

The Rectory News

THE MAGAZINE OF RECTORY SCHOOL FALL 2025





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THE MAGAZINE OF RECTORY SCHOOL

Published for the students, alumni, families, and friends of Rectory School, Pomfret, Connecticut.

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ON THE COVER

Golden hour at Rectory: Wolfie standing proud as the campus greets a new day. Cover photo by: Jacob Guertin

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OUR MISSION

Rectory School's mission is to provide students, from early childhood through middle school, with an enriched and supportive academic, social, and ethical community that addresses individual learning styles, aptitudes, and needs while promoting personal self-worth and accountability.



FEATURES

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STUDENT VOICES: A COLLECTION OF STUDENT ART

At Rectory School, we believe in the power of self-expression and the importance of fostering creativity in all its forms. "Student Voices" is a testament to the remarkable talent and imagination of our students. Within these pages, you'll find a vibrant collection of artwork, photography, poetry, and writing samples that reflect the diverse perspectives, experiences, and emotions of our community.

Each piece is a unique expression of individuality, shaped by the students' journeys and their ever-growing sense of self. Through these creations, our students give us a glimpse into their world, offering insights into their thoughts, dreams, and passions. We are proud to showcase their voices and celebrate the boundless creativity that thrives at Rectory.

► NOORA M. '25 BIGELOW SCHOLARS COMMISSION PIECE

Our Bigelow Scholars Program tackled the subject of Business and Entrepreneurship in 2024-2025. Students in the art segment of the program learned about commission projects and art reproduction.

This is Noora's commissioned inspirational poster which she collaborated on with her "client" faculty member Mrs. Johnson. The piece was drawn using the digital drawing program Procreate.



◄ ANTHONY B. '25 9TH GRADE BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

Students in Mrs. Gould's 9th grade photography class learned the process of taking traditional black and white photos and processing them in our dark room in the Art Barn.



▼ NOORA M. '25

9TH GRADE INTRODUCTION TO ART,
INDEPENDENT STUDY

9th graders spend the spring term in Introduction to Art exploring an independent study. Noora chose to focus on the beauty of black women and the cultural importance of hair. The painting was enhanced by the use of acrylic textured medium and embellished with gold leaf.



▲ SOICHIRO S. '26

8TH GRADE
STAINED GLASS

In 8th grade, students have the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of stained glass work. In this piece, Soichiro used a fused glass medallion he designed, set in a foiled and soldered frame.

WHAT IF?

BY ANONYMOUS

*What if the stars refused to shine at night
And shadows lingered where the sun once glowed?
What if the moon forgot its silver light,
And dreams were lost upon a barren road?*

*What if the breeze no longer whispered sweet
And flowers wilted in their vibrant hues?
What if the laughter faded in the street
And silence wrapped the world in weary blues?*

*Yet in the heart where hope forever lies
Each "what if" holds a spark of coming dawn
For every cloud obscures the brightest skies
And from the dusk, a new day will be drawn*

*So let us ponder, with our spirits high,
What if the world is waiting for a sigh?*

POEM

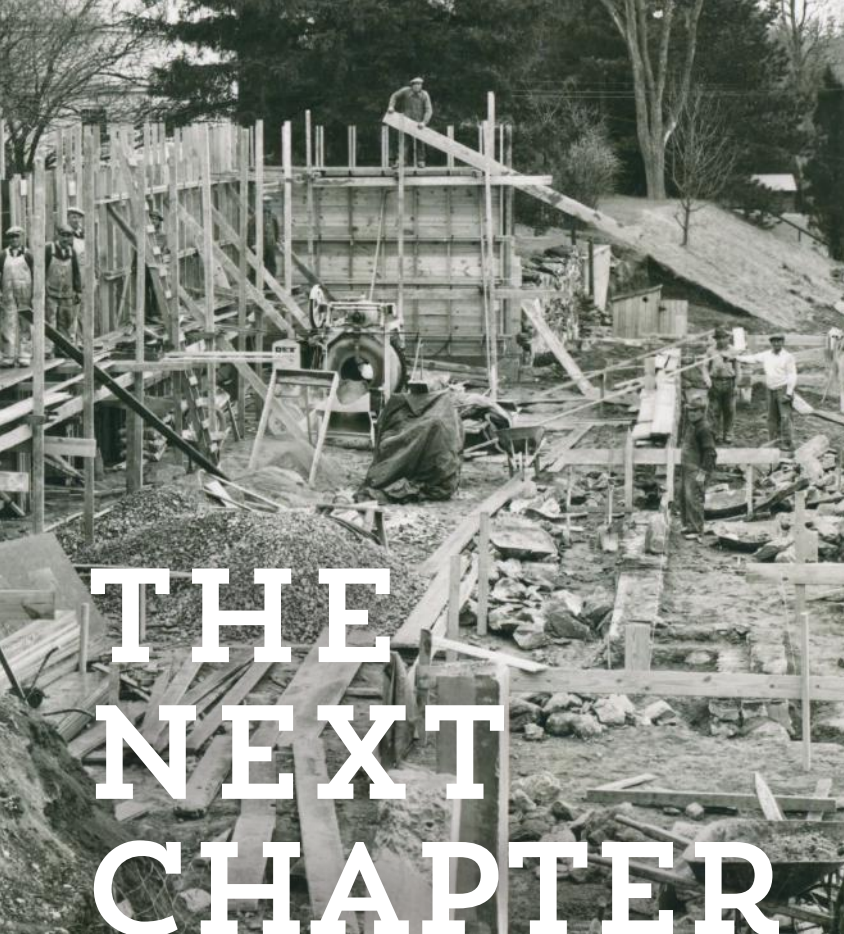
BY MAEGIANI D. '26

*Hate is a strong word
But it doesn't lie in my vocabulary
Most don't know the meaning
But still use it carelessly*

*Love is a word that everyone is used to
We tend to use this daily
We start from a young age and keep it in our
vocabulary
We may not always mean it
But we still say it*

*Happiness resides in all of us
It depends on how you look at it
Some say it's momentarily
Some say it's forever*

*Sadness on the other hand
Deserves way more credit
You feel it daily
Some disagree
Opposites from
Hate to love
And
Happiness to sadness
Can change daily*



THE NEXT CHAPTER

HOW NEW SPACES ARE SHAPING RECTORY

*Original article researched and written by Robert Oakes,
Former Associate Director of Communications.*

*Adapted for this issue by Rae Dykeman,
Director of Communications*

Nearly a century ago, a group of hardworking men stood side-by-side in a dirt-filled construction site on Rectory's campus. Their overalls were dusty, their tools well-worn, and their faces determined. They were building what would become our first Dining Hall, laying a foundation—quite literally—for the school we cherish today. At that time, there was no Memorial Dorm, no Wolf Den, no familiar bell ringing to start the school day. Those buildings were only dreams of what could be.

Thanks to visionaries, families, and friends who believed in those dreams, those early plans became a reality. Over the decades, Rectory has continued to grow, just as our students do, adapting to meet the needs of each new generation.

Today, as you walk through campus, evidence of those dreams can be seen everywhere—spaces like The Morgan Innovation Lab have been designed with industry-standard computing and technology resources to inspire learning and nurture creativity. At the forefront of each new building, the community is at the top of mind; like the open common rooms of Centennial Hall—the perfect place to foster lifelong friendships. These new spaces embrace the future of Rectory, while honoring the past.



CENTENNIAL HALL

Since its opening, Centennial Hall has quickly become one of the most sought-after dorms on campus. Its warm, welcoming spaces provide our students with a true home away from home—with spacious rooms, bright common areas, and a thoughtful design; it provides a comfortable, welcoming place for students to live, study, and connect.

Beyond its aesthetic charm, the dorm offers modern comfort—including air conditioning, a feature much appreciated by students during the hot summer months when our Summer@Rectory program is in full swing.

"The location is perfect, the rooms are spacious, and the common areas give students space to connect and relax," said Justin Bendall, Director of Residential Life. "It's no surprise Centennial has become the most requested space for our girl boarders each year."





MORGAN INNOVATION LAB

When the Morgan Innovation Lab opened last fall, it instantly became a hub of imagination and exploration. Thanks to a generous gift from the Beagary Charitable Trust, the space now houses 3D printers, laser cutters, VR headsets, Wacom drawing tablets, and a suite of iMac computers—all designed to give students hands-on opportunities to bring their ideas to life. “This space opens up endless possibilities for learning,” shared Donna Dubinsky, Director of Technology.

“Students can explore history through virtual reality, design objects to print in 3D, or collaborate on digital creations. It’s thrilling to watch them discover new passions.”

Faculty have eagerly integrated the Lab into their teaching—from history classes exploring ancient civilizations in VR to sports media electives designing graphics for athletic events. On weekends, open VR nights bring students together for fun and friendship. “This lab helps prepare our kids for the future,” Donna said. “It’s about more than technology. It’s about curiosity, innovation, and problem-solving.”

BREWSTER ODEUM

In Spring 2024, we celebrated the opening of The Brewster Odeum, a spectacular addition to the Tang Center. With its soaring windows and thoughtfully designed interior, the Odeum is now the heart of our Music program. Where students once squeezed into hallways or repurposed classrooms for practice, there is now ample room to rehearse, perform, and dream big. The Odeum includes individual practice rooms, expanded lesson spaces, and even climate-controlled instrument storage with custom cubbies. “The space has completely transformed what we can do,” said Director of Related Arts, Donna Bessette. “Students are more independent, more collaborative, and more excited than ever.”

For many, the Odeum has brought new energy to campus life. On weekends, boarders gather to practice or jam in small ensembles, while faculty marvel at the creativity happening in every corner.

“It feels joyful and open,” Donna added. “The light, the views, the sound quality—it’s all designed to inspire.”

And if you happen to catch a sunset from the rooftop patio? That view has quickly become one of the most iconic spots on campus.



THE GYMNASIUM EXTENSION

Across the sports fields, the buzz of construction has been building excitement. The Colhoun Gymnasium extension will transform athletics at Rectory and create new opportunities for our students to grow, compete, and play. This new facility was designed to support every aspect of athletics at Rectory. It features a dedicated fitness room for team and individual training, giving students the tools to build strength, improve performance, and reach their goals. A dynamic indoor rock wall brings new energy to our Adventure Program, offering a year-round climbing experience that physically and mentally challenges students.

