experiences reinforces content and theory as well as builds teamwork, increases motivation, and enables students to retain information and knowledge more effectively. Athletes and musicians, for instance, are often coached to implement particular skills or techniques. Then, they practice those skills and techniques in real-world situations, either during rehearsal, practices, concerts, or games. This approach also works in math, science, history, language, English, and the arts.

Underlying our schoolwide Learning Outcomes created last year is the idea that students will achieve the outcomes via a variety of teaching and learning methods. Fundamental, however, to their success will be providing them with enough enriching hands-on, task-oriented experiences to strengthen their skills, knowledge, and understanding. As you read the stories in this annual magazine, I hope you discover how our faculty and staff are transforming our students into confident and authentic leaders, both individually and collectively, by offering them direct experiences that bolster their learning.

York School's extraordinary performance begins with a caring, dedicated, and professional faculty and staff who work with motivated and talented students. But our accomplishments are only possible with the financial support of its present and past families, alumni, trustees, and community proponents. Every year at the end of the Impact Report, we highlight and thank our donors for their generosity because without the commitment of all of our contributors, our program would stall. I am grateful for your interest in York School and thankful for your continued support of our bright, curious, kind, and driven students. I hope you enjoy reading this year's Impact Report.

With gratitude and excitement,

Doug Key  
Head of School



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# FALCONS FLY BEYOND CAMPUS

## SERVICE LEARNING AT YORK

By Maia Thielen, Communications  
and Marketing Manager

Service Learning at York is not only an integral part of our curriculum, but of our clubs and student community, as well. This year, Project Light—a student-led club focused on giving back beyond the York campus—organized a variety of service days. They volunteered at Last Chance Mercantile in Marina (the proceeds of which go to the Veterans Transition Center), partnered with the Hispanic Culture Club to bring donations to families displaced by the disastrous flooding in the Pájaro/Watsonville communities, and executed a beach clean up day in May!

The York Tech Squad—a student service club dedicated to helping the community with technology usage and online safety—went to organizations such as The Park Lane Assisted Living community in Monterey to give presentations on topics such as password safety, avoiding internet scams, and protecting one's credit.

Speaking of technology, the Code+Design class completed



another successful project partnership with MY Museum. This year's endeavor was an installation about local birds, which placed wooden fowl such as a peregrine falcon and California quail amongst the "treetops" of the youth museum's permanent exhibits. All the birds were custom designed, programmed, fabricated, and painted by York students. Of the long-term partnership between York and the museum, MY Museum Executive Director, Lauren Cohen, shared, "We have loved working with the students and faculty of York over the years! Mr. Brookhouser's class has added so much to our museum, and it is inspiring to see the level of creativity and problem-solving these students develop over their four years of high school."

On February 22, the whole school embarked on Service Learning Day during which groups of students were deployed to nonprofit organizations around Monterey County. At the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, students assisted in the archives, manned the front desk, organized the gift shop, helped bring flyers to local businesses, and learned about the mythical







man himself, John Steinbeck. A few blocks away at Dorothy's Kitchen, a full-service kitchen which provides meals for the unhoused, students prepared lunch, assembled healthy plates, and greeted guests as they entered to enjoy a meal at this essential organization.

Another group worked in the warehouse of the Food Bank for Monterey County and assembled bags of food for the front shop before heading to the Boys & Girls Club of Monterey County, where they helped facilitate after school activities for 2nd-5th graders. Some students spent their service day in the great outdoors at Carr Lake with the Big Sur Land Trust. There, they learned about the history of the property, plans for its development into a park, and worked on pulling invasive species



and replacing them with native plants. Falcons at the Village Project organized storage and primed wooden planting boxes for 2nd-4th graders to paint. Lastly, students at the Community Partnership for Youth created art projects, and headed to two local elementary schools to read to, craft with, and supervise the children in the Partnership's aftercare program.

We are proud of our Falcons' positivity, compassion, and conscientiousness!





# DIRECT FROM NEW YORK CITY!



## THE ARTS AT YORK

By Spencer Williams, Arts  
Department Chair

During the 2022–23 school year, York had the extraordinary opportunity to be the first high school to get the exclusive production rights to the Off-Broadway musical *Alice by Heart*. Direct from New York City to York, the premiere gave our Falcons the chance to create characters from scratch—a gift very few professional actors receive, let alone high school students. It was a historic milestone for York and an invaluable enterprise for our students. *Alice by Heart* was presented at the Gawain Family Theater on May 15th to a sold-out 350-person audience.

Before the show, audience members were invited to view the beautiful Spring Visual Arts Showcase in the Library, curated by Mr. Gerard Martin and Mr. Ian Martin '90, which presented student work from York's visual arts classes. There were incredible paintings, drawings, photographs, and more on display, and participants were encouraged to vote for the "Best of Show," which was awarded to Lily Gill '25, Charlie Hamper '25, Emmi McAdams '24, and Hazel Herzog '25. Earlier this year, three York students won awards at the Carmel High School

Arts competition, and Marie Claire Davenport '24 curated an exhibit of works by Stanton MacDonald-Wright.

Other highlights include Choir and Chamber Choir performances at the Santa Barbara and Carmel Missions, a holiday set at the Portola Hotel, and a concert in Disneyland's California Adventure during York's Southern California Choir tour in March 2023. Our Musical Theatre Production class presented *The World According to Snoopy!* to three sold-out houses in the Gatanaga Theater, and guest director Mickie Mosley produced a fall performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in November 2022.





**WATCH YORK'S PRODUCTION OF  
*ALICE BY HEART***



**WATCH YORK'S  
"DISNEY DAZZLE MEDLEY"  
DURING THE SPRING CONCERT**



# THE FORCE WITHIN

TEDXYORKSCHOOL  
2023

By Kevin Brookhouser, Director of  
Technology & Innovation

Once again, the courageous speakers at TEDxYorkSchool 2023 left the audiences in the theater and on the livestream enthusiastic and inspired to find the force within themselves to release their creativity and discover their true selves.

We warmed up the crowd with a demonstration of ChatGPT and asked it to complete various tasks related to our theme. For many in the audience, it was the first time they had seen the AI language model in action. Then, thanks to many cat photo submissions from the York community, we played CatGPT, where audience members were asked to identify whether a cat image on the screen was a real York family cat or an AI-generated cat.

The event was MC'd by the charismatic Trevor Bernardino '25, who confirmed for the viewers on the livestream that the members of the audience were indeed human. Trevor introduced a diverse group of speakers who touched upon human behavior, decision-making, and our rapidly evolving world. Orion Godfrey-Dacuyan '24 delved into the psychology behind our fears of leaving comfort zones, questioning their nature and role in our personal growth. Bodhi Brunings '24 championed the essence of risk-taking, highlighting the internal barriers that deter us from pivotal moments.

In a world of infinite choices, Rose Finn '24 explored the "Paradox of Choice," a theory suggesting that an overload of options can leave us more discontented. Normandy Filcek '24 discussed the intricate layers of self-acceptance and the significance of embracing one's intersectional identity. John Dennis, leveraging his expertise at Walt Disney Imagineering, demonstrated how music has been a timeless vessel for storytelling. Brianna Bailey '24 examined our quirky perceptions of time, from the endless microwave minute to the fleeting joyous moments. As 2023 sees AI's meteoric rise, York alumni and UC Berkeley students Danica Tang '21 and Issac Chen '21 gave insights into succeeding in this AI-dominated era. Lastly, Maria Elena Mejia Contreras '24 took attendees on a personal journey, juxtaposing the expectations of societal norms with individual passions, using the canvas of human anatomy and performing arts to paint her narrative.\*

You can view the entire event and each edited talk at [tedxyorkschoo.org/23](https://tedxyorkschoo.org/23).

*\*This paragraph was written through a collaborative effort by the TEDxYorkSchool team and its AI copilot, ChatGPT.*







*“TEDxYorkSchool talks knit our York family, students, teachers, alumni and the greater community together, like no other event. The presenters share with us a facet of humanity through their own personal lens. The stories are funny, heartfelt, curious, and sometimes reveal very trying circumstances and life events. I often wonder, ‘Who gains the most during TEDx?’ Is it the presenters who distill an idea into a concise and beautifully presented talk? Or us, the lucky audience who learn, grow, and create new connections with these presenters? Either way, I hope to never miss the TEDx evening at York.”*

**HEATHER OLIVER, TRUSTEE  
AND PARENT TO JULIET '22 & DAVID '24**



# THE CLASS OF 2023

## COMMENCEMENT

By Maia Thielen, Communications  
and Marketing Manager

On May 27, 2023, York celebrated its 59th Commencement in the Gawain Family Theater. Accompanied by Sir Edward Elgar's classic Pomp and Circumstance march, the 38 members of the Class of 2023 processed to their places on stage before Head of School, Doug Key, and Student Body President, Maddie Gill '23, welcomed the audience.

Next, the York School Choir performed "Another Room in Your Head," from *Alice by Heart*, the amateur premiere of which had just been performed in the very same theater here at York. Valedictorian Joseph Zhao '23 delivered his address on gratitude for the York community, followed by Math and Science faculty member June Trachsel, whose speech celebrated balance, finding perspective and value in the unexpected turns of one's journey, and ended with a "L'Chaim" toast to life!

Awards were presented to senior parents Cindy Schroeder—also a York employee—and John Smock (York Parents of the Year), Adrianna Brown '23 (Head of School Award), Hanyou (Hannah) Xu '23 (Faculty Award), Joseph Smock '23 (Nicholas Sturch Award for General Excellence), and faculty members were recognized for their years of service. A group of seniors then performed "Landslide" by Stevie Nicks as arranged by our own Kieran Asmuth '23, and alum Victor Ochoa '93 welcomed our newest alumni who then received their diplomas from Chair of the Board of Trustees, Norelle Boyce; Head of School, Doug Key; and Director of Teaching and Learning, Jon Zeljo.

Class of 2023 President, Simon Henrard, bid a fond farewell to York on behalf of his class, and finally, Doug Key orchestrated the turning of the tassels before sending our graduates off into the next chapter of their lives to the tune of the York Jazz Band. Congratulations to all!





HOORAY!





# ALUMNI REUNION

## CELEBRATING CLASSES ENDING IN 2 AND 7!

By Michelle Lange, Philanthropy Operations Manager



Seeing friends from the past, reminiscing about days spent on the Sunny Hilltop, and catching up on each other's lives is what a high school reunion is all about. The 2022 Alumni Reunion was no exception! We celebrated our milestone classes of '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, '12, '17, and '22 and started the reunion with a Virtual Mixer on Thursday evening with people joining in the fun from around the world. Friday, we celebrated A Day at York with 12 alumni visiting campus and starting out the morning working alongside current students at Break with a game introduced by Doug Key, Head of School, "A Minute to Win It." Hilarity and overall camaraderie ensued as teams challenged each other in the game. At the end of the game, Will Lee '95 and Maya Brent-Nurse '23 were declared champions! Afterward, the alumni headed off to classes and experienced going "Back to School" for the day. Alumni were heard to remark that they may have even learned something new during their time on campus! To end the event in style, alumni, along with their guests, faculty, and staff joined together at Stokes Adobe in Monterey (owned by Alumna Sarah Orr '97) to raise a glass to the years that have passed and to look to what the future has in store for these creative, independent thinkers.





*"I would argue that there is no person more associated with York School than Nicholas Sturch."*

DOUG KEY



## RENAMING THE "AUXILIARY AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE" TO THE "NICHOLAS STURCH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE"

By Erin White, Director of Philanthropy and Community Partnerships

Head of School, Doug Key, proudly announces the "Nicholas Sturch Award for Excellence," formerly known as the "Auxiliary Award for General Excellence," in honor of Mr. Nicholas Sturch's outstanding contributions. A surprise announcement during Reunion 2022 left Mr. Sturch and the York community deeply touched.

Mr. Sturch's influence extended into many different areas of life during his 45-year tenure at York; he taught English, Latin, ancient history, geography, Greek, French, and art history. He also served as the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees, Secretary of the Board, a York soccer coach, the Academic Dean, and Assistant to the Head of School. His passion for learning fostered an atmosphere where academics thrived and spirits soared. Alumni through all decades continue to keep in regular touch with Mr. Sturch due to his influence in their lives.

In his retirement, Mr. Sturch continues to be an integral part of York life. His published works have their own section in our library and he still returns to campus bi-weekly to pick up mail from alumni and friends all over the world. He also personally provides for the maintenance of the old olive tree grove just beyond the Bishop Library. Mr. Sturch's philanthropy, primarily focused on financial aid, reflects his dedication to providing opportunities for students. He is one of York's most generous lifetime donors with 58 consecutive years of giving.

The renaming of the award recognizes Mr. Sturch's unwavering commitment and marks his name indelibly in the annals of York School's history. Nicholas, we love you and thank you!

Right: Frederic "Ric" Tower '65, one of Mr. Sturch's first students and the first recipient of the Auxiliary Award for General Excellence, now the Nicholas Sturch Award for Excellence.

Left: Joe Smock '23, most recent recipient of the Nicholas Sturch Award for Excellence, now at the University of Washington.







# WELCOME, NEW FACULTY

By Jon Zeljo, Director of Teaching  
and Learning



This year, we welcome three new faculty and two new staff members to York. These educators bring enthusiasm, expertise, and wide-ranging experiences to our campus.



## CANDI DESCHAMPS

Candi serves as York's new English Department Chair. Ms. Deschamps comes to us from the Nightingale-Bamford School, a K-12 girls' school in Manhattan, where she taught all grades from 5th grade through seniors. Ms. Deschamps also will be involved in some other curricular and co-curricular initiatives at York, especially around writing, including, notably, the revival of the York newspaper.



## TRISH DOON

Trish is the new Director of Finance and Operations. Ms. Doon has worked in independent school finance for over 20 years, including serving as the Chief Financial Officer at the Bancroft School (MA) and Business Manager at Falmouth Academy (MA). She not only brings a wealth of experience, she is very familiar with the area, having lived in the Monterey area in the past.



## ALLISON LAHL

Allison joins York as its new Director of Student Life. Before York, Ms. Lahl was at Pacific Ridge School in Carlsbad, CA, where she was 9th grade dean and taught 9th grade English, leading the 9th grade "Orations" public speaking project. She has extensive experience in, and is committed to, the important work schools do with social-emotional learning and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. At York, she will help lead initiatives on advisory, leadership, and student belonging.



## CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ

Christopher joins York as the new Jazz Band instructor. Mr. Lopez has worked in school music programs for the past decade, and is excited to continue the post-COVID momentum of York's Jazz Band.



## KATHY PRICE

Kathy joins the World Language Department as a one-year replacement to teach Spanish 1 and 2, and French 3. Ms. Price has lived abroad extensively, including in Spain and France, and in addition to translation and interpreting work, she has served as a long-term sub and replacement teacher for a variety of schools in the Bay Area.



# FAREWELL TO FACULTY



By Maia Thielen, Communications  
and Marketing Manager



**JENNIFER  
BERRY**

After nine years, Jennifer Berry decided to “graduate” from York with her daughter Lily '23. During her tenure, Jennifer taught a multitude of English and composition classes, continued the Sophomore Speech project, revived the Literary Magazine, *Ars Gratia Artis*, Poetry Out Loud, Cafe Night, and served as English department chair. We miss her wisdom and guidance!



**JOHN  
DANIEL**

During his 12 years at York, John Daniel taught French, Spanish, designed an anti-racist curriculum, was the student activities director, sponsor of Queers and Allies club, organized a trip to France and Spain, initiated the first academic honor societies, received a Gibson Research Fellowship, and received the outstanding faculty award for 2016. Happy next chapter and bon voyage, JD!



**VICKI  
NORMAN**

For 18 years, Vicki Norman wore many hats at York as an exemplary Accountant, HR Manager, and Tuition Assistance Coordinator with responsibilities such as general ledger, payroll and student billing, coordinating the financial aid program, banking, creating student enrollment contracts, and supporting the school as a pillar of the Business Office! We wish her a very happy retirement!



**FANA  
OLDFIELD**

Fana retired after an 18-year career of dedicated service to York School. A master of details and big picture thinker, she maintained a clean audit every year, led campus beautification projects, and contributed to strategic planning. She maintained the health of the institution, but always prioritized the students above all else. We miss her warmth, compassion, and commitment to our community.

## WE THANK OUR DEPARTING FACULTY FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE!

Simone Elema  
Lisa Fierman  
Andrew Glassco  
Marcia Pompan  
Stu Reynolds  
Cindy Schroeder











# YORK'S ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

## 30 YEARS OF YORK ATHLETES IN COLLEGE SPORTS

By Doug Key, Head of School

Since 1993, York School has sent 21 athletes to participate in college athletics, 19 who competed on Division 1 teams. Historically, York's academic reputation has overshadowed its athletic accomplishments. Yet, similar to the notoriety its performing and fine arts, math and science, and philanthropic programs have garnered over the years, the School's high-level, scholar-athletes have also been noteworthy.

In high school in Central California, performing at the premier level is an extraordinary accomplishment given that there are 152 high schools in our region, with the majority enrolling thousands of students. Although York has only historically enrolled about 200 students per year, our athletes have won 30 Central Coast Championships (CCS), with 23 being individual awards. Despite competing for a small school, York's college-level athletes have shined, including having Quincy Key '23 named this past spring as one of only five honorable mention female athletes of the year for the entire county for her accomplishments in basketball, water polo, volleyball, and swimming.

During the past three decades, many York athletes have excelled at the collegiate level. After winning three CCS swimming titles, Carrie Johnson '93 excelled as a breastroker at Cal-Berkeley, one of the top swim schools in the country. At the California state track meet, Kim Stone '99 won the state championship in the high jump, only one of four athletes to ever accomplish that feat from Monterey County. Kim went on to have an outstanding career as a track and field athlete at Stanford and currently holds the sixth best high jump record at one of the most prestigious athletic schools in the nation. Cameron Norton '05 was recently inducted into the Canisius College Hall of Fame because of her stellar softball career where she was a multiple all-tournament selection and finished in the top 10 all-time in several statistical categories. Finally, Josh Pompan '14

was the tennis team captain and All-Ivy League Second Team at the University of Pennsylvania, compiling over 100 division 1 victories during his tenure.

Since 2018, five York graduates have gone on to compete at the Division 1 level. Henry Blaul '18 had an outstanding scholastic swimming career that saw him finish in the top five in two events at the California high school state meet, which is one of the most competitive meets in the country. He committed to Northwestern, where he swam for two seasons and then transferred to USC to finish a productive career. This August, Michael Julian '22, CCS cross-country champion, began his sophomore season at UCSD, where he is one of the team's top runners. In addition to Henry and Michael, Connor Barringer '19 recently began his senior season as a swimmer at Seattle University and Quincy Key '23 launched her swim career at San José State University this fall.

Relative to its size, York has produced a talented group of elite scholar-athletes over the past three decades, a history which our school is very proud to embrace. Of course, the benefit of York's athletic program is that it serves all students. Our mission is to strive for the highest level of personal growth and athletic excellence and our program is built on both competition and participation, allowing students to improve their athletic abilities, work with teammates toward a common goal, practice sportsmanship, and seek competitive excellence, as we do in all of our programs. Go Falcons!

## SELECTED YORK SCHOOL ALUMNI WHO PARTICIPATED IN COLLEGE SPORTS

Carrie Johnson, Swimming, UC Berkeley (1993)  
Ryan McNelley, Cross Country, St. Mary's College of California (1994)  
Danielle Dupree, Soccer, UC San Diego (1999)  
Kim Stone, Track and Field, Stanford (1999)  
Chris King, Tennis, University of Oregon (2000)  
Danielle Ticoulat-Bowers, Track and Field, Claremont College (2000)  
Nathan Adams, Soccer, UC Davis (2002)  
Will Swanson, Cross Country and Track and Field, Claremont College (2002)  
Sophie Taylor, Track and Field, UC Davis (2002)  
Hilary Wilson, Soccer, Arizona State, Brown (2002)  
Saskia Nauenburg, Tennis, University of Washington (2003)  
Cameron Norton, Softball, Canisius (2005)  
Lexi Peacock, Softball, Yale (2008)  
Jessica Schanzer, Swimming, Connecticut College (2009)  
Garrett Cry, Swimming, Colorado College (2011)  
Josh Pompan, Tennis, Penn (2014)  
Henry Blaul, Swimming, Northwestern and USC (2018)  
Connor Barringer, Swimming, Seattle University (2019)  
Sophia Sanico, Rowing, Santa Clara (2020)  
Michael Julian, Cross Country, UC San Diego (2022)  
Quincy Key, Swimming, San José State (2023)



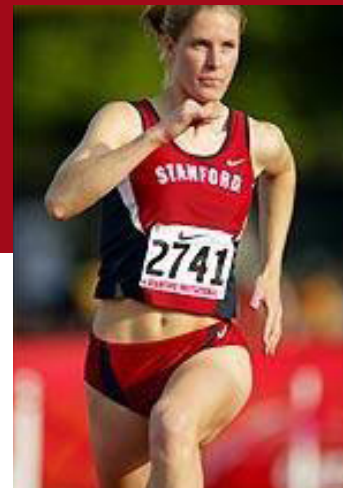
Quincy Key '23



Michael Julian '22



Josh Pompan '14



Kim Stone '99



# YORK PILOTS NEW LEADERSHIP CLASS

## LIFE, LEARNING, AND LEADERSHIP

By Dan Rubado, English Faculty  
and 8th Grade Dean

The 2022-23 school year included York's first dedicated academic leadership class. All 9th grade students took Life, Learning, and Leadership, or LLL, a challenging, cross-disciplinary class focused on the question "What makes an effective, ethical, informed, and intentional leader?"

Students looked at leadership not as a position, but as a pattern of specific behaviors that can be observed, learned, and improved upon, using Posner and Kouzes MICEE model of leadership as a guide. Since leaders make decisions that affect others, there was a focus on how we make decisions, and students considered that issue through the lenses of philosophy, ethics, sociology, cognitive science, psychology, behavioral science, and cultural studies.

Through accessible but challenging readings, podcasts, videos, and other resources, students engaged with experts ranging from Plato to Carol Dweck, building a toolbox of concepts through which to better understand their own leadership behaviors. After taking the course, students reported feeling more ready to step into leadership opportunities, more familiar with their own goals and decisions, and better prepared to consider tough issues around ethics and community needs.



# HOW TO CITIZEN AT YORK

By Allison Lahl, Director of Student Life

Drawing from Baratunde Thurston's reimagining of "citizen" as a verb, York seeks to prepare students to be citizen leaders. Thurston explains "how to citizen" through four pillars: "to citizen" is to participate, to invest in relationships, to understand power, and to value the collective.

York sees all students as citizen leaders, whether or not they serve in official leadership positions on campus, and they are given opportunities to explore what it means to be a leader within a community and to develop their own leadership skills, both in and out of the classroom. York students are encouraged to think about what leadership looks like in the science lab, around the Harkness table, in Path advisory, when working on a group project, or even when hanging out with friends. Similarly, students are challenged to expand their understanding of what constitutes a "good" leader, learning to value those qualities that often go unnoticed or unrecognized in leadership.

Every student has the capacity to be a citizen leader who makes a lasting impact on our school community, and York is committed to cultivating various forms of citizen leadership in each student.



**TO CITIZEN**

IS TO PARTICIPATE



**TO CITIZEN**

IS TO UNDERSTAND  
POWER



**TO CITIZEN**

IS TO INVEST IN  
RELATIONSHIPS



**TO CITIZEN**

IS TO VALUE THE COLLECTIVE





# WHAT SCHOOL COULD BE

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PRESENTED BY  
TED DINTERSMITH

By Jon Zeljo, Director of Teaching  
and Learning

On June 1, the York faculty were honored to welcome education innovation advocate, author, and filmmaker, Ted Dintersmith, to its year-end meetings. Joining by Zoom, Ted shared his background as, initially, a venture capitalist and, now, an advocate for improving education in the United States. He has spoken and written extensively on schools and the need to reimagine education, in the same vein as Sir Ken Robinson, with whom Ted was close. Ted made a splash with the 2015 critically-acclaimed documentary, *Most Likely to Succeed*, and followed that up with the 2018 bestselling book, *What School Could Be*. In the meeting with York faculty, Ted showed a clip from his documentary and facilitated a discussion based on his experiences traveling to all 50 states to learn about how schools are modifying programming in order to better prepare students

for the knowledge and skills they will need in the 21st century. These ideas align with some of York's initiatives over the past three years to bolster programming that is experiential and real-world in nature, such as the 10th grade trip to Costa Rica on sustainability, the new Distinguished Scholars Program, the Service Learning Internship requirement, and an emphasis on high-quality Project-Based Learning.