The expansion also adds much-needed court space, allowing for consistent practice schedules and higher-quality training. With this extra room, practices are more focused, game times are more predictable, and coaches can better develop skills and teamwork.

“Our athletes and coaches are going to love this space,” said Athletics Director, Courtney Callanan. “It’s not just functional—it’s beautiful. And yes,” she laughed, “I’ll definitely be one of the first to try the rock wall!”

The gym expansion is more than a building—it’s an investment in our students’ health, teamwork, and confidence. It reflects Rectory’s ongoing commitment to providing experiences that challenge, inspire, and unite our community.

IMPACTING FUTURE LIVES

As we reflect on these exciting changes, it’s hard not to think back to that grainy photo from 1929. Those builders likely couldn’t imagine all the ways their work would shape the lives of generations to come.

Today, our students fill these new spaces with laughter, learning, and memories. And just as the Dining Hall once started as a dream, the projects we complete today will inspire future generations of Rectory Wolves.

With gratitude for our community—our families, alumni, and donors—we celebrate this season of growth and look forward to the endless possibilities still ahead. 🐾

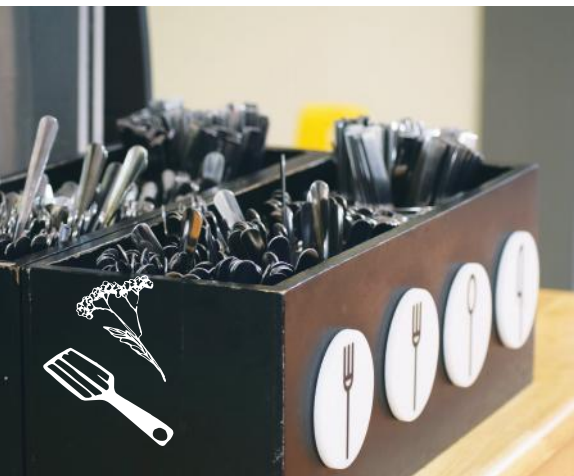
MOKE THAN A MEAL

HOW RECTORY'S DINING
HALL BRINGS CULTURE AND
COMMUNITY TO THE TABLE

By Rae Dykeman, Director of Communications



At Rectory School, nestled in the heart of Pomfret, Connecticut, the dining hall serves far more than food—it serves community, connection, and culture. Beneath the hum of conversations and the clatter of trays, the culinary program—led by longtime Chef Manager Dave DeHay—creates daily moments of comfort and celebration that extend well beyond the plate. >>>



With 15 years at Rectory and a career shaped by time at Johnson & Wales University and other New England boarding schools, DeHay brings both expertise and heart to the kitchen. “I really enjoy the middle school and elementary age groups,” he shares. “The smiles and interactions we have every day make this work feel really special.” DeHay isn’t just running a kitchen—he’s building a community, one meal at a time.

Rectory’s student body is incredibly diverse, with students hailing from across the U.S. and around the world. That diversity is a guiding force in menu development. “We’re always trying to help each student find food that reminds them of home,” DeHay explains. “With so many cultures represented on campus, we constantly look for ways to bring those traditions into our menus.” A key part of that effort is simply listening. Students are encouraged to share recipes and requests with the culinary team. Whether through QR code surveys, casual conversations in the dining hall, or class projects like those in Dena O’Hara’s Health and Wellness course, student voices are taken seriously.

Those voices have brought incredible variety to the menu. Special themed events like Lunar New Year, Diwali, and Nigerian Independence Day transform the dining hall into a space of cultural celebration. The popular “Spice Explorers” initiative has taken students on flavorful journeys to countries like Malaysia, Poland, Peru, Turkey, and the Philippines. Even members of the dining staff, such as Heather and Olivia, have contributed family recipes that connect their heritage with their work—turning every meal into an invitation to learn and share.

One particularly memorable event was “Dumpling Day,” when Rectory parents and the culinary staff worked together to prepare a staggering 7,000 dumplings by hand. “We were still making dumplings when break started,” DeHay remembers with a laugh. “And the amazing thing was how many students came over to help, to learn, and just be part of it. That’s what it’s all about.”

Other student-driven moments have led to new traditions. When a Nigerian student asked for a meal to celebrate their national holiday, the team jumped into action. “We pulled it off with just a week’s notice,” says DeHay. “That one student gave others the courage to ask for their culture to be seen, too.” These interactions reinforce the dining hall’s role as a cultural bridge—where meals can spark pride, recognition, and unity.

While culture and community are cornerstones of the program, so are student favorites. Meals like ramen bowls, bao buns, mac and cheese, and soy ginger grilled chicken draw crowds and create excitement. “Ramen bowl day is probably the top meal we serve,” says DeHay. “Every student is thrilled when it’s on the menu. They can customize it however they like—it’s comforting, creative, and always a hit.” Korean army soup, once an unfamiliar request on a student survey, now draws lines down the hallway thanks to its flavorful depth and cultural roots.

The dining hall experience at Rectory doesn’t stop when the entrée plates are cleared—it continues with a sweet surprise. One standout is the beloved white chocolate raisin cookie, born from a friendly cookie competition among staff and students. Created by Mr. Bendall, this treat has earned its place as a favorite at special events, graduations, and catered gatherings. It’s more than just dessert—it’s a delicious symbol of Rectory’s spirit of community and creativity.

Nutrition and health are taken just as seriously as taste and variety. The dining program follows strict standards that ensure meals are balanced, clean, and made with care. “We cook all deli meats in-house, we use dried beans instead of canned, and we never use MSG or artificial coloring,” DeHay explains. The kitchen avoids processed meats whenever possible and always offers whole grains and fresh produce. These choices aren’t about trends—they’re about trust. “We want families to know that what their kids are eating is made with intention,” he adds.

For students with allergies or dietary restrictions, that intention is even more critical. A dedicated team of allergy experts works daily to ensure every meal is safe. Students are taught to check the allergy board and speak directly with staff before selecting their meals. “We take allergies very seriously,” says DeHay. “All staff undergo biannual allergy training, and our chefs maintain advanced certifications. It’s not just policy—it’s a priority.” The team even participates in monthly calls with their corporate nutrition division to stay ahead of emerging health concerns and best practices.

Perhaps the heart of the program lies in the team itself. From the early morning breakfast crew to the evening dinner staff, the kitchen hums with coordination, laughter, and pride. “We’re like a family,” DeHay says. “Everyone brings something different—whether it’s Jenn’s incredible desserts, Heather and Olivia’s soups, or Jess and Liz’s deli and salad work. They each leave a signature on the meals we serve.”

The relationships they build with students are just as meaningful. “We don’t get a student roster,” DeHay explains, “so we challenge ourselves to learn new names each week. It’s the small conversations, the regular smiles—that’s how we connect.” Students often seek out “their person” in the kitchen to share a story, ask for a recipe, or simply say hello. These everyday exchanges are the foundation of a dining experience that feels warm and personal.

Looking ahead, the program continues to grow. Renovations to update the dining hall’s serving lines and enhance the deli and salad bars are on the horizon, slated for the 2025-2026 academic year. These improvements will bring fresh energy and greater efficiency to the space—another exciting step forward for a program that never stops evolving, while staying true to its heart.

At Rectory, food is never just food. It’s an invitation to connect. It’s a memory in the making. And more than anything, it’s a reminder that belonging can be found around every table, one bite at a time. 🐾



LAYING THE FOUNDATION

By Rae Dykeman, Director of Communications

HOW RECTORY'S ELEMENTARY PROGRAM PREPARES FUTURE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS



At Rectory School, the academic journey begins with a deeply held belief: every child is seen and capable of growth, success, and meaningful engagement in their learning. From their first day in our elementary classrooms to their final step into middle school, students are immersed in an environment where academic curiosity is nurtured, confidence is built, and independence is intentionally developed.

Our elementary curriculum is designed not only to teach foundational skills but to spark wonder. We encourage young learners to ask questions, investigate answers, and think critically. Whether it's through a hands-on science experiment, a creative writers workshop, or a math game that fosters pattern recognition and problem-solving, students are invited to explore content with purpose. They are active participants in their education—not passive recipients—learning to advocate for themselves and their learning.

Rectory's approach is guided by a core philosophy that doesn't change across grade levels: meet every student where they are, challenge them appropriately, and provide the support they need to grow. That's why differentiation is embedded into every classroom experience. Teachers employ a range of strategies—small group instruction, flexible seating, learning centers, and personalized goal-setting—to meet diverse needs. With small class sizes and close faculty collaboration,

we ensure that instruction is tailored, student achievement is closely monitored, and transitions between grade levels are smooth and intentional.

Building independence is not just an academic goal—it's a life skill we develop from the earliest years. Our teachers help students learn to manage materials, make thoughtful choices, and reflect on their learning. It's not uncommon to witness a quiet learner find their voice during a readers workshop or see a hesitant mathematician confidently explain a strategy to the class. These moments—big and small—are the sparks of confidence that lead to lifelong self-assurance.

As students approach the bridge to middle school in Grade 4, we begin a thoughtful, multi-layered transition. In addition to their core academic program, fourth graders gradually gain exposure to middle school life. They attend monthly Grades 4–7 chapel services and join middle school assemblies in the spring. Each student also takes part in a Shadow Day, walking in the shoes of a fifth grader—attending classes, electives, and lunch—to preview the routines and expectations of the next phase. But the transition isn't just about logistics—it's about relationships. Reflection Days bring elementary and middle school teachers together to talk through each individual student's strengths and support needs. Parents of fourth graders are invited to special events with

middle school faculty and administrators to ask questions and learn more about the middle school experience. Every step is designed to help students and families feel supported, informed, and confident.

The strength of Rectory's elementary program becomes especially clear when students enter middle school—not just because of what they know, but because of who they've become. They arrive in Grade 5 with a strong sense of self, a readiness to take on new challenges, and a clear understanding of how they learn best. These students don't just adapt to middle school—they step into it with confidence, curiosity, and a deep connection to the Rectory community.