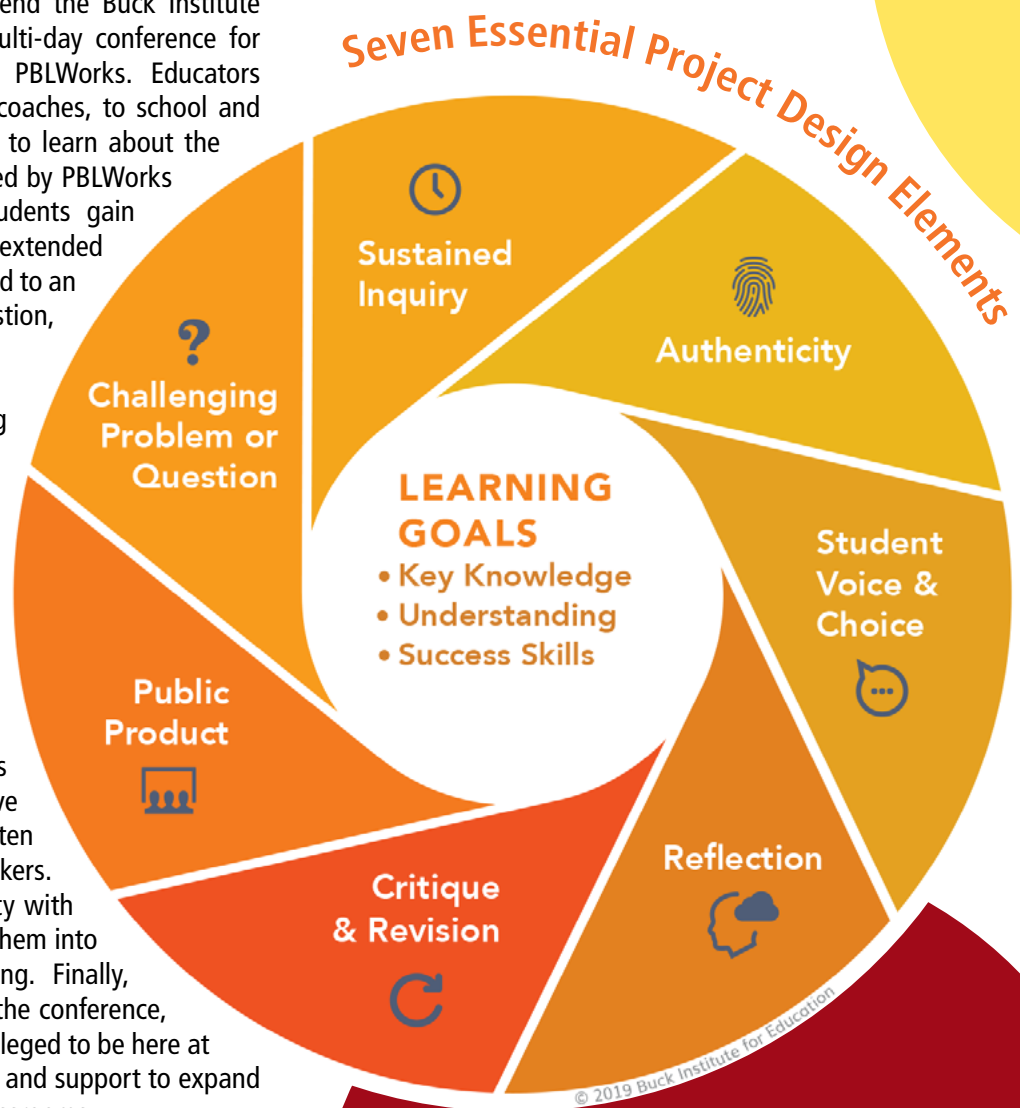
# THE GOLD STANDARD

## PBL WORLD 2023

By Maia Thielen, Communications & Marketing Manager

As June drew to a close and our students were off having summer adventures, History Teacher and 9th Grade Dean, Dr. Dan Gurska, and Math/Science Department Chair, Dr. Jeff Hanna, headed to Napa Valley to attend the Buck Institute for Education's PBL World 2023: a multi-day conference for Project-Based Learning presented by PBLWorks. Educators of all kinds—from K-12 teachers and coaches, to school and district leadership—gathered together to learn about the "Gold Standard Project Design" defined by PBLWorks as "a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge."

When faculty returned at the beginning of the 2023-24 school year, Gurska and Hanna shared the Gold Standard's Seven Essential Project Design Elements and their conference takeaways with their colleagues. Hanna encouraged York teachers to experiment with this type of project design, acknowledging that it takes time, planning, and strategy to execute in the classroom. Both felt this kind of learning addresses issues with equity, as students who thrive with Project-Based Learning are often neurodivergent and/or non-native speakers. Giving students agency and opportunity with projects such as these helps to launch them into authentic applications of their learning. Finally, after chatting with other educators at the conference, Gurska expressed he felt lucky and privileged to be here at York, where teachers have the freedom and support to expand the techniques and horizons of their classrooms.





# LEARNING BY DOING



## THE COSTA RICA CLIMATE CURRICULUM

By Maia Thielen, Communications and  
Marketing Manager

What can a small, idiosyncratic high school on the cool Central Coast of California do to fight what the World Health Organization has declared “the single biggest threat facing humanity?” Driven largely by human activity over the past 200 years, climate change now threatens a future of “intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms, and declining biodiversity,” as outlined by the United Nations.

One of York School’s answers to this daunting question is the Costa Rica climate curriculum: a week of experiential learning that highlights the scientific and social causes and consequences of the climate crisis and showcases how Costa Rican institutions have become world leaders in climate change mitigation and green economic practices. In the 2022-23 school year, the York class of 2025 journeyed to Monteverde, Costa Rica for the school’s inaugural launch of this innovative, immersive, and imperative global program.

Funded by a generous donation by founder of the Hampton-Brown Educational Publishing Company and the Global Navigator Scholarship Program at the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), Sherry Long, the Costa Rica climate curriculum expands York’s partnership with CIEE beyond the Global Navigator Summer Study Abroad program to their campus in Monteverde, Costa Rica. There, York students attend classes taught by local professors and professionals, develop research questions and solutions through field work, experience the famed Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Preserve, and conclude their academic adventure with research presentations on topics of their interest. Ms. Long shared that both the Costa Rica and Global Navigator programs she supports “*give York students experience in navigating the increasingly interconnected world that will be a part of their future.*”

Alongside 34 sophomore Falcons, the initial trip roster included Head of School, Doug Key; History Department Chair, Director of Global Programs, and Director of Service Learning, Elizabeth Siarny; World Languages Department Chair, John Daniel; World Languages faculty member and Distinguished Scholars Program Coordinator, Jenny Nadaner; and International Student Coordinator, Simone Elema.





Students began their climate curriculum journey with a tour of the CIEE campus, an orientation, and an introductory review course on global warming, which included a visit to the campus greenhouse, farm and fuel storage. They also got an up-close look at coffee beans planted by CIEE staff, which were drying in a greenhouse, and compared the temperatures in and outside the house for a visceral understanding of greenhouse gasses. Their next course, titled “Keeping it Cool: Introducing Climate Change Mitigation,” acquainted students with some of the tangible tactics that counteract the effects of global warming and other climatological concerns.

The messaging of the instruction had a stark influence on our sophomores, with some realizing that small changes at home can have a much greater significance. Kevin Kavalauskas '25 professed that *“going to the world center of climate change awareness was like a slap in the face to get me to consider the consequences of my actions more. I’ve been changed for the better from the core up upon returning from Costa Rica.”*

Other students experienced a different mindset evolution when presented with the concrete strategies available to fight climate disaster. In our contemporary media landscape, where doom and gloom are exploited to keep audiences hooked, efforts to enact change may seem futile to younger generations who bear much of the burden when it comes to combating this looming global catastrophe. That is a crucial element of the climate curriculum: that it concentrates on real world problem-solving applications.



*“Focusing on the positive aspects of climate mitigation brings much-needed hope to a world full of upsetting news about climate change every day.”*

**GAVIN JONES '25**





*"Focusing on the positive aspects of climate mitigation brings much-needed hope to a world full of upsetting news about climate change every day," said Gavin Jones '25. Oisín Burke '25 shared similar sentiments regarding the balance of the program: "I learned a ton about the negatives facing the climate, as well as things to be done to help mitigate climate change. My favorite part of the trip was learning about permaculture and seeing how the whole hotel was run so sustainably."*

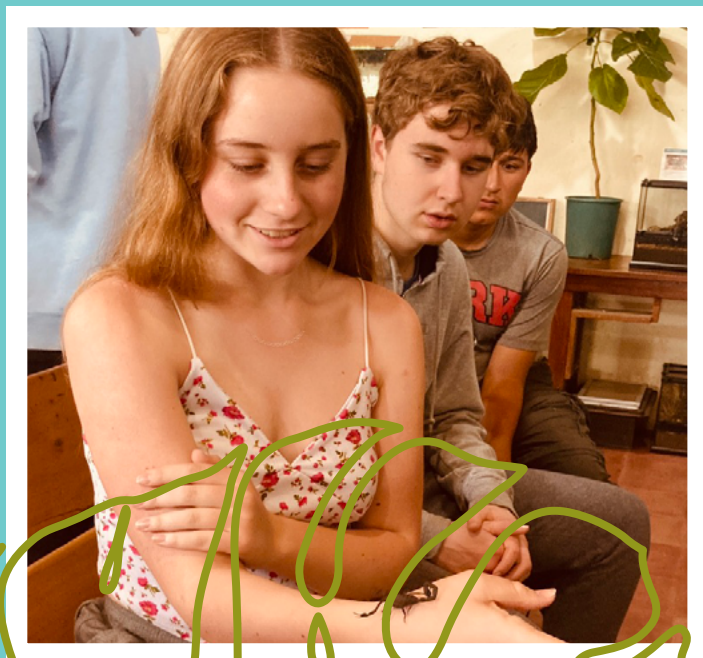
A trip to the nearby Valle Escondido Hotel demonstrated how the founder of the hotel used permaculture design principles to ensure that the hotel and the grounds are sustainably run. Permaculture is a conscious approach to land management that utilizes the natural ecosystem, with the goal of sustainable living and minimal waste. The hotel catches all the gray water it produces from the hotel laundry and uses local algae to filter it before watering their banana and plantain plants, which are harvested and served to the guests. Our Falcons then attended their next class, "Hidden Carbon," and ventured into the field to

learn about epiphytes—organisms that grow on the surface of plants—epiphyte ecology, and canopy soils. From there, they headed into the laboratory for macroinvertebrate identification using insects collected from the garden.

A major highlight of the trip was a visit to the Cloud Forest. Named for its fog and low-hanging clouds, the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve extends over 35,089 acres and contains over 100 species of mammals, 400 species of birds, and 1,200 species of amphibians and reptiles. It was a favorite moment for many. *"Seeing the wonderful birds and insects among the towering trees was a very grounding experience,"* said Charles Hamper '25. *"The largeness of it was amazing,"* recalled Jordan Jones '25.

Other memorable moments included ziplining through the forest canopy—which, while having little to do with climate mitigation, had much to do with courage, healthy risk-taking, peer support, and awe—and a day spent in a Butterfly Garden





with lessons and close-up interaction with other insects, as well.

Lastly, students gave their presentations on climate-related topics of their choosing, which they researched throughout the trip. Some of those presentations included "Uses of Grey Water to Improve Climate Change Mitigation and Better Soil," "The Reduction of Pesticide Consumption and Increased Sustainable Practices in Salinas, CA," and "Composting and Carbon Sequestration, CO2 Emissions and Costa Rican Transportation, Food Waste in Costa Rica and the United States, and Reusing Common Plastic Waste."

It is an ambitious expedition for an entire high school class to undertake, but the Costa Rica climate curriculum's benefits are manyfold. While a critical step in equipping the next generation to fight climate change, it also serves as a valuable community-building experience. As Esbeidy Rodriguez-Calvo '25 shared, "it was an experience you only get once...working and spending

time with [the class of 2025] has created a special bond between us." Additionally, it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to immerse themselves in an entirely new place. Emily Geiser '25 added, "I learned a lot culturally, just seeing how another country functioned...seeing how other people lived and how happy overall the country seemed really made an impact."

Perhaps the true magnitude of this landmark York program is best encapsulated by a final reflection from Kevin Kavalauskas '25: "I am eternally grateful. Taking risks and doing things that I ordinarily wouldn't or couldn't was really fun...The hotel outlook, the superman zipline, and the time I spent stargazing all gave me this surreal, solemn feeling that I would like to call a 'dawning moment.' Because in those moments, the experience dawns on you that you're in another country far from home, learning and doing things that you never could, and the beauty and gratitude hits you all at once. I'd say that it brings a tear to the eye, but the feeling is more like it brings calm to the soul."

# CIEE SUMMER

By Elizabeth Siarny, History Department  
Chair, Director of Global Programs, and  
Director of Service Learning

York's 19 CIEE Global Navigators of Summer 2023 shared their stories with the York community on October 2, highlighting their personal growth and memories. This year's cohort spoke about their experiences and the lessons learned during their summer studies abroad: growing independence, exploring passions, learning languages, making new friends, getting lost and finding your way back home.

Joining the ranks of our previous 125 York-CIEE alums, these adventurous students traveled to 14 distinct cities in 11 different countries. Studying material as diverse as theater, wildlife preservation, and global entrepreneurship, York students stretched themselves and returned to our campus with new skills, new knowledge, and new confidence. We are proud of our globally flying Falcons!



## LEARNING FROM NATURE

Tyler Heyermann '24, traveled to Botswana this summer, to build on his previous CIEE experience studying marine ecosystems and to continue deepening his understanding of ecology and biology. He shared his growing appreciation for nature and the outdoors from his experiences studying wildlife conservation in Botswana, saying *"I learned not to underestimate the wilderness."* While on the same trip, Ian Goncalves '24 *"went to war with the spiders in the Okavango Delta. They were all over our tents and nearly as big as our hands."* Whether riding mokoros (flat canoes, propelled by a pole across the water) or heading out on safari, York students returned home with new love and appreciation for the enormous variety of flora and fauna abroad and at home.







## LEARNING SELF-RELIANCE

Brandon Whaley, '25, laughed while talking about *"the consequences for not checking the weather app for the day."* While walking down the streets of Berlin and heading back to his global entrepreneurship classes, Brandon found himself and his friends without an umbrella during a sudden downpour. Nat Woods '24 pushed themselves out of their comfort zone, and headed to Kyoto, Japan with Aiden O'Brien '24. Nat shared that, as a senior, they are about to become more independent and this experience affirmed their abilities *"to adult."* Through experiences such as navigating unfamiliar cities with limited knowledge of the local language, ordering food, and checking the weather, Falcons gained a greater sense of self-reliance and a heightened level of self-trust during their summer adventures.

## LEARNING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Rowan Fogg '26 explored his interest in gaming in Seoul, South Korea, helping to design and host an esports tournament for the Overwatch 2 at the Gen.G stadium. The tournament *"pitted two teams of aspiring Overwatch pros training with the Gen.G team against each other... We had them play a couple of rounds and managed a faux stream and the logistics of the big screen displaying the game in the actual stadium."* After a day of training with the stadium staff, the students chose their roles for the tournament, and they were off to the races! Rowan recalled that *"we had to manage the tournament all by ourselves. The staff never stepped in during the actual tournament and we had to make sure we were doing all our roles ourselves, or in the case of who we elected as manager, make sure everyone else was doing their jobs right. It required a lot of collaboration and I think really helped bring the group together."*











# THE GLOBAL SCHOLARS PODCAST

HARMONIZING GLOBAL LEADERS AND FOSTERING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

By Jenny Nadaner, World Languages Faculty and Distinguished Scholars Program Coordinator

York School's Distinguished Global Scholars aren't just students; they are the leaders of tomorrow. These young individuals possess a deep understanding of global issues and a fervent commitment to social engagement. At York, they take control of their education, applying their knowledge to real-world situations. It's a place where creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving thrive, with year-long research, global education experiences, and community internships leading to a demonstration of expertise in their chosen fields.

In today's information-saturated world, seven exceptional students have harnessed the power of spoken word to share their journeys. Adrianna Brown '23, Kieran Asmuth '23, Ryan Dicus '23, Maddie Gill '23, Maya Gupta-Lemus '23, Annie Lin '23, and Nayeli Farias '23 invite you to join them on their exploration through the Global Scholars 2023 Podcast. This auditory adventure delves into interdisciplinary learning, global immersion, community engagement, and individual research. It provides distinctive perspectives on global issues that ignite their passions, and personal stories that reveal their growth as compassionate, skilled, and visionary leaders in our interconnected world.

These Distinguished Global Scholars embody cultural curiosity, breaking down barriers and preconceptions to embrace the rich tapestry of global diversity. Their immersive experiences and podcast narratives showcase their willingness to explore different cultures. A nuanced understanding of global issues and cultures forms the foundation of their journey. Take, for example, Kieran, who delves into social justice concerns affecting Hispanic communities in the U.S. Their podcast series, "Justice For All? ¿Justicia para todos?" amplifies the voices of Spanish-speaking and Latino communities in Monterey County, shedding light on the path to positive social transformation.

For these scholars, global citizenship is not just about acquiring knowledge; it's about actively participating in civic life and shouldering social responsibility. Annie envisions a social justice course at York School that empowers students to become socially aware leaders, echoing the mission of our Global Scholars. The podcast also highlights the diverse learning experiences, from Argentina, France, Spain, and Germany to our nearby Salinas community. Ryan, for instance, explores Argentina's economic "tango," providing insights into the nation's economic crisis and the phenomenon of the Dolór Blu. Maddie's proposal for a decolonial art history course and Maya's exploration of the question "Where are you from?" exemplify the intellectual diversity fostered by the Global Scholars Program.

These Distinguished Global Scholars aren't just influencing the present; they're shaping the future. The "Evening with Global Scholars" event on April 25, 2023, marked the culmination of their capstone projects, featuring a panel discussion that offered profound insights into their journeys and allowed the audience to engage in thought-provoking conversations. Nayeli, for instance, examined linguistic identity in her podcast, addressing attitudes towards language within communities and during her studies abroad in Germany. She proposes earlier language education in the United States, sparking discussions that could reshape our educational landscape.

As we look ahead, we are confident that the impact of these emerging global voices will continue to resonate, creating a more inclusive, empathetic, and interconnected world. York School remains committed to nurturing global participants and community-minded citizens, poised to champion the next generation of changemakers.



# DEMYSTIFYING AI

## A CONVERSATION WITH DOUG KEY, HEAD OF SCHOOL AND KEVIN BROOKHOUSER, DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

**Maia Thielen, Communications and Marketing Manager:** *While the use and capabilities of artificial intelligence really took off this year, the implications of its effect on education have been looming for a while. To get our bearings, what has York's position on AI been in the recent past and present?*

**Kevin Brookhouser, Director of Innovation & Technology:** York's leadership has been discussing AI's arrival for over five years. We knew that we needed to keep an eye on it and that it was very important to stay ahead of it. When ChatGPT hit the scene in December 2022, our faculty and staff Google chat blew up with excitement and questions. There was a lot of lively conversation about how it would affect the classroom, but there was also a lot of amusement and experimentation. People were having fun with it, pushing its boundaries, and seeing if they could break it: the hallmarks of learning something new. But of course, people's first major concern was academic integrity.

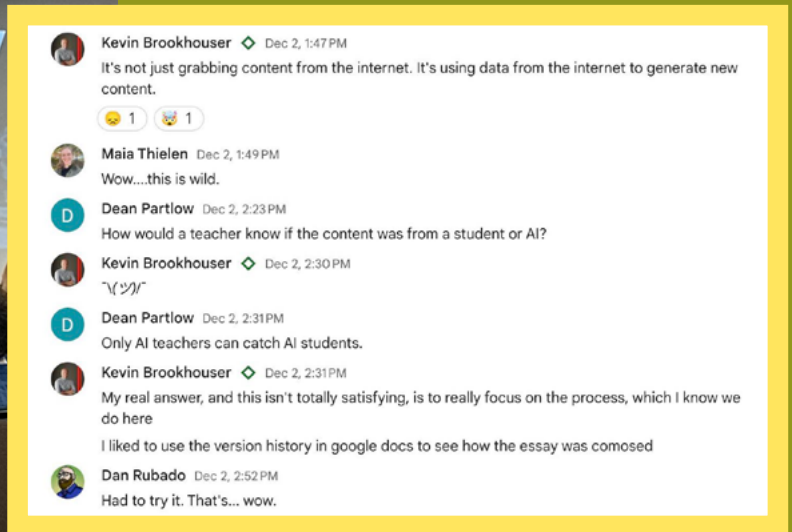
**Doug Key, Head of School:** This is where we have a spectrum of opinions on campus. Some faculty members strongly feel that it compromises the development of certain cognitive processes and that it is a force we must control, whereas others, like those in our math department, have already battled computers being able to solve homework problems for years. But the reality is that it's here to stay. To fight or ban it is counterproductive. As a school, we want to be proactively out in front of it rather than reacting to it.

**Kevin:** Our approach to mitigating it is to establish clear—but flexible—policies, remind students about the importance of academic honesty, and utilize it in the classroom to become a familiar tool. Our policy is devised around leaning into it as an essential 21st century workforce skill. We encourage each individual teacher to decide how to incorporate it in their classes. For example, my Code+Design class has been using it as a learning tool for debugging code. It's also an opportunity to take a thoughtful approach to conversations about ethics and intellectual property. It's sparked powerful discussions because it brings intriguing questions into the classroom such as "What does it mean to generate art that's been trained on other art without the artist's permission?" As a faculty, we are also trying to model ethical use of this technology, and disclose when we have used AI. However, I actually think that while the implications for academic dishonesty is an important question, it's not THE most important question.

**Maia:** *Interesting! I imagine for most schools, academic honesty and ethical use are the most pressing concerns, but what are people missing when they talk about AI in education?*







**Doug:** When people talk about AI, they are very focused on its current ramifications. There's a lot of doom and gloom surrounding this technology as it exists in the present moment, but right now it's a tool. It's not taking over the world. What is first and foremost on our minds is the future, because it will affect teaching over the next five years. We don't know exactly how it will function moving forward, and we don't want to lose touch with our humanity. So the question becomes, how do you minimize the impact of technology like ChatGPT? One answer is to create AI-proof experiences and double down on human interaction in education.

**Kevin:** I'm a big fan of creating more "screened-down" experiences. We've already done that with our new phone policy, which I'm really proud of. ["Phone and earbud use is not permitted in class or community activities (Break, Forum, Class Meetings, Path, or special school events) except with express teacher consent."] Giving kids applied assignments with real problems they have to solve leads to more personal and specific inquiry.

**Doug:** We're leaning into AI and using it as a tool to prepare our students for the future they will enter, but we're also creating experiences that cannot be broken by AI. That includes learning how to be human, what it means to be human, and making assignments more personal. There was cause for adaptation to technology long before the prolific accessibility of AI. A teacher already couldn't give the same essay questions from year-to-year. You must be more creative and original as an instructor. It's an opportunity to create an education that's more "hands-on." That's what we will focus on over the next several years.

**Maia:** *That actually seems like it could be a really positive outcome or "side effect" of York's response to AI: a more human and connected school experience. Are there any other positive outcomes you foresee from our future living side-by-side with AI?*

**Kevin:** It's inevitable that AI tools will get better and better at providing instruction to students, and that academic content could craft the kind of personalized learning every student deserves. AI has the potential to transform into an expert tutor and provide great education for all, which is in alignment with the York School ethos. I also believe this technology could actually enhance our ability to connect with our students. Perhaps AI could accomplish menial tasks and give our teachers more time with York students, providing more opportunities to get to know them even better.

**Doug:** We are thinking of AI's uses across all educational disciplines and purposes, from our classrooms to our business office, exploring what processes we can eliminate to become more efficient as a school, and utilizing our ability to quickly navigate this evolving technology—an advantage we have over larger schools. Again, we want to determine how we can use it to our benefit rather than avoid it in fear. Ultimately, for a student to learn, they need to be motivated and have an expert teacher with the time to give them individual attention and tap into their interests...and AI may ultimately provide the freedom and flexibility to do more of just that.



# PHILANTHROPY REPORT





# LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR NORELLE BOYCE

Dear Alumni, Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Friends of York,

I welcome you to the annual Report on Philanthropy for the 2022-23 academic year in a time of great excitement and momentum for York. This report stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment and dedication of our York community to the transformative power of education, and I am honored to share it with you.

As we delve into the pages of this report, we embark on a journey that reflects our shared values, aspirations, and achievements. Our community's generosity has enabled us to not only sustain but enhance the exceptional education York provides. From the heartwarming stories of our Diversity Initiative to the remarkable accomplishments of our alumni, the spectrum of achievements showcased here is a source of inspiration for us all.

Throughout these pages, you will witness the impact of our collective contributions. The Heritage of Generosity, the Fideles Society, and Valentine Legacy Society have strengthened the foundation of York's mission. Your generosity continues to create opportunities that empower students to excel academically, artistically, athletically, and ethically.

We celebrate the remarkable milestones achieved by our students, alumni, and faculty, such as the inaugural Costa Rica trip for sophomores; the continued success of our Robotics program; and the faculty's embrace of innovations in pedagogy, like project-based learning and AI. The various programs, events, and initiatives featured in this report underscore the holistic approach to education that sets York apart.

Our commitment to embracing innovation and fostering a diverse, inclusive community shines through in every section of this report. As we bid farewell to some of our valued trustees and welcome new additions, we are reminded of the evolving nature of our institution, driven by a shared vision of excellence.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each donor, volunteer, and member of our community who has contributed to our ongoing success. Your dedication fuels the heart of York School and ensures that our legacy remains strong.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are shaping the leaders of tomorrow and making a lasting impact on the world.