>>>





One of the most visible impacts is in the academic habits our students bring with them. Having spent their formative years in classrooms that foster self-reflection, perseverance, and inquiry, these learners arrive in middle school knowing how to ask thoughtful questions, advocate for their needs, and build on prior knowledge in meaningful ways. Our curriculum isn't built around short-term units—it's layered and connected, allowing students to deepen their understanding over time. By fifth grade, students are not just retaining content, but applying it, synthesizing ideas, and making real-world connections.

Socially and emotionally, Rectory elementary students arrive with a strong foundation in agency and empathy. They've been in an environment that encourages them to try hard things and celebrate growth. As a result, they bring a level of maturity and emotional intelligence that elevates the entire middle school community. They know our school's values. They live them. You'll see them give high fives to younger students in the halls, check in with peers who are struggling, and welcome new classmates into our fold with genuine kindness.

To make the transition as smooth as possible, our support systems are both thoughtful and intentional. The fifth-grade classroom is located just steps from the fourth grade, helping students adjust without losing their sense of comfort and connection. Our fourth

and fifth-grade teachers collaborate year-round to ensure continuity of instruction and a consistent approach to student support. These partnerships are further strengthened during Reflection Days, when the Elementary and Middle School faculty meet to share insights, discuss each student's learning profile, and create a plan for continued growth.

Faculty collaboration across disciplines also plays a critical role in easing both the academic and emotional transition. Our Spanish, music, visual arts, movement, computer science, library, and learning support teachers work with students from elementary through middle school, creating a seamless progression in both content and relationship-building. Students benefit from seeing familiar faces in new spaces, which builds trust and continuity. These specialists collaborate closely with classroom teachers to align expectations, ensure a cohesive experience, and identify the best ways to support each learner's journey.

Beyond the classroom, our fifth graders are empowered through programs that help them grow as leaders. Each student is paired with a ninth-grade mentor—an older peer who serves as a guide, mentor, and friend throughout the year. These cross-grade relationships foster a sense of belonging and purpose that stretches across our entire campus. Students begin to see themselves as part of something larger, with a role to play in shaping and supporting our community.

In fifth grade, students also take part in our Student Development and Leadership Program, further reinforcing the skills of communication, collaboration, and self-advocacy. Their involvement in the middle school musical, band, and chorus not only develops their talents but also builds their confidence and connection with older peers. With each experience, they carry forward the foundation built in elementary school—stepping into middle school not just as learners, but as leaders in the making.

You don't have to look far to see the long-term results of our approach. Students like Erin Park, McKenna Bendall, Jackson Hayden, and Jotham Burello—who began their Rectory journeys in elementary—are now known for their leadership, academic excellence, and compassion as upperclassmen and 2025 Rectory Graduates. They're the ones who rise when it counts, stand steady beside others, and reach back to make the way clearer for those coming next. That's the power of a Rectory education.

**AND IT ALL BEGINS IN
THOSE EARLY YEARS—WHERE
STUDENTS FIRST LEARN TO
SAY, "I CAN DO HARD THINGS,"
AND BELIEVE IT. 🐾**

AWARDS & HONORS



FELICIA RODMAN RECEIVES 2025 KELLOGG AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Rectory School proudly honored Ms. Felicia Rodman with the prestigious 2025 Kellogg Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions as a teacher, coach, dorm parent, and campus leader. Hired initially as a learning specialist, Ms. Rodman has grown into a pillar of Rectory's academic and residential life, now teaching history in one of the school's most intellectually engaging and inviting classrooms.

Known for her high standards, unwavering dedication, and student-centered approach, Ms. Rodman fosters deep, skill-based learning while encouraging ownership and initiative among her students. Her dynamic involvement extends beyond the classroom—she has coached flag football, basketball, fencing, and softball; served as a dorm parent; and currently holds key leadership positions as faculty liaison to the Board of Trustees and co-chair of the Faculty Life Committee.

A role model of professionalism and heart, Ms. Rodman exemplifies the spirit of the Kellogg Award—celebrating both tenure and impact at Rectory.



MARCIA WILLIAMS HONORED WITH 2025 KELLOGG AWARD FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL SERVICE

Rectory School is delighted to present the 2025 Kellogg Award to Mrs. Marcia Williams, whose 15 years of steadfast dedication and quiet leadership have left a lasting mark on the school's operational strength and community warmth.

Originally arriving on campus with no formal role, Mrs. Williams quickly became indispensable—first by transforming Rectory's data management systems with her sharp expertise, then by stepping into the development office where her creativity and determination helped raise alumni and parent engagement to record levels. Known for her responsiveness, grace under pressure, and willingness to tackle any task—technical or interpersonal—she has been a go-to resource across departments.

Whether she was modernizing databases, hosting alumni at Brittain House, or making students feel at home during tough times, Mrs. Williams approached each responsibility with thoughtfulness and a deep sense of care. Her impact is profound and enduring, and this award celebrates the exceptional difference she continues to make.



BENCH DEDICATION HONORS FRED AND MARCIA WILLIAMS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO RECTORY SCHOOL

In a heartfelt moment of gratitude and celebration, the Rectory Parents' Association (RPA) dedicated a bench in honor of Fred and Marcia Williams, recognizing their enduring contributions to the school community. The bench will be placed near the lower pickleball and tennis courts—a fitting location given Mr. Williams' well-known love for pickleball—as fondly shared during this spring's concert.

During the dedication, Mr. Williams expressed sincere appreciation for the thoughtful gesture, noting the bench's beauty and personal significance. He also took a moment to recognize the RPA for their ongoing volunteer efforts to support both students and faculty. "These are volunteers... their sole goal is to do right by you," he said.

The engraved bench not only offers a place of rest and reflection but stands as a lasting tribute to two individuals who have made a meaningful impact on the Rectory School community.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



▲ FARM-FRESH

Students enjoyed a lunchtime treat featuring a variety of local apples and fresh cider! Chef Kim and Matt, our produce partner, offered seasonal flavors and answered questions about the farm-fresh experience.

SNOWBALL DANCE

Students dressed to impress for Rectory's annual Snowball Dance—an evening of dining, dancing, and celebration that brings the campus community together in style. The semi-formal event featured festive décor, a special dinner, and a lively dance floor where students and faculty alike shared laughter, music, and memorable moments to close out the winter season.



◀ ROSELAND PARK JINGLE BELL 5K

The Roseland Park Jingle Bell 5K brought festive fun and holiday spirit! Students and teachers donned their best seasonal gear to run, walk, and jingle their way to personal bests and great memories.



◀ BIGELOW HONORS

Bigelow Honors students dive into real-world learning at Nichols College! As part of this interdisciplinary program for high-achieving 8th and 9th graders, students explored college-level ideas and environments—connecting classroom concepts to future possibilities.





SPRING MUSICAL: OH, THE PLACES THEY PERFORMED!

This spring, Rectory School was transported to the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss with a dazzling production of *Seussical*. Bursting with color, creativity, and charm, the show brought together Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, and a host of beloved Seussian characters for an unforgettable adventure.

From the first note to the final bow, the cast showcased not only their talent, but also their teamwork, confidence, and heart. Under the direction of the Performing Arts Department, students lit up the stage with powerful vocals, clever choreography, and imaginative costumes—each moment a testament to their hard work and passion.

The production was more than a performance; it was a celebration of storytelling, community, and the boundless imagination that defines childhood. Congratulations to the entire *Seussical* cast and crew for reminding us all that “a person’s a person, no matter how small.”

MELP

The May Experiential Learning Program (MELP) is one of Rectory’s most anticipated traditions—an immersive, week-long journey where students and faculty step out of the classroom and into the world. Designed to push students beyond their boundaries, MELP helps them explore new possibilities, develop real-world skills, and gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Each spring, students engage in hands-on, in-depth learning through unique excursions that blend challenge, curiosity, and discovery. Whether navigating a new environment, tackling team-based projects, or reflecting on personal growth, MELP fosters the kind of experiential learning that leaves a lasting impact—preparing students not just for school, but for life.



REGATTA

In a favorite year-end tradition, students gathered at the pond in May for the Rectory Regatta—racing their homemade cardboard boats and seeing who could stay afloat the longest! In 2025, this beloved event was renamed The Fred and Marcia Williams Rectory Regatta in honor of their lasting impact on the Rectory community.



WOLVES ON THE FIELD

ATHLETICS AT RECTORY

Athletics are more than just games—they're a powerful extension of the classroom. Rectory's athletics program is rooted in the belief that physical activity builds character, fosters community, and ignites a lifelong passion for fitness and well-being. Each season, every student takes part in our athletics program, a cornerstone of the Rectory experience. With opportunities across multiple levels of competition, every student—from the seasoned athlete to the enthusiastic beginner—finds a place to thrive. Our varsity teams are known for their competitive spirit and success, while developmental teams focus on honing fundamental skills, building confidence, and encouraging a growth mindset.

While inter-school competition adds excitement and drive, the true heart of Rectory athletics lies in personal growth. We emphasize teamwork, skill development, sportsmanship, and—most importantly—enjoyment. Students are encouraged to take risks, challenge themselves, and discover new strengths in a supportive environment.

Whether scoring the winning goal, cheering on teammates from the sideline, or trying a new sport for the first time, every Rectory athlete is learning, growing, and building memories that last far beyond the final whistle.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

FALL

Our fall season set an impressive tone for the year, marked by passion, perseverance, and standout performances across all teams. Student-athletes rose to every challenge with determination and heart.

WINTER

Winter brought a celebration of team spirit and achievement. From basketball championships and fencing's undefeated run to standout swim times and a stunning dance performance, Rectory athletes shined across the board.