With warm regards,



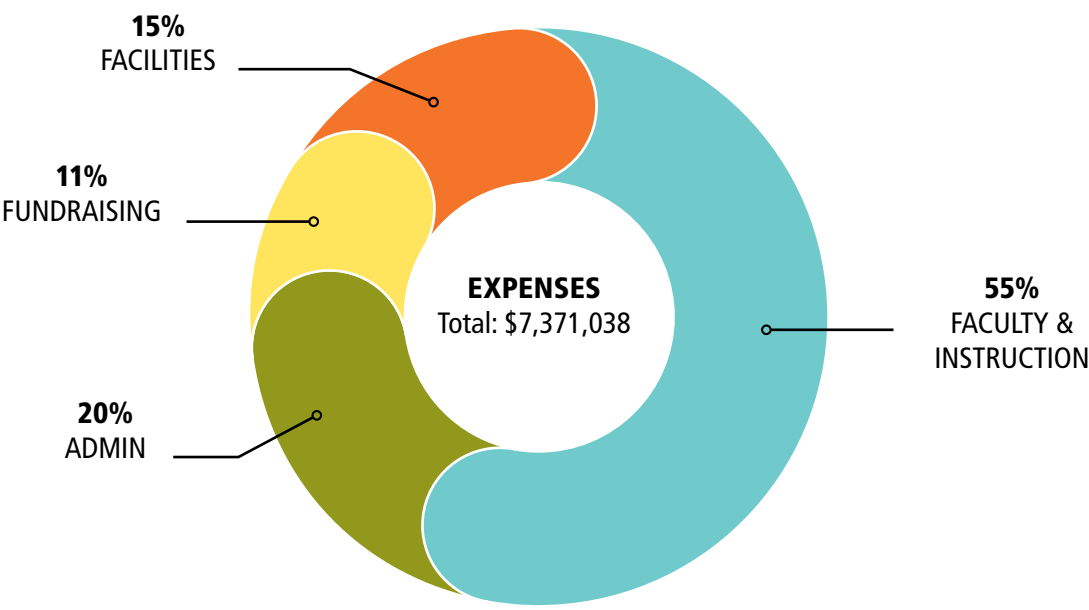
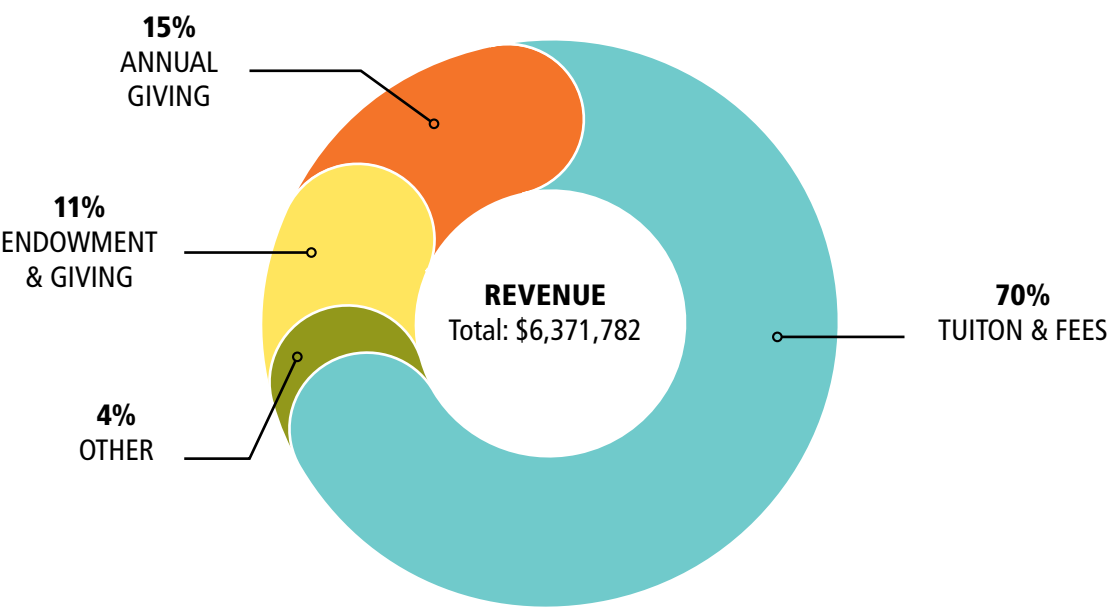
Norelle Boyce  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Parent, Amanda '23



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

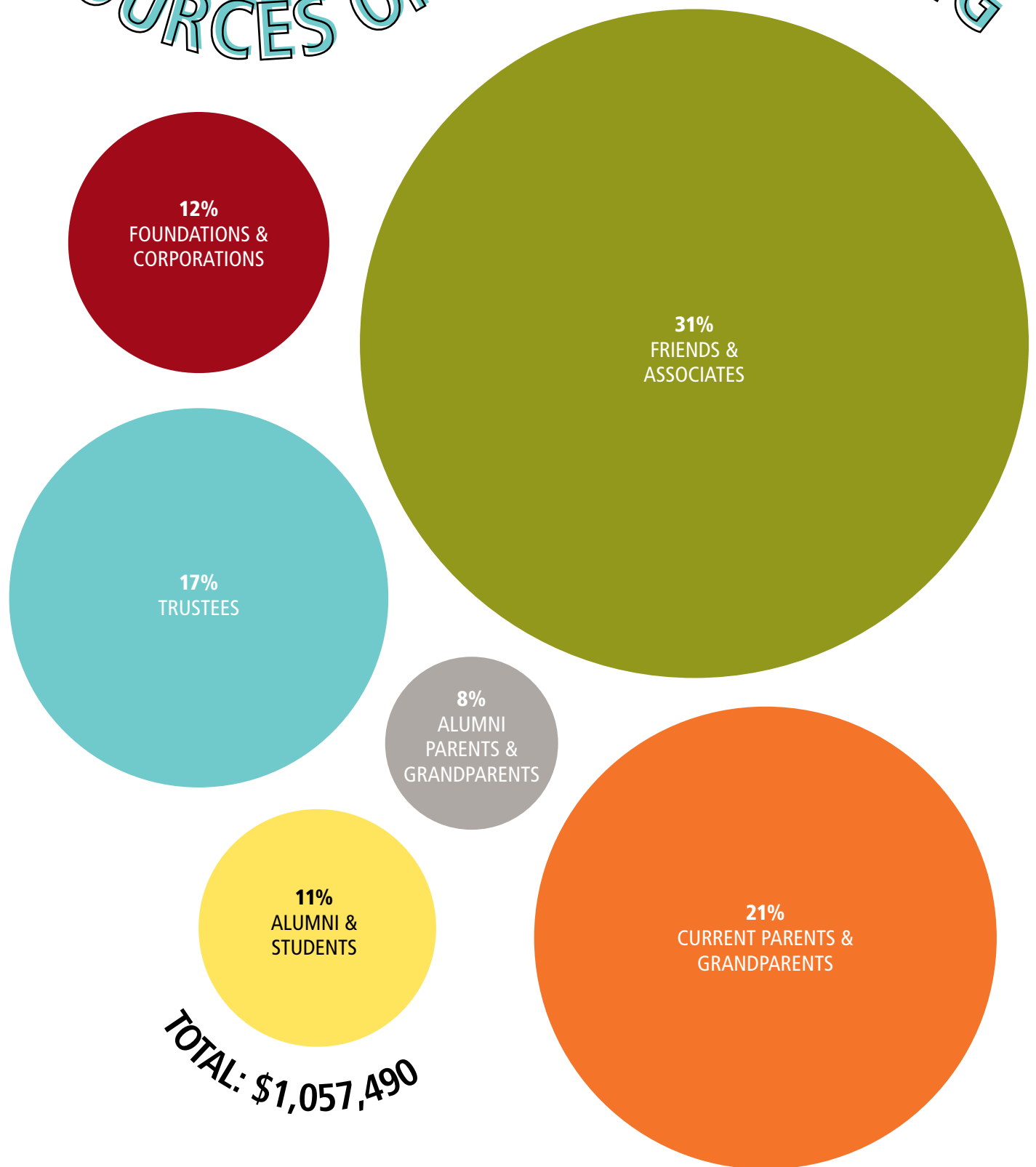
2022-23 | SUBMITTED BY TRISH DOON

We wish to thank our generous donors who contributed to a successful 2022-23 school year. Should you have any questions or comments about York’s financial outcomes, please contact Trish Doon, Director of Finance and Operations, at [tdoon@york.org](mailto:tdoon@york.org). If you have questions about philanthropic outcomes, contact Erin White, Director of Philanthropy and Community Partnerships, at [ewhite@york.org](mailto:ewhite@york.org) or at 831.373.7448x128.





# SOURCES OF ANNUAL GIVING



# ALUMNI & STUDENT GIVING

YORK SCHOOL RECOGNIZES AND THANKS THOSE DONORS WHOSE ANNUAL GIVING SUPPORTS EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND REFLECTS A COMMITMENT TO GENEROSITY.

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Miss Marie-Claire Davenport  
Mr. Aiden O'Brien  
Mr. David Oliver

*Have you made the Alumni Honor Roll? See our up-to-date list by scanning the QR code below!*



# ANNUAL GIVING

Annual contributions of all amounts to the York fund, endowed funds, and special projects provide valuable funding for the school's priorities. This list reflects combined giving to these funds during York's fiscal year 2023.

## INSPIRATION CIRCLE - \$25,000 AND ABOVE

Anonymous (2)  
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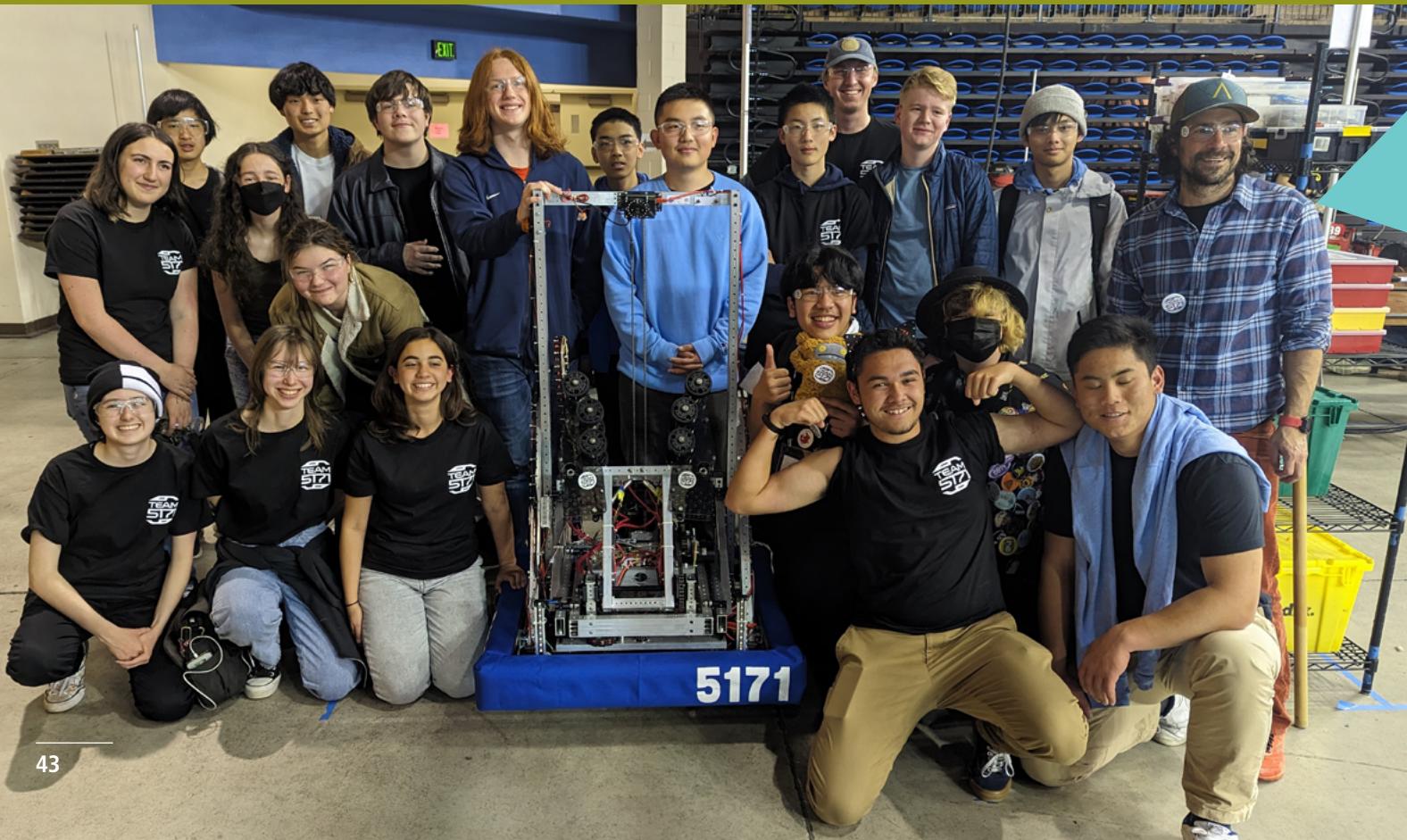
# YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

## "GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM" DEFINES ROBOTICS TEAM 5171

By Dr. Jeff Hanna, Math/Science  
Department Chair & Robotics Team  
Advisor

This year's team picked up the pieces from last year's disappointing conclusion to a hard-fought season. Significant efforts from team leaders led Team 5171 to our most successful finish ever, and they also contributed to the success of our other local teams, like Team 4255 Robodores from Monterey. In fact, our captain was recognized by Team 4255 and awarded for his Gracious Professionalism. Not to be outdone, a second member of Team 5171 was recognized for their Gracious Professionalism for "being just so darn nice." Gracious professionals...there is no better term to describe every member of Team 5171. We achieved something no version of the team had done prior to this year: we made it all the way to the finals of a regional event! (Not to mention, it was one of the more competitive regionals in the country.) After finishing qualification matches at Silicon Valley ranked 15th out of 59 teams, we were invited to join Alliance 3 with Team 604 Quixilver from Leland High School and Team 972 Iron Claw from Los Gatos High School. We formed a promising alliance of highly functional and complementary robots, great communicators, and cohesive personalities. Despite losing our first playoff match, we fought our way all the way through the lower bracket and into the finals where our drama-filled and exciting run eventually came to an end. Can't wait until next year!

*With many thanks to our annual fund contributors for supporting key programs and opportunities like the robotics team at York and many others!*





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# RECORD-BREAKING RED & BLACK WEEK!