SPRING

Spring rounded out the year with energy and determination. Whether on the lacrosse field, baseball diamond, tennis court, or track, students pushed their limits, celebrated milestones, and modeled the sportsmanship that defines our program.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Jackson A. '25 makes a move against an opponent during an early-season Varsity Hockey game. 🐾 Swimmers Chris C. '25, Arvin S. '27, Leon L. '26, and Oscar Z. '29 take a breather during practice. 🐾 Mary-Allegra T. '27 and Miley L. '26 celebrate after the Cross Country team captured the Small Division title at the 2024 QVJC League Championship. 🐾 Coach Roy reviews critical plays with the Boys Varsity A Basketball team during a tight home game. 🐾 The Girls Varsity Basketball team celebrates with Coach Bradley and Coach Hart after capturing the championship at the Newton Country Day Tournament. 🐾 Coach Ames huddles with the flag football team, sharing play details ahead of the Fall Family Weekend scrimmage. 🐾 Nina Z. '26 practices her swing at Connecticut National Golf Course.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

FALL & SPRING FAMILY WEEKENDS ►

Fall Family Weekend buzzed with energy—parent-teacher conferences, the Prism Concert, a packed Friday dinner with highlights from the year, and lively athletic events. Families enjoyed campus tours, sunshine, a cookout, and fun activities for kids hosted by the Parents' Association. Spring Family Weekend amped up the excitement by coinciding with Alumni Reunion, featuring classroom visits, concerts, and special events that brought together families, alumni, and staff for a joyful celebration of community. Both weekends overflowed with smiles, music, and memories—reminding everyone why being part of Rectory is so special.



FACULTY APPRECIATION

A well-deserved fall feast! Faculty and staff gathered for a special appreciation lunch, complete with a full spread of seasonal favorites and sweet treats to celebrate their incredible work and dedication.

Serving up gratitude, one parfait at a time! Director of Learning Services Kristen Johnson, Director of Academics Lisa Hart, and Assistant Head of School Glenn Ames surprised faculty with personalized parfaits as a sweet thank-you for all they do.



► ERIC KIM 3V3 MEMORIAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Students and faculty came together for the annual Eric Kim Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament—an event filled with energy, heart, and community spirit. Founded by Eric's friends Aidan R. '18 and Jihee L. '18, the tournament celebrates Eric Kim '19's memory while raising funds for charity each spring.



BLACK & ORANGE DAYS ►

Our Spring Term Black and Orange Day brought the energy as students and faculty faced off in a fun-filled afternoon of athletic challenges, teamwork games, and friendly competition. As the final Black and Orange Day of the year, the excitement was high with every point counting toward the yearlong rivalry. From obstacle courses to brain teasers, this beloved tradition showcases the joy, sportsmanship, and school pride that define the Rectory experience.

**▲ 8TH GRADE LUNCHEON**

At the 8th Grade Leadership Luncheon, students were recognized for their contributions to the Rectory community and wished the very best as they prepare to take on new adventures in 9th grade.

LEAVING THE WOLF DEN ►

The Class of 2025 started their end-of-year celebrations with Leaving the Wolf Den—a meaningful tradition designed to help students reflect on their Rectory journey and begin embracing their new role as alumni. Hosted by the Alumni and Development Office, the luncheon held in the Wolf Den Student Center featured introductions to alumni staff, insights on staying involved after graduation, and personal stories from faculty members and recent alumni. Students also nominated class agents—peers chosen for their leadership, enthusiasm, and commitment to staying connected. These agents will help keep their classmates in touch with one another and with Rectory in the years ahead. As a meaningful close to the event, each student wrote a letter to their future self, sealed for safekeeping until their 10th reunion in 2033. With heartfelt moments and a shared sense of legacy, Leaving the Wolf Den gave students time to pause, reflect, and look ahead—before the whirlwind of the final weeks of school.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



◀ BLACK & ORANGE DAY

Elementary students are ready to dig in at the annual Pancake Breakfast—a beloved Black & Orange Day tradition to kick off Winter Term.



▲ HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHARLOTTE

Charlotte the bearded dragon, beloved member of Rectory's Grade 2–3 classroom, celebrated her birthday in style this year—complete with party hats and plenty of excitement from her young caretakers. As more than just a class pet, Charlotte helps teach responsibility, spark curiosity, and bring joy to the elementary community. Her birthday was a fun reminder of the unique and meaningful connections that make learning at Rectory so special.

PHOTO: The 2-3 Classroom's beloved bearded dragon, Charlotte, celebrated in style—party hat and all!



◀ ELEMENTARY SKATE

Elementary Skate is a beloved Winter Term tradition, giving our youngest Wolves a chance to hit the ice each week for joy, movement, and plenty of smiles.



MELP JR

Learning beyond the classroom, adventure beyond imagination. During MELP Jr. week, elementary students took their learning on the road, exploring a variety of museums that brought classroom lessons to life. From science and history to art and innovation, each day offered hands-on experiences. This weeklong adventure was a joyful reminder that learning doesn't stop at the classroom door—it thrives wherever young minds are eager to explore.

◀ **PHOTO:** A student takes a closer look at traditional tribal wear during a MELP Jr. visit to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum.

▼ **PHOTO:** Two Rectory students sketch and take notes on their favorite pieces during a visit to the Worcester Art Museum.



▲ GRADE 4 WORDS CEREMONY IN JUNE

The annual 4th Grade Words Ceremony celebrated four outstanding students, each honored with a special word that captures their unique character and contributions to the class. This meaningful tradition marks the transition from elementary to upper school, offering encouragement and recognition as our fourth graders prepare for their next big step. **PHOTO:** Kavia P., Robert P., Kennedy B., and Gnan P. were each honored with a special word during Rectory's annual 4th Grade Words Ceremony—a meaningful tradition that marks their transition from elementary to middle school.



AUXILIARY PROGRAMS



▲ SUMMER@ RECTORY

Summer@Rectory 2025 brought together students from around the globe for a dynamic blend of learning, exploration, and community. Mornings were spent in small-group classes such as creative writing, robotics, ESL, math, and musical theater—each designed to promote interest and deepen skills. Afternoons offered a vibrant mix of enrichment activities, from sports and nature exploration to video storytelling and visual arts. Students built confidence, discovered new passions, and formed lasting friendships. This summer was a joyful celebration of creativity, connection, and personal growth—an experience students won't soon forget.

SKI TRIP ►

Rectory students take on Breckenridge, CO during the 2025 Ski Trip—building skills, confidence, and friendships along the way.

▲ HORIZONS

Now in its second year, Horizons at Rectory School has expanded to serve two classrooms of rising first and second graders from the local community. This tuition-free summer program blends hands-on academics with enrichment activities like swimming, field trips, and social-emotional learning. As part of the national Horizons network, the program combats summer learning loss and helps students gain critical skills in literacy and math. With a growing impact and a dedicated team of educators and volunteers, Horizons continues to foster a love of learning and a foundation for long-term success.

PHOTO: Head of School Julie Anderson joins Horizons Rectory School's rising second grade class as a special guest reader.



► RECTORY DAY CAMP

This year's Rectory Day Camp was filled with energy, exploration, and joy as campers ages 3 to 13 took full advantage of our beautiful campus and wide-ranging activities. From swim lessons and nature walks to drama, dance, sports, and art, each week offered something new and exciting. Older campers in the Summer Adventure Program ventured off-campus for hikes, beach trips, tubing, and more—building confidence and independence along the way. Guided by a caring staff and grounded in strong character values, every camper left with new friendships, new skills, and lasting summer memories.



◄ ARTS IN THE BARN

Creativity shines at Rectory's Arts in the Barn! From capturing the perfect shot in our photography class to crafting vibrant stained glass in our adult workshops, this program celebrates artistic exploration for all ages.

Q&A WITH RECTORY'S NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL, JULIE ANDERSON

By Rae Dykeman
Interview with Julie Anderson



WHAT DREW YOU TO RECTORY SCHOOL, AND WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT BECOMING ITS HEAD OF SCHOOL?

I was looking for a new professional challenge, and I've always found working with middle grade students incredibly rewarding. What drew me to Rectory was the opportunity to work with both middle and elementary students in a community that truly values each stage of a child's development. As I got to know the school better, I was struck by how closely my own values align with Rectory's—especially the commitment to strong academics paired with meaningful learning support.

I've always been fascinated by different cultures, languages, and traditions, so the chance to work with an international student body really appealed to me. But more than anything, what excites me most is becoming part of the Rectory community. From my very first visit, I felt the warmth, the pride, and the sense of belonging that people here share. I can't wait to build relationships and learn more about what makes this place so special.

CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND IN EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP? HOW DO THOSE EXPERIENCES SHAPE YOUR VISION FOR RECTORY?

Languages have always been a passion of mine. In high school, I dove into Spanish, French, Italian—even a little Russian—which sparked my decision to become a Spanish teacher and share that love of language and culture with others. I earned my B.A. in Spanish Language and Literature from Wesleyan University, along with certifications in both Spanish and elementary education. I started out teaching in public schools, spending ten years in middle and high school classrooms while also earning master's degrees in Elementary and Middle Grades Education and in Humanities.

After stepping away for a bit to care for my first child, I returned to education at Cheshire Academy, a boarding school here in Connecticut. Over the years there, I had the chance to wear many hats—Spanish teacher, dorm parent, advisor, department chair, middle school head, academic dean, and eventually

associate head of school. I was honored to serve as head of school for eight years.

As I begin my journey at Rectory, my first priority is simple: to get to know the community and build trust. I've spent time preparing for the year ahead, but there's no substitute for listening—really listening—to students, faculty, families, staff, alumni, and the broader Pomfret community. I believe that strong schools stay rooted in their mission while also casting a clear, shared vision for the future. It's so important that everyone understands and feels connected to our purpose.

I'm incredibly grateful to build on the legacy of Fred Williams. His support and generosity during this transition have meant a great deal. While our leadership styles may differ, we share a deep commitment to children, to the power of independent school education, and to nurturing a healthy, supportive, and engaged school culture.

“I KNOW HOW MUCH RECTORY MEANS TO SO MANY, AND I’M EXCITED TO ROLL UP MY SLEEVES AND WORK ALONGSIDE ALL OF YOU.”

-Julie Anderson, Head Of School

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR RECTORY IN YOUR FIRST YEAR AS HEAD OF SCHOOL?

My theme for the year is curiosity. I plan to ask questions, listen closely, and really learn the “why” behind what makes Rectory unique. I’m excited to spend time with students of all ages—whether that’s reading stories, teaching a lesson, or cheering them on at events.