**+80% PARTICIPATION  
IN THE ANNUAL FUND**

By Erin White, Director of Philanthropy  
and Community Partnerships

Red and Black Week is an annual event when parents, faculty, staff, trustees, and students come together to encourage pledges to York's annual fund. During that week, volunteers line York's parking lot and drop-off circle to offer camaraderie, cheer, a hot cup of coffee, pastries, and to encourage donations to the fund. The annual celebration is a festive way to ring in the first chilly mornings of fall and get to know more parents in the York community.

At the end of Red and Black Week, the class with the most parent participation gets a special prize. This year, the award went to the Classes of 2024 and 2027, who enjoyed a "Take Over the Head's House" party later that spring.

Thanks to the momentum generated by Red and Black Week, York parents reached a record-breaking level of 80% parent participation in the annual fund. Together, York parents raised over \$85,000 for the York Fund. Bravo, York parents, and thank you for your support!



# GRANDPARENTS & FRIENDS OF YORK DAY 2022

SHARING THE FALCON EXPERIENCE WITH OUR LOVED ONES

By Maia Thielen, Communications and Marketing Manager

On November 22, 2022, York welcomed grandparents and beloved friends to campus for a day of celebration and collaboration as our guests experienced a day in the life of a Falcon! The day began with refreshments in the Commons before our visitors gathered in the Chapel for the program. Mr. Key welcomed everyone to campus and shared his generational kinship with education through his own paternal grandparents: a high school principal and amateur historian. Next, Normandy Filcek '24 performed a poetry reading, and Lily Berry Smith '23 addressed the crowd with a student reflection before the York Chamber Choir took to the stage with performances of Michael Trotta's *Lux Aeterna* and Philip Stopford's *Lully, Lulla, Lullay*.

When Mr. Key concluded the morning program, guests headed off to join their students for their second and third period classes, and sampled York courses across campus. Grandparents

and friends worked with their students on paintings in Mr. Gerard Martin's art classes, heard a bit about our innovative technological offerings from Mr. Kevin Brookhouser, headed off to analyze literature in English classes, conduct research in the science labs, or receive refreshers in mathematical equations! After third period, everyone gathered together again in the Commons to take keepsake photos with their students against the gorgeous backdrop of the York Hills, which were later printed and mailed to families. The York Jazz Band performed during this time, and one or two grandparents were even spotted jumping in for a jam session! Bringing multiple generations together on the Sunny Hilltop was a day to treasure for all.







## GRANDPARENTS GIVING

Betty Asmuth  
 Robin Axe  
 Anne Bonner  
 Donna Buchholz and Jeff Mendiola  
 Dr. Peggy Downes Baskin  
 Susie and Ronald Faia  
 Earlene and John Ferguson  
 Ginny and Keith Fogg  
 Beverly and Lyman Hamilton  
 Gwen and Art Handa  
 Mary Johnson  
 Lois and Doug Knapp  
 Ming-Mei and Hahn Lin  
 Yuriko and Michael O'Brien  
 Anne Oliver  
 Dottie and Clyde Roberson  
 Penny and Terry Rockwood  
 Linda Schlittler  
 Mary and John Simpson  
 Stephen Storey  
 Alice Tao  
 Allene Thompson  
 John Towle  
 Nancy Willoughby

# FIDELIS SOCIETY

THE FIDELIS SOCIETY RECOGNIZES THE COMMITMENT OF OUR DONORS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO YORK SCHOOL FOR FIVE OR MORE CONSECUTIVE YEARS. GIFTS OF ANY AMOUNT TO ALL AREAS OF THE SCHOOL ARE COUNTED TOWARDS FIDELIS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP.

## 50+ YEARS

Nicholas Sturch (54)

## 20 - 49 YEARS

Big Sur Marathon Foundation (25)  
Michael and Merritt Borrowman (23)  
Daniel Brehmer '83 (20)  
Kevin and Beth Brookhouser (21)  
Gary Byrd and Gillian Rodgers-Byrd (23)  
William McCaskey Chapman and Adaline Dinsmore Chapman Foundation (38)  
Agnes Chien and Howard Nelson (25)  
Linda and Craig Christensen (38)  
Carl Christensen and Jo Ann Novoson (25)  
Mary Kay Higgins Crockett (30)  
Keren Dawson-Bowman '91 (26)  
Alice and Richard Dixon (25)  
Bill and Nancy Doolittle (26)  
Pamela Durkee (25)  
E-Scrip (22)  
Daniel Fenton '76 and Denise Fenton (27)  
Eric Fink (28)  
Susan and Frank Ganzhorn (22)  
Jeanne and Edward Gavrin (24)  
Marianne Gawain '76 (24)  
Elizabeth and Joseph W. Heston (24)  
Peter Hiller and Celeste Williams (24)  
Dagmar and James Huffman (20)  
Scot and Sylvia Johnson (21)  
Mark Kerman '78 (26)  
Kim Kiest (22)  
Douglas C. Lee (21)  
Royal Little Family Foundation (26)  
Galen Lowe '81 (26)  
Tom and Karen Anne Murray (27)  
Bette H. Nybakken (40)  
Corie and Fane Opperman (26)  
Donald Peattie and Lise Peterson (26)  
Steve Peters and Kristan Long (28)  
Pebble Beach Company Foundation (20)  
Robert Pucci and Steven Baker (23)  
Edna and Tom Sanchez (27)  
Barnet J. Segal Charitable Trust (20)  
Matthew Simis '88 and Michael Gray (31)

## 20 - 49 YEARS (CONT.)

Scott Snibbe '87 and Ahna Girschick (20)  
Laura Solorio (21)  
Eileen and Michael Tanner (33)  
Cammy and Tim Torgenrud (27)  
John Towle (24)  
June Trachsel (31)  
Steven Webster (27)  
Temby and Lawrence Wishnak (21)  
Marsha McMahan Zelus (32)

## 15 - 19 YEARS

Anonymous (15)  
Michael Anderson '03 and Ashleigh Anderson '04 (15)  
Eric Axelsen '82 and Sjoukje Axelsen (15)  
Dr. Peggy Downes Baskin (15)  
Elizabeth Boone Hogen (18)  
Cindy and Harold Brockman (15)  
Pamela Clemens (15)  
Adrienne de la Fuente '06 and Dave de la Fuente (15)  
Tomika Anne Dew '76 and Paul Thimm (19)  
Anna Dudney Deeb '05 and Nic Deeb (17)  
Kristine Edmunds (17)  
Mark Farmer '68 and Jean Farmer (17)  
Jeanne and Samuel Gesumaria (15)  
Chiara Giammanco MacPherson '06 (15)  
Binzee Gonzalvo '91 and Chiharu Noguchi (16)  
Teena Gruman (19)  
Mirco Haag '05 and Ilang Guiroy '05 (18)  
Nancy Harray (17)  
HGHB Architects (17)  
Jacob Hiller '06 (17)  
Samuel Hiller '04 (17)  
Elizabeth and Hans Jannasch (15)  
Joshua Kroll '05 and Ann Frey Kroll '05 (15)  
Christine Lee '85 and Eric Vallières (15)  
Sara Lukas '01 and David Lukas (17)  
Gerard and Kristina Martin (17)  
Peter Meryash '83 (17)  
Robert Meyer '69 and Kathleen Harner (17)  
Marcella Munson '86 and Ben Kolstad (17)

## 15 - 19 YEARS (CONT.)

Cat Nelson '05 (16)  
Katia and Marcelo Nogueira (15)  
Marina Nogueira '11 (15)  
Natasha Nogueira '13 (15)  
Vicki and Albert Norman (18)  
Shauna O'Boyle '83 (15)  
Fana and Doug Oldfield (18)  
Erica Olsen '84 (19)  
Arik Olson '90 (15)  
Eve Paretsky '91 and Karl Knaub (18)  
John Peattie '01 and Emily Wood (17)  
Adan Perez '98 (17)  
Michael Peterson '03 (18)  
Elizabeth (Ward) Pham '93 and Khanh Pham (17)  
Cory Ray and Craig Rowell (18)  
Meryl and Stewart Robertson (19)  
Giordana Rock '06 and Reece Stewart (15)  
Adam Rose '00 (18)  
Kathleen and Mike Scarr (15)  
Kirsti and Matt Scott (15)  
Winfield Sinclair '71 and Julie Sinclair (19)  
Aaryn Degn Silva '92 and Eugene Silva (17)  
Frank Sung '70 and Robin Sung (19)  
Lawrence Tartaglino (15)  
Jesus Torres '91 (15)  
Frederic Tower '65 and Jo Ann Tower (17)  
Diana Van Vleck '77 and Jon Van Vleck (17)  
Kande Williston and Rob Sherlock (17)  
Michael Wyman '68 and Carolina Rosales-Wyman (17)  
Mackenzie Zalin '05 (15)  
Stephanie and Mark Zalin (15)

## 10 - 14 YEARS

Anonymous (2)  
Mary Adams (13)  
The Bates Family (13)  
Catherine Bermudez (10)  
Marilyn and Andrew Calciano (13)  
Maren Christensen '02 (10)  
Shirley Coly (13)



## 10 – 14 YEARS (CONT.)

Jacqueline Cousineau '03 (13)  
Laura Curtis '87 and Andrew Curtis (10)  
John Daniel and Larry Nordwick (12)  
Colin Deeb '02 (14)  
Amber Degn '94 and Thomas Denenberg (11)  
Thomas Drendel '74 and Terrel Drendel (14)  
Ana Cuevas Falaleyev '06 and  
Maximilian Falaleyev '05 (11)  
Leslie and Mike Galloway (13)  
Erin Gamble '91 and Brice Gamble (12)  
Brian Guest '09 (14)  
Rich Hamilton and Debra Schadeck (11)  
Ann and Joseph Hasselbach (11)  
Valerie Hasselbach '96 (10)  
Cynthia and Nelson Irvine (13)  
Blythe and Peter Kieffer (12)  
Michael Lambert '97 and Katherine  
Lambert (13)  
Teo Lamiot '11 (12)  
Leonard Laub and Yvonne Ascher (11)  
Michaela Lozano Lewis '02 and Aaron  
Lewis (12)  
Sheron and Robert Long (14)  
Sharon Lu '92 and Matt Morris (12)  
Lori Luzader (13)  
Audrey Manganaro '04 (10)  
Steven Marks '72 (10)  
Paul Matsui '89 (12)  
Michael Missin '76 and Patricia Minnis (11)  
Morgana Mongraw-Chaffin '00 and  
Daniel Montgomery (12)  
Sterling Nelson '02 and Irene Nelson '02 (11)  
Justine Nghiem (10)  
Sean O'Rourke '92 (13)

## 10 – 14 YEARS (CONT.)

Analynn and David Patterson (13)  
Marcia and Don Pompan (14)  
Robert Poulin '85 and Catherine  
Poulin (12)  
Gary Ray and Katy Castagna (14)  
Andrea and George Sanico (12)  
Clark Shishido '85 (11)  
Melissa Smith '90 and Robert Hill (13)  
Peter Tanner '89 and Jennifer Tanner (10)  
Adan and Angelina Urquidez (12)  
Elizabeth Welden-Smith '01 (12)  
Nancy Willoughby (14)  
Caroline Yoon '09 (10)  
Connie and Graham Yost (13)  
Mark Zanides '66 and Yamel Zanides (11)

## 5 – 9 YEARS

Karla and Javier Aldape (9)  
William Atwood (6)  
Belinda and Kevin Avina (7)  
Benevity Community Impact Fund (9)  
Jennifer Berry and Rodney Smith (9)  
Patricia Meem Blackbourne '83 (8)  
Nathaniel Brown and Yana Polyakova (5)  
Nick Coburn-Palo (6)  
Coca-Cola GIVE (6)  
Timothy Ditzler '86 and Lynn Ditzler (6)  
Laura Bennett Frank '80 and Russell Frank (7)  
Michael Frumkin and Christina Falco (8)  
Frumkin Falco Family Foundation (8)  
Ellen and Paul Gaucher (7)  
Riley Gaucher '15 (6)  
Crispina and Sol Gonzalvo (6)  
Debbie Hale and Andrew Ward (6)

## 5 – 9 YEARS (CONT.)

Jane and Jeff Hand (6)  
Jeff Hanna and Kakani Young (9)  
Rogers Hawley '01 and Merritt  
Palminteri '97 (6)  
Meagan Henderson '92 and Matthew  
Henderson (8)  
Patrick Jenifer '91 (6)  
Cecile and John Joyner (7)  
Lynn and Sean Kragelund (6)  
Katrina Learned '99 and Douglas  
Learned '99 (8)  
Pam and Gifford Lehman (7)  
Nancy and Robert Ley (5)  
Carla and Perry McDowell (8)  
Benjamin Morgan '90 (7)  
Ben Nurse and Alicia Brent-Nurse (7)  
Aya Ogawa '92 and Irwin Chen (8)  
Heather and Michael Oliver (6)  
Jennifer and Javier Ortiz (7)  
Suzanne Peng '01 (8)  
Eric Peterson '98 (6)  
Ryan Quinnan '97 (6)  
Karen and Dave Rossum (6)  
Wendy and Andrew Schmidt (6)  
Jon Smock and Cynthia Schroeder (9)  
Amy Smolen '88 and David Smolen (9)  
Stephen Storey (6)  
Alice Tao (9)  
Jean Wang (6)  
Jamilynn and Mark Willaman (6)  
Spencer Williams (5)  
Scott Nelson Windels '93 and Sarah  
Windels (8)  
Hong and Yuqing Zhao (8)

# MCGIVES!

By Michelle Lange, Philanthropy Operations Manager

York School was thrilled to participate, once again, in the 2022 MCGives! campaign. We were able to surpass all other years by raising \$100,065 due to the generosity of 100 York supporters. We began the campaign, which ran from November-December, quite strongly with a generous challenge gift of \$25,000 from a York parent. The dollars raised were used to support York's Tuition Assistance Program, which is used to provide assistance to over 64% of the students attending York and helps them as they become creative, independent thinkers. Thank you to the *Monterey County Weekly*, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, and all the amazing individual donors and families who made this possible.



# WELCOME TO NEW TRUSTEES



**Colleen Bailey** is the Executive Director of the Monterey Jazz Festival and mother to a senior at York. She is a graduate of USC, has a masters degree from Northwestern University and holds a certificate from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders at the Center for Social Innovation.



**Danielle McShane '99** grew up in Salinas, attended York School, and has a degree in Mathematics and Economics from the University of California, San Diego. Currently, Danielle works for Merrill Farms LLC as the Chief Financial Officer. Danielle is married, has two children, and enjoys outdoor activities to burn off everyone's extra energy.



**Will Shearer '12** is a Monterey local and a York alum, class of 2012. He has a JD from Pepperdine University, and a BS in Financial Mathematics from UC Santa Barbara. In addition to York, Will serves on the board for the Foundation for Monterey County Free Libraries.



**Jaime Zaldivar, P.E.** is president and owner of local mechanical engineering consulting firm, ZAL Engineering. He prides himself on achieving optimal balance between comfort and sustainability for his clients. Before moving to the U.S. from Madrid, Spain, Jaime worked for a multinational engineering firm where he collaborated on the design of several combined cycle power plants.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 22-23

We'd like to thank the following for their service on the York Board of Trustees for the 2022- 23 school year:

### OFFICERS

Norelle Boyce, Chair of the Board  
Giff Lehman, Vice Chair of the Board  
Greg Jamison, Secretary/Mark Kerman (Secretary for 2nd half of year)  
Rich Hamilton, Treasurer

### BOARD MEMBERS

Javier Aldape  
Bishop Lucinda Ashby\*  
Louie Diaz-Infante  
Rose Finn '24, Student Representative  
Scott Fujita\*



# & FAREWELL TO EXITING TRUSTEES

By Maia Thielen, Communications and Marketing Manager



The parent of two York alumni, Fletcher '20 and Riley '15, and a Board member since 2017, **Ellen Gaucher** now moves to the position of Trustee Emerita. A supportive parent volunteer and donor since 2011, as a board member, Ellen holds the recognition of Immediate Past Chair of the Board and advised the Philanthropy Committee, among other responsibilities.



**Greg Jamison** retired from the Board of Trustees after nearly ten years of service. During his tenure, Greg served as Secretary, was a member of the Executive and Finance Committees, and advised the Admission & Marketing Committee. We are grateful for the expertise he brought as a veteran nonprofit board member and sports executive!



While **Giff Lehman** concluded a six-year run as a York Trustee, he has graciously agreed to continue his relationship with the school in an advisory role. Bringing more than two decades of financial experience, Giff served as Vice Chair of the Board, Chair of the Investment Committee, and served on the Finance Committee.



After serving on the Board for seven years, **Ben Nurse** decided to depart along with his twin York alumni, recent graduates Maya '23 and Cass '23. During his time as a York Trustee, Ben served on the Finance, Diversity, Financial Stability, and Investment Committees. We'll miss his expertise as a real estate broker and community leader, and wish him the best in his next adventure!

## BOARD MEMBERS (CONT.)

Ellen Gaucher  
Amy Grames  
Debbie Hale  
Mark Kerman '78  
Doug Key, Head of School\*  
Christine Lee '85  
Paul Matsui '89  
Ben Nurse  
Heather Oliver  
Kenneth Scates  
Eddie Takashima '89

Ana Toledo  
Kande Williston, Faculty Representative  
Brenda Aronowitz\*\*  
Peggy Downes Baskin\*\*  
Dan Fenton '76\*\*  
Marianne Gawain '76\*\*  
Jim Tunney\*\*  
Steve Webster\*\*

\*Ex-Officio

\*\*Emeritus

# 100%

## *Staff Giving*

## FACULTY AND TRUSTEE GIVING

### FACULTY

Matt Baughman  
Jennifer Berry  
Michael Borrowman  
Kathryn Brewer  
Kevin Brookhouser  
Lorena Brubaker  
John Daniel  
Pam Durkee  
Simone Elema  
Lisa Fierman  
Andrew Glassco  
Daniel Gurska  
Jeff Hanna  
Jasmine Hsu  
Scot Johnson  
Doug Key  
Grace Khieu '16  
Kim Kiest  
Michelle Lange  
Ian Martin '90  
Gerard Martin

Dustin McCall  
Carla McDowell  
Jenny Nadaner  
Christina Nielsen  
Vicki Norman  
Fana Oldfield  
Dean Partlow  
Steve Peters  
Marcia Pompan  
Daniel Rubado  
Andrea Sanico  
Cynthia Schroeder  
Elizabeth Siarny  
Gretchen Thompson  
June Trachsel  
Erin Tucker  
Erin White  
Chris Wilcox  
Spencer Williams  
Kande Williston  
Jon Zeljo

### TRUSTEES

Javier Aldape  
Brenda Aronowitz\*\*  
Reverend Lucinda B. Ashby\*  
Norelle Boyce  
Peggy Downes Baskin\*\*  
Dan Fenton\*\*  
Amy Grames  
Scott Fujita  
Ellen Gaucher  
Marianne Gawain '76\*\*  
Debbie Hale  
Rich Hamilton  
Mark Kerman '78

Doug Key\*  
Christine Lee '85  
Gifford Lehman  
Paul Matsui '89  
Ben Nurse  
Heather Oliver  
Ken Scates  
Edward Takashima '89  
Steven Webster\*\*

\*Ex-Officio

\*\*Emeritus





# CELEBRATING YORK'S LEGACY OF DIVERSITY



By Erin White, Director of Philanthropy  
and Community Partnerships

Last April, York unveiled its groundbreaking Diversity Initiative at the home of York supporter Ceree Tate Eberly. Co-hosted by Tyler Eberly and Amy Grames, CEO of the Central Coast YMCA and member of York's Board of Trustees, the event marked a significant step in York's commitment to nurturing a diverse and inclusive educational environment.

The occasion brought together 40 guests for a dynamic discourse on diversity's pivotal role at York, the Monterey Peninsula, and in the realm of education. Attendees included community partners, trustees, faculty, engaged alumni, and current parents. Jeff Hanna, Chair of the Math/Science Department, moderated an informative and lively panel discussion with Victor Ochoa '93, Jesus Torres '91, Anna Mejia Contreras '21, and Mónica Macías (parent of Sofia '27).

Prior to the event, the Hayward Family Foundation issued a \$25,000 challenge grant for the Initiative that inspired contributions from dinner guests. Collectively, the funds exceeded the goal for the evening and provided a scholarship for an additional student to join the York community through graduation.

York thanks the visionary Chair of the Diversity Committee, Dan Fenton '76, and its members, who conceptualized this event and who oversee the Diversity Initiative and its evolution. The Committee also benefits from the valuable input from community partners, listed below, who serve as sounding boards, guides, and accountability partners for the program.

Stay tuned for forthcoming updates on York's Diversity Initiative in the upcoming year.





## YORK SCHOOL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE 2022-23

Dan Fenton '76, Chair  
Colleen Bailey, Trustee  
Norelle Boyce, Board Chair  
Ben Bruce, Community Partner  
Louie Diaz-Infante, Trustee  
Amy Grames, Trustee  
Rich Hamilton, Trustee  
Doug Key, Head of School  
Ben Nurse, Trustee  
Greg Jamison, Trustee  
Michelle Lange, Philanthropy  
Andrea Sanico, Business Office  
Gretchen Thompson, Enrollment  
Erin Tucker, Philanthropy  
Erin White, Philanthropy  
Chris Wilcox, Enrollment  
Jon Zeljo, Director of Teaching & Learning

## THANKS TO YORK'S DIVERSITY INITIATIVE INVESTORS

William Atwood  
Colleen and John Bailey  
Edgard and Shirley Coly Fund of Whatcom Community  
Foundation  
Ceree Tate Eberly  
Daniel Fenton '76 and Denise Fenton  
Lowry Fenton '72 and Gail Greely  
Marianne Gawain '76  
Beverly and Lyman Hamilton  
The Nancy Eccles and Homer M. Hayward Foundation  
Amy and Christopher Hunsberger  
Greg and Vicki Jamison  
Ann and Fred Jealous  
Regina and Mel Mason  
Monterey Peninsula Foundation  
Gary Ray and Katy Castagna  
Edward Takashima '89 and Monica Takashima

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



# TRIBUTE GIFTS

TRIBUTE GIFTS ARE A MEANINGFUL WAY TO APPRECIATE SOMEONE SPECIAL, OR TO CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, OR OTHER NOTEWORTHY OCCASION. DONORS WHO HAVE MADE TRIBUTE GIFTS ARE LISTED FOLLOWING THE NAME(S) OF THE PERSON HONORED.

**BRENDA ARONOWITZ**

*In honor of your dedicated service to York over the past four decades*  
Sharon Lu '92 and Matt Morris

*An exception teacher and a lifelong inspiration*  
Marcella Munson '86 and Ben Kolstad

**THE BRENOT FAMILY**

Allene and Dwight Thompson

**DREW CARSON '06**

Elizabeth and Bud Carlson

**POLINA COBB '18**

Marina Cobb

**AUSTIN COOK '24**

Terry and Penny Rockwood

**NIA CUSENZA '24**

Linda Schittler

**BRENDAN DUDA '03**

Hilary and Francis Duda

**STEPHANY DUDA '98**

Hilary and Francis Duda

**TYLER AND AMY EBERLY**

Ceree Tate Eberly

**SAMUEL ELIOT**

Steven Marks '72

**KIRISA GAVRIN '04**

Daniel Gavrin '09

**WALTER HOWE '98**

Wendy and Kevin Howe

**ZOE (LAURA) IRVINE '01**

Alice Fraser '96 and Ian Fraser

**GREG JAMISON**

Monterey Peninsula Foundation

**MICHELLE LANGE**

Ellen and Paul Gaucher

**CHRISTINE LEE '85**

Jennifer Powell '85

**TOBEY MALONE '20**

Stephen Storey

**KATHERINE MINOTT**

Cambria Minott-Gaines '04

**KATHERINE NEWMAN '18**

Mary Lee and James Newman

**MELISSA NEWMAN '15**

Mary Lee and James Newman

**NICHOLAS NEWMAN '14**

Mary Lee and James Newman

**ALEXANDER NIKSSARIAN '06**

Mary and David Nikssarian

**BENJAMIN NIKSSARIAN '16**

Mary and David Nikssarian

**ISAAC NIKSSARIAN '10**

Mary and Davie Nikssarian

**DR. BETTE H. NYBAKKEN**

Kent Nybakken '84 and Lisa Molz  
Scott Nybakken '86

**FANA OLDFIELD**

*In honor of her retirement from York School*  
Marilyn and Andrew Calciano

**ALEXA ORTIZ '20**

Dottie and Clyde Roberson



**ANNE PEATTIE '97**

Donald Peattie and Lisa Peterson

**JOHN PEATTIE '01 AND EMILY WOOD**

Donald Peattie and Lisa Peterson

**SUE PHAN '77**

Jean Wang

**JOHN POMEROY**

Steven Marks '72

**NICHOLAS STURCH**

Binzee Gonzalvo '91 and Chiharu Noguchi

Steven Marks '72

Victoria and Carl Palminteri

Mila Vasser '87

Mackenzie Zalin '05

**NAOKO TAKASHIMA**

Edward Takashima '89 and Monica Takashima

**JAN THOMASEN**

Analynn and David Patterson

**ELIAS TRIPP '25**

Anne Bonner

**SPENCER WILLIAMS**

*For developing the next generation of musicians with compassion and a commitment to excellence*

Laura Schwingel '99

**YORK FACULTY AND STAFF**

Belinda and Kevin Avina

Joshua Pompan '14

# THE ANNUAL YOUNG ALUMNI PANEL

## COLLEGIATE FALCONS RETURN TO SHARE WISDOM AND ADVICE

By Dean Partlow, Director of College Counseling

Seven York Falcons returned to the nest to share with students and parents about their college experience. Alumni from the classes of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 spoke about preparing for, applying to, and attending Columbia University, Pitzer College, Bryn Mawr, Goucher College, Berklee College of Music, Oberlin, and Occidental. It was wonderful to hear how their York School education helped them soar beyond our school on the Sunny Hilltop and succeed in college. Thank you, Falcons!



# MEMORIAL GIFTS

MEMORIAL GIFTS ALLOW DONORS TO REMEMBER AND HONOR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY. DONORS WHO HAVE MADE MEMORIAL GIFTS ARE LISTED FOLLOWING THE NAME(S) OF THE PERSON HONORED.