Building strong relationships is my top priority—connecting with students, families, faculty, and alumni to understand their experiences, hopes, and dreams. I also look forward to strengthening connections across all divisions of the school to foster a strong sense of unity and shared purpose.

HOW DO YOU SEE RECTORY’S UNIQUE APPROACH TO INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING EVOLVING UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP?

I’m deeply committed to honoring and building on Rectory’s strong tradition of individualized learning. My goal is to make sure every student feels seen, supported, and challenged in the ways they need to grow—not just academically, but socially and emotionally, too. I look forward to working closely with teachers and staff across all divisions to explore new ideas and expand personalized learning opportunities. Together, we’ll ensure our approach stays dynamic and continues to meet the needs of every learner.

RECTORY PRIDES ITSELF ON ITS CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND FACULTY TO STRENGTHEN THAT BOND?

My husband Tom and I love hosting gatherings—big or small—and we’re excited to use Britton House as a welcoming space to connect with the people who make Rectory, Rectory.

I’m passionate about the arts, so you’ll often find me at concerts and drama productions. Athletics might not be my natural zone, but I’ll be a loud and enthusiastic supporter of our teams! I’m also working closely with each division to find meaningful ways to be present in classrooms and daily life.

To keep families connected, I’ll share a weekly Head of School update with news and highlights from campus. For me, being part of Rectory isn’t just a job—it’s a way of life, and I’m fully committed to this incredible community.

WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES—SUCH AS ATHLETICS, THE ARTS, AND SERVICE—PLAYING IN A WELL-ROUNDED RECTORY EDUCATION?

I believe every student should have the chance to engage in athletics, the arts, and service. Each plays a unique and essential role in shaping well-rounded, grounded young people. Service opportunities help students reflect on their own privileges and inspire them to make a positive difference in the world. Through meaningful acts of giving back, we plant the seeds for a lifelong commitment to helping others.

Arts and athletics are just as important. They teach teamwork, resilience, and the joy of working toward a common goal. At the same time, they promote creativity, confidence, and overall well-being—habits that support students long after they leave Rectory.

WITH NEW CAMPUS DEVELOPMENTS LIKE THE UPCOMING GYM, HOW DO YOU SEE THESE ENHANCEMENTS SHAPING STUDENT LIFE AND THE SCHOOL’S FUTURE?

New spaces bring energy, excitement, and a sense of possibility. The new gym will open the door to all kinds of opportunities—for celebration, growth, and connection—and will be a meaningful part of student life for years to come.

Whether it’s through new facilities or fresh academic and co-curricular programs, these enhancements show Rectory’s commitment to evolving while staying true to its mission. I’ll encourage my colleagues to think creatively and boldly, and I look forward to partnering with alumni and families to help bring that shared vision to life. Together, we’ll ensure Rectory continues to thrive in a world that’s always changing.

WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE RECTORY COMMUNITY AS YOU STEP INTO THIS LEADERSHIP ROLE?

It’s a true honor to step into the role of Head of School at Rectory, and I don’t take that responsibility lightly. From the moment I first set foot on campus, I could feel the deep care this community has—for the students, the mission, and for one another. I’m here to give this work my whole heart, and I’m grateful in advance for the patience, perspective, and partnership of those around me as I listen, learn, and grow into the role.

I know how much Rectory means to so many, and I’m excited to roll up my sleeves and work alongside all of you. Together, we’ll focus on growing enrollment in thoughtful, sustainable ways that protect what makes Rectory so special. We’ll launch a strategic plan that outlines a bold, clear path for the future, and develop a campus master plan that respects our roots while making room for what’s next. We’ll also strengthen our approach to fundraising—not just to reach goals, but to tell Rectory’s story in ways that invite others to believe in and invest in our future.

Most of all, I’m grateful—grateful for the trust you’ve placed in me and excited to build the relationships that will shape this next chapter for Rectory, together. 🐾

STEPPING FORWARD WITH PURPOSE – THE RECTORY SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



PURA VIDA, CLASS OF 2025: A COMMENCEMENT REFLECTION

By Rae Dykeman | Excerpted and adapted from Fred Williams' Commencement Address at Rectory School

On a cool June morning filled with the hum of celebration, the Class of 2025 crossed the stage at Rectory School's annual commencement—each step a testament to their years of effort, exploration, and growth. While every graduation marks an ending and a beginning, this year's ceremony stood out not just for the accomplishments being celebrated, but for the wisdom shared by Head of School Fred Williams in his final address to this remarkable class.

"This is the most anticipated day for the members of the Class of 2025," Mr. Williams began. "These students have earned this moment in the spotlight." Indeed, they had—capping their time at Rectory with vibrant performances, heartfelt mentorship, and academic and personal achievements that reflected their unique talents and collective spirit. Whether through the show-stopping production of *Seussical* or the thoughtful presentations at the Capstone Fair, the Class of 2025 left no doubt about their readiness to move forward.

As Mr. Williams addressed the graduates, his message moved beyond celebration. It was a reminder that the next chapter—one filled with promise and purpose—would require more than ambition. It would require mindset. His rallying cry? A simple yet powerful phrase: *Pura Vida*.

Introduced during the Costa Rica MELP (May Experiential Learning Program), *Pura Vida*—which translates directly as "pure life"—is more than a saying. As Mr. Williams explained, it's a way of being: joyful, resilient, present. "*Pura vida*, which has much to offer you in your quest for promise and purpose, is already coursing through your veins," he told the class. "The goal now...is to increase the flow as you continue your life's journey."

Examples of *pura vida* moments were woven throughout his remarks—moments when students fully embraced the joy and energy of their community. From spontaneous dance parties to confident performances, from bold questions to quiet acts of kindness, the Class of 2025 has already learned to live with enthusiasm and authenticity.

They've also shown resilience and perspective—qualities vital for the road ahead. "Not all, as we have experienced, goes our way," Mr. Williams reminded them. "This is not altogether bad. Our reaction to disappointment is fully within our control." He emphasized that titles or outcomes don't define who they are; their character does. And on that front, the Class of 2025 has shone brightly—whether as leaders, supporters, artists, athletes, or friends.

The graduates have also left a meaningful mark through service. Their efforts with Rectory's SHIELD (Student Happiness, Inclusion, Equity, Leadership, and Difference) program, their leadership in mentoring younger students, and their weekend volunteer work at the African Community Education Center reflected the deep values of empathy and responsibility they've embraced.

As the ceremony drew to a close, Mr. Williams offered one final *pura vida*, this time as both a goodbye and an invitation to return. "How fitting that on this day, as we at Rectory wrestle with the emotional weight of your departure, we can offer a farewell that doubles as a hello—reminding us that your life journeys will hopefully have stops back in our Quiet Corner."

To the Class of 2025: your presence has enriched our community, your laughter and courage have inspired us, and your future—filled with promise and purpose—is just beginning. *Pura vida*. Always. 🐾

CLASS OF 2025 MATRICULATION

Avon Old Farms School
Berkshire School
Blair Academy
Choate Rosemary Hall
Cranbrook Schools
Deerfield Academy
Episcopal High School
Emma Willard School
Phillips Exeter Academy
Hill School
Hotchkiss School
KEIO Academy
Lake Forest Academy
Loomis Chaffee School
Lawrenceville School
Marianapolis Prep
Mercersburg Academy
Middlesex School
New Hampton School
Northfield Mount Hermon School
Norwich Free Academy
Pomfret School
Portsmouth Abbey School
Saint James School
St. Mark's School
Stevenson School
Stony Brook School
Suffield Academy
Tabor Academy
Thacher School
Thayer Academy
The Village School, TX
Webb Schools, CA
Westminster School
Westtown School
Woodstock Academy
Worcester Academy

GRADUATION DAY AWARDS

1. Mabel B. Bigelow Memorial Cup:
**MCKENNA REESE BENDALL,
POMFRET, CT**



2. Father Bigelow Memorial Cup:
**JOTHAM LYMAN BURRELLO,
ASHFORD, CT**



3. Mr. And Mrs. John Character Cup:
**NOORA NAYIGA MUWONGE,
BOWIE, MD**



4. Thomas B. Harrison Cup
**ANTHONY ANIETIE
BONIFACE,
EAST PROVIDENCE, RI**



5. Alexander C. Vasiloff Memorial Award
**KHURZIYA MARATOVA,
STORRS, CT**



6. John Frazar Austin Cup
**JACKSON JOHN CHARLES
HAYDEN,
POMFRET CENTER, CT**



7. John Bloodworth Mobley, Jr. Class of
1991 Cup:
**STEPHEN PARKER MOSS,
CHARLOTTE, NC**

8. Adam B. Silver Scholar-Athlete Cup:
**ROAN JOSEPH DONOVAN,
WOODSTOCK, CT**



9. John And Millie Green Cup:
**KINAYA VICTORIA ZEN
BOWE, GEORGE TOWN,
EXUMA BAHAMAS**



10. Goodridge-Barber Academic Cup:
**QINGYA "GIA" JING,
SHANGHAI, CHINA**

11. Charles Rockwell Cup
**ERIN CORNELIA PARK,
POMFRET CENTER, CT**

12. Patrick D. Wood '01 Memorial Prize
**JOTHAM LYMAN BURRELLO,
ASHFORD, CT**



WORDS FROM THE CLASS: A COMMENCEMENT REFLECTION BY JOTHAM & ERIN

The first-ever graduation speech duo takes the stage for the Class of 2025.

By Rae Dykeman | Excerpted and adapted from Student Commencement Address at Rectory School

This year, Rectory’s commencement featured an historic first: a student duo delivering the graduation speech. Jotham Burrello and Erin Park, elected representatives of the Class of 2025, brought warmth, humor, and heartfelt wisdom to the podium—offering not just their own reflections, but the collective voice of their classmates.

“We wanted to represent the thoughts and feelings of our class—not just speak for ourselves,” Jotham shared, as the two launched into their tag-team address. With help from Student Leadership reflections and advice sheets curated throughout the year, they wove together a tapestry of lessons learned, memories made, and aspirations ahead.

The advice they shared painted a vivid picture of the class’s spirit:

“Be you. Don’t let anyone tell you what to do,” wrote Luis.