**JACK BASKIN**

Dr. Peggy Downes Baskin  
Cammy and Tim Torgenrud

**ELEANOR CARSON**

*In memory of my mother who loved York and encouraged me to attend. Thank you, York!*  
Eric Carson '85 and Jacqueline Carson

**JAMES COOK '69**

Robert Meyer '69 and Kathleen Harner

**ALFRED DIAZ-INFANTE**

Colleen and John Bailey

**CHARLES S. DOWNES**

Steven Marks '72

**JOANNE DOYLE**

*In memory of Joanne, who opened the door for my life-changing experience at York.*  
Kelly Ramirez '99 and Marcus Peterson  
Diana Van Vleck '76 and Jon Van Vleck

**CAROL LEE FINEGAN**

Colleen and John Bailey

**KUNI GATANAGA '89**

Debra Torin-Levy '86 and David Levy

**NORIKO GATANAGA '86**

Debra Torin-Levy '86 and David Levy

**IRENE GENAUER**

Anonymous

**KYLAN JONES-HUFFMAN '90**

Penny Jones  
Jesus Torres '91

**DR. HENRY M. LITTLEFIELD**

Mila Vasser '87

**LLOYD LOWREY**

Carol Lowrey

**JOAN MOHLENHOFF**

Jennifer Mohlenhoff-Baggett '87 and Jeff Baggett

**ROBERT MOHLENHOFF**

Jennifer Mohlenhoff-Baggett '87 and Jeff Baggett

**ALICE AND WILLIAM MORGAN**

Benjamin Morgan '90

**NICHOLAS NELL '95**

Wilbur Lee '95 and Cordelia Lee

**BRIAN ROGERS**

Rachel Dart '03  
Jessamin and Richard Rega

**TEX RYAN '69**

Robert Meyer '69 and Kathleen Harner

**NATALIE ROSE SANFORD '19**

Pamela Clemens

**FRAU CHRISTINA VASVARY**

Mitchell Green '75

**KAREN MARIE WEITZMAN '81**

Brenda Aronowitz and Raymon Dyck  
Dagmar and James Huffman



# FALL FAIR

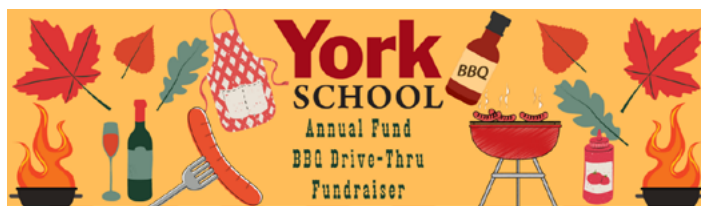
## AND INAUGURAL BBQ

By Erin White, Director of Philanthropy and Community Partnerships

The Fall Fair 2022 was in full swing again this year, combining a beloved York tradition and a brand new one, the York Family BBQ.

Students raised over \$5,000 for their school clubs, leveraging popular events like the annual Farmer's Market, the seniors' Pie in the Face, and the 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Additionally, York parents Cecilia and Jerry Kennedy (Elysha '26) put their decades-long experience running BBQ fundraisers to work, selling over \$7,000 worth of BBQ take-home packages to York families and community members during and after the Fall Fair.

We thank Gerard Martin, art teacher and Fall Fair faculty advisor, the BBQ sponsors and individuals who supported the event, and the Kennedy family for bringing a new and lively tradition to York School!



**A big thank you to our generous sponsors and donors!**

**Cheryl Heyermann - Heyermann Group**

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**The Jeff Taylor Family (in memorium)**

**Michael and Heather Oliver**

**Edible Monterey, Aga Simpson**



Dedicated York volunteers, Cecilia, Jerry, and Elysha '26 Kennedy

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YORK SCHOOL'S CUMULATIVE GIVING SOCIETY

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# GIFTS TO ENDOWMENT

GIFTS TO YORK'S ENDOWMENT ENSURE LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR MAJOR PRIORITIES LIKE TUITION ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING FOR FACULTY. THIS LIST INCLUDES YORK'S ESTABLISHED FUNDS AND THE DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2022-23.

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### ATWOOD FAMILY ENDOWMENT

### ATWOOD STEAMSHIP ENDOWMENT

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**YORK SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID ENDOWMENT**

**ENDOWED FUNDS FOR FACULTY SUPPORT  
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Nicholas Sturch



# CONSTANCE H. BISHOP SOCIETY

The Constance H. Bishop Society honors the example of the McIntosh and Bishop families and their generosity to York School. Members of the Society are recognized for their donation of a scholarship-sized gift (\$10,000+) to fund one or more financial aid awards in the current fiscal year.

**WILLIAM MCCASKEY CHAPMAN AND ADALINE DINSMORE CHAPMAN  
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**THE ESTATE OF SHARON DAMON**

**HOWARD GOODKIN SCHOLARSHIP**  
*provided by Jeanne and Samuel Gesumaria and Sherry and Robert Long*

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# VALENTINE LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**DEBBIE HALE,  
COMMUNITY LEADER  
& YORK TRUSTEE**

By Erin White, Director of Philanthropy  
and Community Partnerships

**Q: Where are you from? Tell me a little about your background and where you grew up.**

A: I'm a native Californian, born in Sacramento, and I grew up on the SF Peninsula, which is now the heart of Silicon Valley. I attended Los Altos High, followed by UC Berkeley where I studied political economy, and later, Princeton, where I focused on public policy and urban regional planning.

**Q: What drew you to those fields?**

A: I've always been interested in shaping the policies and communities that we live in. Initially, I thought I could achieve this at a statewide level, but I soon realized that I could have a more significant impact at the local level. That's when I delved into transportation and stayed in that field from 1990 until my retirement in 2021, primarily focusing on transportation planning, funding, and building.

**Q: What did you love about your career?**

A: I loved being able to conceptualize projects, figure out how to finance them, and ultimately see them come to fruition. Knowing that these projects made travel by car, public transportation, or bicycle safer and more accessible, and that they improved people's lives, was incredibly rewarding. We initially started with local roads and highways, but we later shifted our focus to "active transportation," promoting biking and walking. Transit projects were also crucial because they serve as a lifeline for those who can't afford a car.

**Q: Tell us about how you became involved at York School.**

A: I became part of a group of Princeton alumni who interviewed students applying to the school. (Princeton requires an alumni interview with each applicant.) While getting to know schools in the Monterey County area, I was particularly impressed with the quality of students from York. Given Princeton's low acceptance rate, it stood out that at least 1-2 York students were admitted each year. A friend of mine who served as the Philanthropy Director for York School at the time invited me to join the Board and I happily agreed!

**Q: What's the number one thing you've learned about York since joining the Board?**

A: I've been amazed by the wide variety of activities available at York that propel students toward excellence. It's not just about AP classes and academics; York provides nurturing activities like the PATH advisory program. It's reassuring to know that York students receive guidance in their social and emotional development in addition to their academics. I've also been pleasantly surprised by the strength of York's athletic program, especially for girls, and the high level of student involvement in sports. If I had attended a high school with a more nurturing athletic environment, I might have discovered my passion for sports earlier in life myself.





**Q: Tell me about your decision to include York in your estate planning. What was that process like for you?**

A: First, I don't have children, so I've been inspired to explore ways to have an even greater impact on the youth of our community. Secondly, I strongly believe that if you have an estate, you should use it to improve your community in general. Observing the need at York to invest in their programs and recognizing that I couldn't make substantial gifts during my lifetime, I realized that my estate resources could secure York's long-term future and continue its positive impact on the community.

**Q: What would you say to anyone considering doing the same?**

A: It's a relatively straightforward process. If you haven't yet done your estate planning, it's a prudent step to take. Once you start the process, it becomes easy to decide which organizations and institutions are important to you. If York is among those, it should be included. If you're unsure about the amount to give, consider specifying a percentage of your estate.

**Q: What are you enjoying most about retirement?**

A: Retirement has been fantastic! I currently serve as the Rotary District 5230 Governor, providing inspiration and support to 60 Rotary service clubs spanning from Monterey County to Tulare County, Fresno County and Kings County. I'm enjoying witnessing the incredible work people are doing at the local level. The flexibility of retirement allows me to exercise more, volunteer extensively, and dedicate more time to my work on the York School Board. Plus, I get to travel!

**Q: Is there anything else you would like to share?**

A: I'd like to express my appreciation for the Board of Trustees at York and the wonderful experience of working with such a collaborative group of trustees and a motivated, capable team of staff members. Their dedication to York's mission has been truly inspiring.

# VALENTINE LEGACY SOCIETY

Anonymous

Robert P. Balles

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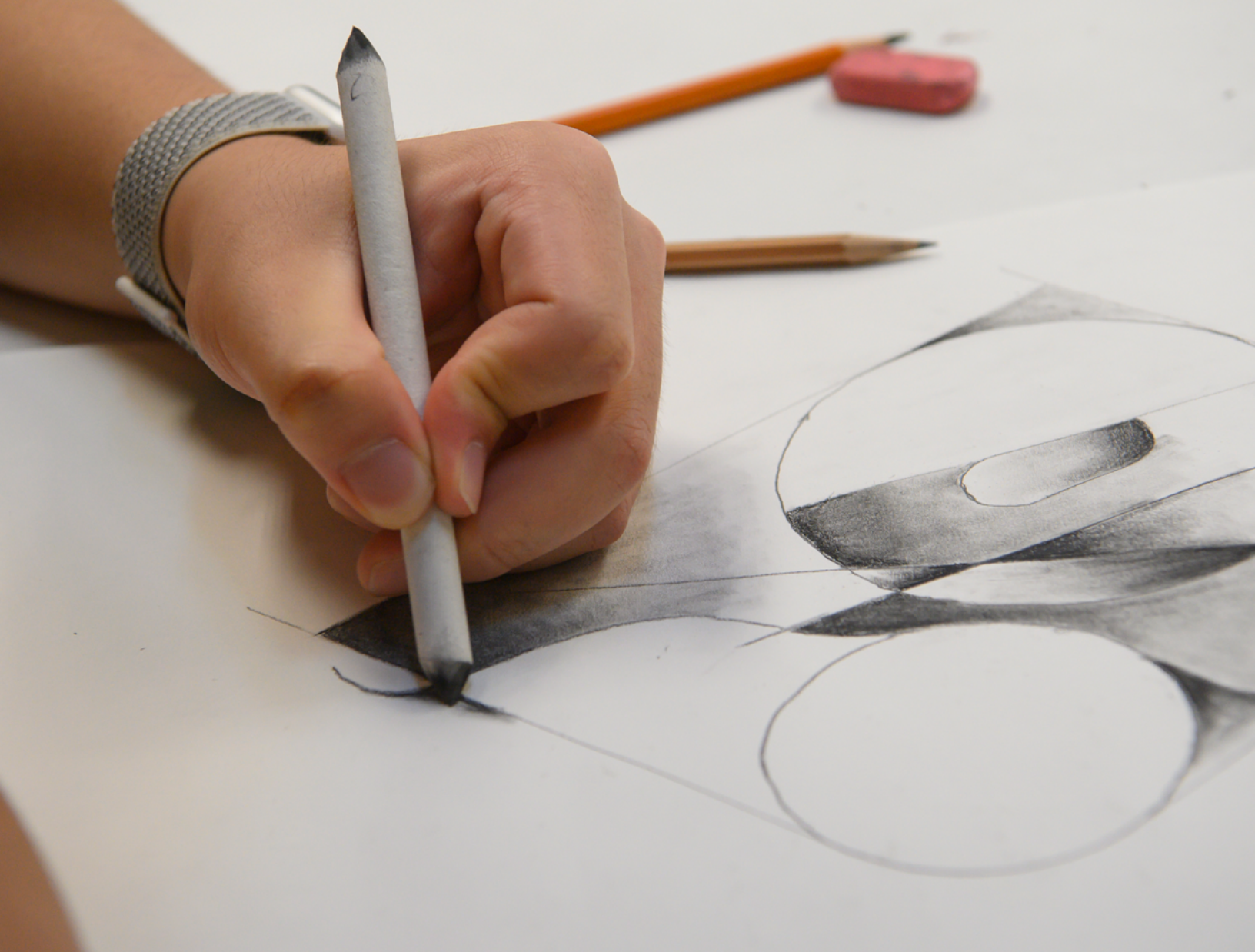
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York School recognizes and thanks those individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations included in this report for their generous contributions during the Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023). Gifts received after June 30, 2023 will be acknowledged in next year's Impact Report.

While we strive to provide accurate recognition of our donors for this report, errors and omissions sometimes occur. If you contributed as a donor and your name was inadvertently omitted, listed in the wrong place, or misspelled, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us at [giving@york.org](mailto:giving@york.org).

### **CORRECTION TO LAST YEAR'S 2022 IMPACT REPORT**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jerry Kennedy and Elysha Kennedy '26 who volunteered tirelessly on behalf of the 2022 Soiree by the Bay event, which was an extraordinary success due to their contributions and leadership. We apologize for omitting their names from the list of volunteers in last year's report.

# York SCHOOL

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