“Never push yourself too hard,” Chris offered. “Instead of challenging yourself to be the best, challenge yourself to be better.”

“Set your standards high, but don’t panic if you falter,” advised Khurziya.

“9th grade English is harder than you think,” Hanbyeol joked.

And from Ailee: “Step out of your comfort zone, loosen up, and have fun.”

Some advice was lighthearted, like Bill’s warning that “infractions stack up,” or Erin’s reminder that being kind and genuine makes

every day better. Others were sincere reminders of resilience, like Timur’s “Don’t give up... especially before applications are over,” or Hazel’s simple but powerful, “Fake it until you make it.”

Through laughter and reflection, Jotham and Erin celebrated how far the class had come—from navigating rigorous coursework and extracurriculars to forming lifelong friendships, overcoming personal challenges, and, for some, growing up at Rectory from elementary years on.

Erin shared how her time at Rectory shaped her:

“There are just so many of you—friends and teachers—who have changed me from an insanely shy kid to a more confident, positive person. You helped me become someone who looks forward to (almost) every day of school... ready to laugh until I choke on myself in class or make infinite memories.”

Jotham reflected on the year’s journey with gratitude and perspective:

“This year was filled with high highs and the occasional low, but I’m so proud of what we’ve accomplished. Being on the Student Council was a pleasure. And I want to sincerely thank the people I had the privilege of calling friends—and also those I wish I’d gotten to know better.”

With humor, honesty, and heart, Jotham and Erin’s shared speech marked a fitting sendoff for a class defined by individuality, community, and courage—and left an indelible mark on Rectory’s graduation tradition. 🐾

FROM ROOKIE TO CHAMPION HONORING JOHN M. DOLAN '86 ON RECTORY'S ATHLETIC WALL OF HONOR



In the spring of his first year at Rectory School, John faced a decision that would shape his athletic future—choosing a spring sport. Though he had never held a lacrosse stick before, a nudge from fellow student Drew Fox led him to try the unfamiliar game. What began as a leap of faith quickly grew into a lifelong passion.

John's determination and athletic instincts propelled him from complete novice to varsity player by his ninth-grade year. That same season, he was named co-captain—an early indication of the leadership and drive that would define his athletic journey.

After graduating from Rectory, John continued to chase excellence on and off the field. He went on to Kent School, where his athletic accomplishments earned him a place in the school's Athletic Hall of Fame. He then advanced to the University of North Carolina,

capturing a national lacrosse championship as part of one of the country's most elite programs.

From Rectory to Kent to Chapel Hill, John has been surrounded by top-tier talent—but it has always been his self-awareness, charisma, and innate leadership that elevated every team he joined. As Fred Williams, former Head of School, reflected, "John's legacy is not just in the games he played or the championships he won—but in his enduring ability to bring people together, inspire his teammates, and lead with heart."

As his name graced the pages of The Rectory News graduation issue in 1986, it was clear that his impact reached far beyond the field. He earned honorable mentions for five student awards, including Best All-Around Athlete, and was the recipient of two of Rectory's most prestigious honors: the Harrison Cup, for

outstanding sportsmanship and consideration for others, and the Father Bigelow Memorial Cup, awarded to the graduate who best embodies the values of character, compassion, and community.

This year, we are proud to celebrate John's journey by welcoming him into the Rectory School Athletic Wall of Honor—joining the ranks of our school's most respected and accomplished athletes. 🐾

FROM RACKETS TO REFRAINS

HONORING THE WHIPPLES AND THE GIFT OF THE BREWSTER ODEUM

Fifteen years ago, as Fred Williams settled into his first year as Head of School, he found himself sitting across from Margaret and Hugh Whipple at the Inn at Woodstock Hill. It was a conversation rooted in possibility and purpose. Among the many projects discussed that day, one stood out: Rectory's aging tennis courts. Cracked and worn, the courts had become not only unplayable—but unsafe.

Moved by both the need and perhaps a family legacy—Hugh's grandmother was an avid tennis player—the Whipples stepped forward to fund the revitalization of the courts. It was their first major gift to the school. Now, as Mr. Williams concludes his tenure, the Whipples have stepped forward once again—not with rackets this time, but with a shared vision for the arts.

With the creation of the Brewster Odeum, Margaret and Hugh Whipple have left an indelible mark on the creative soul of Rectory. This state-of-the-

art performance space stands as a celebration of growth—of the school, the music program, and the belief that every student deserves a place to be heard.

Over the past decade, Rectory's performing arts program has seen extraordinary expansion. From increased student enrollment in private lessons to the emergence of new ensembles and offerings like World Drumming, Ukulele, Ocarina, and Acting, the demand for space has grown with the students' curiosity and talent. The Brewster Odeum meets that need—not just as a facility, but as a philosophy. The stage now belongs to the play. The orchestra has a true home. Instruments are safe, accessible, and ready to inspire.

The Odeum's design encourages collaboration, creativity, and community. It turns scheduling conflicts into shared celebrations, and gives students the tools, space, and confidence to discover their voices—whether through song, story, or symphony.

Rectory School proudly and gratefully recognizes Margaret and Hugh Whipple for their unwavering support, generous spirit, and belief in the power of music to connect and transform. Their legacy now lives not only in bricks and mortar, but in every note that fills the Brewster Odeum and every student who dares to perform on its stage. 🐾



CREATING OPPORTUNITY, INSPIRING CHANGE

HONORING BARBARA & SEBASTIAN SCRIPPS WITH THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

At Rectory, we often say that doing good comes in many forms—through professional achievement, athletic excellence, and inspiring others by example. Some of the most meaningful acts of service are those done quietly, without the need for recognition. That's why, as former Head of School Fred Williams shared during this year's Alumni Awards celebration, it's especially important to honor those who continue to "do good" in ways that shape not only the present, but the future.

Few exemplify this spirit more fully than Barbara and Sebastian Scripps, this year's recipients of the Distinguished Service Award. Their legacy at Rectory spans decades—and countless acts of generosity, leadership, and vision.

Their journey began as elementary parents, with Sebastian also serving on the Board of Trustees and playing key roles on the Executive, Strategic Planning, and Facilities Committees. During his tenure, Rectory saw significant renovations to Dining Dorm, DGB, and Brittain House, and the addition of major new buildings including Hamilton Dorm, the P.Y. and Kinmay Tang Performing Arts Center, and the Scripps Auditorium.

Even after Sebastian's retirement from the Board, the Scripps family remained deeply engaged—championing each new phase of the school's Master Plan. Their support helped make possible the construction of the new Learning Center and Elementary School, the establishment of the Tang Endowment for Excellence in Teaching, and the arrival of Centennial Dorm and the Brewster Odeum.

But perhaps their most transformative gift is still unfolding. A few years ago, the Scripps envisioned bringing the Horizons summer academic program to Rectory—an initiative focused on advancing educational equity by partnering with under-resourced families and communities. Thanks to their

generous start-up support, Horizons at Rectory launched its first class last summer. Now in its second year and growing steadily, the program welcomes local students into a joyful, supportive learning environment that builds academic confidence and long-term opportunity.

"With the Scripps' help, that foundation is becoming available to more and more students," Fred Williams noted.

"Because of their leadership and commitment, students—both at Rectory and Horizons—are realizing futures previously unavailable and unimaginable." This belief in the power of education to unlock doors—what George Washington Carver once

called "the golden door of freedom"—has guided the Scripps family's giving and shaped the very core of our school. From bricks and mortar to moments of inspiration, their influence is seen and felt in classrooms, dorms, performance halls, and in every note of encouragement passed to a young learner at Horizons.

Rectory is honored to recognize Barbara and Sebastian Scripps for their enduring impact and extraordinary commitment to doing good—for our students, our campus, and our future. 🐾



LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD TIANSHU WANG '16 NAMED RECTORY'S EMERGING LEADER



In every chapter of his journey, Tianshu has shown that success isn't just measured in accolades—it's reflected in attitude, character, and the way one uplifts others. While his résumé is filled with academic honors and professional achievements, what resonates most is his unwavering positivity and deep-rooted sense of purpose.

After graduating from Rectory, Tianshu continued to excel, graduating Summa Cum Laude from Brooks School. He began his college career at Boston College before transferring to Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering, where he earned his degree. Now pursuing a master's at Stanford University, Tianshu remains on a path of constant learning and innovation.

His professional ascent has been no less impressive. As an Autopilot SoC Silicon Validation Engineer at Tesla, Tianshu is contributing to the cutting edge of autonomous vehicle technology—helping to power the AI systems that shape the future of mobility. Yet even amid this high-stakes, high-tech environment, he remains grounded in gratitude and growth.

Former Head of School Fred Williams put it best: "What I most appreciate is that Tianshu is an incredible human being and an unbelievable example of positivity."

This same spirit shines through in Tianshu's own reflections, which he shares publicly to encourage others. On his LinkedIn profile, he

offers the lessons that have guided his journey: Enjoy every day and learn something new. Appreciate the company of your friends—you never know when it will be the last time you see them. And lastly, be confident, be hopeful, and just be yourself.

In recognition of his achievements, leadership, and the light he brings to every community he's part of, we are proud to honor Tianshu with Rectory's Emerging Leader Award. His journey is already extraordinary—and it's only just beginning. 🐾



REPORT *of* GIVING

JULY 1, 2024-JUNE 30, 2025



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JOHN XELLER
Development Services and
Operations Manager
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TRACY HUDASH
Development Assistant
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The following pages recognize all donors who generously supported Rectory School during the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have made an error or omission, please accept our sincere apologies and notify the Development Office.

DEAR RECTORY SCHOOL COMMUNITY,

What a joy it is to write to you as the new Head of School! As I prepare to begin this journey, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredibly warm welcome my husband, Tom, and I have already received from so many of you. It is clear to me that Rectory is not just a school, but a family—one that cares deeply for every child and for one another. Thank you for inviting me into this special community and for trusting me with the privilege of helping to guide Rectory's next chapter.

My initial visits to campus have given me the wonderful opportunity to engage with students, faculty, and staff, and to experience firsthand the vibrant spirit that makes Rectory so unique. My most recent visit was a special treat, as I was able to attend the spring musical, *Seussical*. Even though I didn't yet know the students personally, attending *Seussical* was a wonderful experience for me. I was able to witness their passion, talent, and remarkable collaboration on stage. What stood out most was seeing how enthusiastically the students cheered on their peers—such a heartwarming display of support and community spirit that speaks volumes about the Rectory family.

I am truly inspired by Rectory's mission: to provide every student with an enriched and supportive academic, social, and ethical community, one that honors each child's unique learning style and fosters self-worth and accountability. Even more, I am moved by how the community lives the Rectory School values—Responsibility, Respect, Honesty, and Compassion—each and every day. These values shine through in classrooms, on the playing fields, on the stage, and in the way the community supports and celebrates one another.

This year, I am especially excited to embrace the theme of curiosity. Curiosity is the spark that ignites learning and connects us to one another. It's also a wonderful way for me to get to know you! Our summer faculty read, *A More Beautiful Question* by Warren Berger, reminds us that asking questions and seeking understanding can lead to growth, innovation, and deeper relationships. I can't wait to ask lots of questions and listen to your stories about the history, traditions, and moments that make Rectory so beloved.

My greatest hope for this year is to build genuine connections with each of you—students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. I look forward to spending time in classrooms, cheering from the sidelines at games, applauding our artists and musicians, and sharing in the everyday joys and challenges of school life. Together, we will honor the strong foundation built by Head of School Fred Williams, while also dreaming boldly about Rectory's future.

I believe that what makes Rectory truly special is our shared commitment to partnership. We are at our best when we work together, support one another, and celebrate each child's journey. I am eager to learn from you, to grow with you, and to help nurture the love of learning, character, and community that defines Rectory.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for welcoming me so warmly. I am honored to be joining you, and I look forward to meeting you soon—whether in the classroom, at a performance, on the athletic fields, or simply around campus. Here's to a year of curiosity, connection, and collective joy!

With warmest regards and excitement,

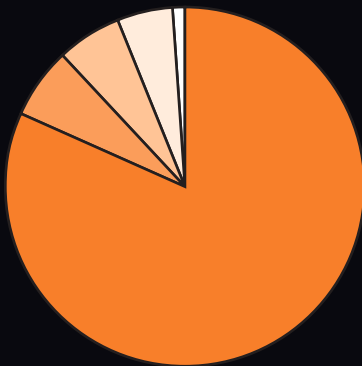


Julie Anderson
Head of School

2024-2025 FINANCE REPORT

.....

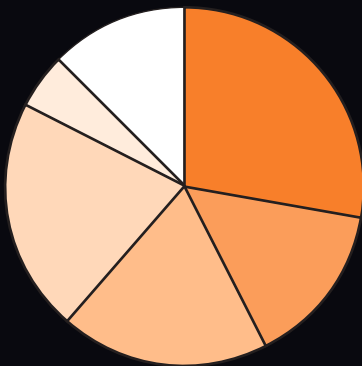
OPERATING REVENUE



FY 2024-2025 OPERATING REVENUE*

TUITION & FEES	\$16,781,512
GIFTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,268,733
ENDOWMENT & OTHER	\$1,226,200
AUXILIARY	\$1,020,717
OTHER	\$197,043
TOTAL	\$20,494,205

OPERATING EXPENSES



FY 2024-2025 OPERATING EXPENSES*

EDUCATIONAL EXPENSE	\$5,677,767
STUDENT SUPPORT	\$2,976,115
PLANT OPERATIONS/MAINT.	\$3,844,173
GENERAL & ADMIN.	\$4,317,265
AUXILIARY	\$968,382
FINANCIAL AID	\$2,531,054
TOTAL	\$20,314,756

*Please note that the amounts and figures above reflect the unaudited financial position of Rectory School as of June 30, 2025.

ANNUAL GIVING

The list below honors all those who supported Rectory School during the 2024–2025 fiscal year. Every gift made a meaningful difference in the lives of our students—providing essential resources and strengthening our mission to develop well-rounded, engaged learners.



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We extend special appreciation to our leadership donors, whose generosity helps keep Rectory at the forefront of junior independent education. The 1920 Society recognizes individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more in a single year to any priority at Rectory School. To learn more about The 1920 Society, please visit www.rectoryschool.org/1920.

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WHY I GIVE

EDWIN & LARITA GORDON P'14

"WE GIVE BECAUSE RECTORY SCHOOL WAS SUCH A LIFE-ALTERING AND MIND-BROADENING EXPERIENCE FOR OUR SON."

WHY I GIVE

CLAIRE SHA P'24

"MY CHILD
GRADUATED FROM
RECTORY SCHOOL
LAST YEAR, AND OUR
ENTIRE FAMILY IS
DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO
THE FACULTY AND
STAFF FOR CREATING
SUCH A WONDERFUL
ENVIRONMENT. WE
LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING RECTORY
CONTINUE TO GROW
AND THRIVE IN THE
YEARS TO COME!"

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WHY I GIVE

STACY KOEHLER
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"I CONTRIBUTE TO
 ENSURE THAT RECTORY
 SCHOOL CONTINUES TO
 PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 EXPERIENCES, HELPING
 STUDENTS THRIVE
 ACADEMICALLY,
 SOCIALLY, AND
 EMOTIONALLY. THE
 SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT
 TO PERSONALIZED
 LEARNING AND
 CHARACTER
 DEVELOPMENT IS
 SOMETHING I
 TRULY APPRECIATE."

WHY I GIVE

ANDREW
KELLY '80

"THIS YEAR MARKS
45 YEARS SINCE MY
GRADUATION FROM
RECTORY SCHOOL.
I HAVE SO MANY
WONDERFUL MEMORIES
FROM MY TIME AT
RECTORY, MOST OF
WHICH ARE OF THE
TEACHERS WHO
WERE A PART OF MY
EDUCATION. WHAT AN
AMAZING GROUP THEY
WERE AND CONTINUE
TO BE FOR THE
STUDENTS CURRENTLY
AT THE RECTORY
SCHOOL. THANK YOU
FOR EVERYTHING THAT
YOU DO."

CONTINUOUS GENEROSITY: THE BELL TOWER SOCIETY

The Bell Tower Society recognizes
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10-24 YEARS OF GIVING

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Maria & John Carpenter

Christine & David Carter
Rose Ortiz Chappell & Robert Chappell '63
Scott Childs
Dawn & Peter Chmura
Jennifer & Christopher Choroszy
Benjamin Z. Clark '92
Dena Cocozza O'Hara & Keith O'Hara
Betty & Norman Cooper '55
Fay Cox
Janel Cunneen '84 & Steven Grippio
Jenny & H. Dalton Davlin '80
Maria & Daniel De Nuccio
Peter A. deTreville '69
Monica & John DeVivo '84
Sara DiIorio
Kimberly & Bradford Dimeo '77
Mariko Osada & William Downer '68
Brian D. Draper
Mynel Yates-DuBose & David DuBose
Henry B. Eaton '66
Kenneth Ebbitt
Daniel J. Entwistle '86
Samantha Moulton & John Evans
Sarah R. Evans
Sue & Robert Fernley Jr. '69
Hayley & Ryan Finnegan
Kathy Fitzgerald & William Rounseville
Meghan Fluckiger
Mary Rose & Alan Forsyth '60
Lizzie & William Gahagan '96
Cassi & William Gerdson '86
Christelle Cook & Philip Gibbs
Lesley & Donald Gibbs
Julie & Phillip Goldberg
William D. Goldberg '08
Carolyn & Stephen Golding '63
LaRita & Edwin Gordon
Jane & John Gore Jr.
Michael C. Gorman '03
Elizabeth & Nathaniel Gould
Jennifer Rossiter & Matthew Green '82
Colleen Gregory
Charles L. Griffith '08
Anne & Michael Grudzinski
Janet & John Haas '64
Abbey Haggerty '12
Valerie Haggerty
Jamie & Russell Haines
Jane & Laurence Hale II
Shaina & Nathaniel Hamilton Jr. '98
Angela & David Harner '87
Lisa & Martin Hart
Deanna Hart Rodman &
Matthew Rodman
Rebecca M. Harvey
Erin & Reid Hayden
Janet & Ronald Henson
Geoffrey R. Hoguet
George C. Holt III '75
Anthony S. Hoyt
Bridie & Ronald Jamron
Melissa & Ethan Jamron '95

Jacqueline & Rodney Jenks Jr.
 Eliza G. Jones '04
 Elizabeth & Kurt Jones '62
 Andrew J. Kelly '80
 D. Gregory B. Kelly '82
 Nancy & David Kelly
 Victoria Greenleaf & Michael Kempner '70
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 Julie & Timothy Leveille
 Elisabeth Levesque
 Kevin T. Lewis
 N. Ellis Lewis '73
 Carri & Frank Lineberry
 Maia S. Lineberry '14
 Shailyn C. Lineberry '13
 William B. McPherson
 Cynthia & Kendall Miller '80
 John Moore '49
 Margery & Keith Mosher
 Constance & David Moynihan
 Patricia Mulcahy & Bruce Paro
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 Andrew T. Norris '84
 Nancy & Jules Paderewski
 Hyeoung Chung & Jungbo Park
 Barbara & Oliver Parker '72
 Lindsay & Jeff Paul
 Polly Spring & Breck Perkins '73
 Jennifer & Timothy Polishook '84
 Melissa & Penry Price II '84
 Irene K. Profetto
 Keelin & Christopher Pye '87
 Constance & Thomas Quinn Jr. '60
 Tonya Rayment
 Claudia & Vincent Ricci
 Anne & Eric Rice
 Diana & Wayne Richardson
 Emma & T. Williams Roberts III '80
 Felicia & Trevor Rodman
 Allison & Daniel Rooney '77
 Angelo E. Santiago
 Christine & Sam Scott '90
 Barbara & Sebastian Scripps
 Amy & Andrew Seymour '79
 Patricia & Doug Shattuck
 Doris & Daniel Shea '77
 Anne Lo Yi & David Shen
 Susan & Michael Sherman
 Jay Sherwood '60
 Deborah P. Slocum
 Rita & Richard Smith '64
 Jane & Anthony Stiger '63
 Gari M. Stroh '87
 Mary & Allen Tiebout
 Lynda & Mark Tillinghast

Colleen O'Neil & Matt Vollinger
 Regina Yopak & Paul Wagner '99
 Sandra Lynn & Charles Walbridge '62
 William Walden
 Allaire & Robert Warner '55
 Jeffrey Warren
 Stephanie & Johnny Wells '03
 Andronica Stanley-Wheelock &
 Joseph Wheelock III
 Kathryn & E. John White
 Leslie L. White
 Samantha & Alexander Wiegel '05
 Claudia & Andrew Wilbur '85
 Erin & Keith Wilcox
 Marcia & Frederick Williams
 Yvette Zahansky
 Betty H. Zimmermann
 Elizabeth Zimmermann '84 &
 Thomas Gardos

CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS & MATCHING GIFTS

**Thank you to the foundations
 & corporations that supported
 Rectory School during the
 2024–2025 fiscal year. We are
 also grateful to the donors who
 initiated matching gifts, amplifying
 the impact of their support.**

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CAMPAIGN FOR A CENTURY

**The donors listed below made a
 lasting impact on Rectory School
 through their generous support of
 the Campaign for a Century, which
 includes Phase 1 of our Master
 Plan, the Tang Family Endowment,
 and the Centennial Campaign. Its
 final project—the Craig S. Colhoun
 Gymnasium renovation and
 expansion—is nearly complete.
 Thank you for helping to elevate
 the Rectory experience for our
 entire community.**

Anonymous
 A Friend of Rectory School
 Eda & James Bell III '71
 Junhua Xu & Yusheng Cao
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 Elizabeth Jaeger
 Lei Jing & Zongze Zhou
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 Kevin T. Lewis
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 Mikiko & Haruki Satomi
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 Natasha '84 & Christopher Swann
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 Yali Liu & Qinghan Wang
 Andronica Stanley-Wheelock &
 Joseph Wheelock III
 Hong Zhang & James Xie
 Zhiyuan Xue & Huan Xie
 Chunyan Chen & Biao Xu
 Bei Gao & Zehong Yang
 Dan Shen & Lingpeng Ying
 Zhenzhen Huang & Shanxin Zhao



WHY I GIVE

**DENA
 COCOZZA O'HARA,
 FACULTY**

**"I GIVE BECAUSE I
 BELIEVE TO MY CORE
 IN WHAT WE STAND
 FOR; MENTORING OUR
 STUDENTS TO BECOME
 MORE RESPONSIBLE,
 RESPECTFUL, HONEST,
 COMPASSIONATE,
 AND TOLERANT AS
 WE SUPPORT THEM IN
 THEIR GROWTH AND
 DEVELOPMENT."**

ALUMNI EVENTS: CELEBRATING RECTORY AROUND THE WORLD

ONE OF THE JOYS OF BEING PART OF THE RECTORY COMMUNITY IS STAYING CONNECTED WITH OUR FAMILIES AND ALUMNI—NO MATTER WHERE LIFE TAKES THEM. THIS PAST YEAR, WE WERE FORTUNATE TO HOST GATHERINGS BOTH CLOSE TO HOME AND ACROSS THE WORLD. THESE EVENTS PROVIDED MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO RECONNECT, SHARE STORIES, AND KEEP THE RECTORY SPIRIT THRIVING ACROSS CONTINENTS.



1) Mexico 2) New York City, NY 3) Boston, MA 4) Beijing, China 5) Korea Alumni 6) Atlanta, GA 7) Korean Alumni Association – Established by Alumni



WHILE WE CAN'T BE
EVERYWHERE AT ONCE, WE
LOVE SEEING OUR ALUMNI
BUILD CONNECTIONS AND
CREATE LOCAL NETWORKS
OF THEIR OWN!

If you're interested in connecting
with fellow Rectory alumni or hosting
an event in your area, reach out to
Allison Channey, Associate Director of
Development, to get started:
allison.channey@rectoryschool.org

ALUMNI NOTES

1950s

NORMAN COOPER '55

Norman reports, "At 86, I am still in good health and enjoying fishing on Gardner Lake & Niantic Bay. I have fond memories of Rectory. The school changed my life."

NORMAN SMITH, JR '56

Punch reports, "Now a widower as my dear Nancy died summer 2024 after 60 years of marriage. But I am surrounded locally by two daughters, five grands, and two great grands. I stay busy volunteering at our Patriots Point Naval Museum, leading an Anglican Bible Study group, numerous monthly lunch groups, and mentoring Citadel business majors. I have fond, vivid, and exciting memories of my four Rectory years that remain foremost in my mind!"

ALEXANDER WILLIAMS '57

Alex reports, "My wife Sue and I have visited more than 140 different countries and are looking for more!"

WILLIAM MACLAREN '59

Bill reports, "Following 27 years of Navy service, I now manage Tyrone Farm in Pomfret as a summer wedding and equestrian venue. Turned 80 this year—how time flies! For site information, see <http://tyronefarm.com>."

1960s

CHARLES WALBRIDGE '62

Charlie reports, "I have been paddling whitewater rivers since the early '70s. This past year I led an effort to purchase a large portion of the classic Lower Big Sandy River. Located in northern West Virginia near my home in Bruceton Mills, the land includes 4.25 miles of river frontage spanning almost the entire river left side of the gorge. The project brought together American Whitewater, the West Virginia Land Trust, and forty major donors who contributed over \$400,000 towards this effort."

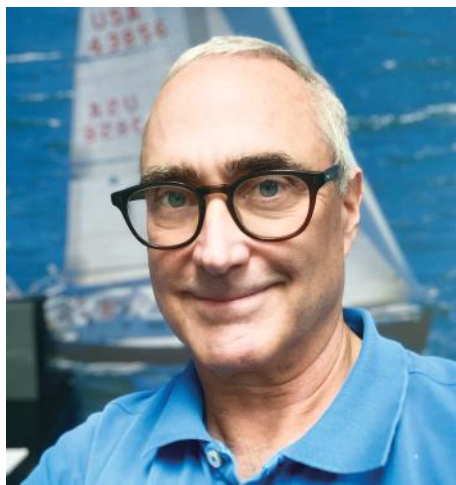


Portion of the Lower Big Sandy River stewarded by Charles Walbridge '62

1970s

KEITH CHURCH '74

KC reports, "I am retired from North Sails Sailboat Service where I was a Production and Performance Optimization Consultant."



Keith "KC" Church '74



MICHAEL DUBIN '78

Michael reports, "We are getting ready to move to Chiba, Japan in July. We were recently in Hawaii for the wedding of our son."



Michael Dubin '78

1980s

CHARLES ERNST '80

Charlie reports, "Our son, Matt, married his college sweetheart, Ashley Blair, on Nantucket on June 7th, 2025. My wife, Karen, and I were thrilled to share their happiness with family and friends."

MAC BRUTON '82

Mac reports, "My second of two daughters graduated from college in May 2025 and joined her sister in New York City. Having lived in New Orleans for the better part of the last 40 years, I foresee spending much more time in the Northeast in the coming years."

ROBERT DILLON '84

Rob reports, "I recently vacationed in Yosemite and ascended routes I first climbed 30 years ago."



Rob Dillon '84 atop a peak within Yosemite National Park

MASON MCCARTHY '84

Mason reports, "Come say Hello when in Atlanta."

DAVID SMITH '85

David reports, "I recruited my old classmate, Van Wilshire, to play in our club's annual doubles tournament. What we lacked in victory we won in rekindled camaraderie!"



David Smith '85 and Van Wilshire '85

KENNETH GING '85

KJ reports, "Worked at the Chicago Board of Trade and Mercantile Exchange for 20 years until the World ended in 2008. Bartended for the last 15 years and now work in Protection Plan sales."

MATTHEW CERBONE '86

Matt reports, "I am managing the local 911 ambulance service in Nashua, NH as well as owning Never Say Never Farm in Stoddard, NH with my wife of 30 years."



Matt Cerbone '86 and his wife.

1990s

LORENZO FORNARI '91

Lorenzo reports, "Ciao from Capri. A few summers ago, I began distilling with local citrus and wild herbs from the hills between Capri, Amalfi, and Sorrento—not as a business plan, just something meaningful to create and enjoy. That became Solaro Capri Gin, an ultra-premium sipping spirit in hand-painted ceramic bottles crafted by local artisans. Surprisingly, it took off. Solaro won a triple award at The Gin Guide, Double Gold in San Francisco, and is now poured in some of the world's top bars—London, Monte-Carlo, Singapore, and more. It is not in the U.S., yet. We've just opened our first outpost: Terrazza Solaro, a small Capri bar where you can sip with a view and experience the spirit in its native element. I'd love to invite you if you're ever passing through. You can follow along at @solarogin."



Lorenzo Fornari '91, creator of Solaro Capri Gin

KYLE LARKIN '94

Kyle reports, "Last August, I visited with my roommate, Elvis "Stoney" Percentie, at his home on Harbour Island, Bahamas. I am proud to be a part of Stoney's family and have the opportunity to visit with them. I also still communicate with Henry Park who is doing very well. I hope to visit with Henry soon in Seoul, Korea. I still live in South Eastern PA with my incredible family, and I am extremely proud of my two children, Brock and Juliette, who both are attending The Hill School. Professionally, I am the Vice President of Casella Waste Systems, a publicly traded regional waste collection company based in VT. To those attending Rectory: Embrace the journey, trust the process, seize every opportunity, and build friendships that last a lifetime."



Elvis Percentie '94 and Kyle Larkin '94.

MARCELO LOZANO '94

Marcelo reports, "My son is in high school, and my daughter is in 8th grade at Rectory School."



Marcelo Lozano '94 (second from right) with (l to r) daughter Alexa '26, spouse Karina, and son Marcelo '24.

BUILDING BELONGING: HOW ANGELINA QIAN '18 IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



By Allison Channey

During a recent conversation with Rectory's Alumni and Development Office, Angelina Qian '18 fondly reflected on her time at Rectory, her recent visit to campus, and the lasting connections she's maintained over the years. When asked what advice she would give to young Rectory alum, Angelina said, "Stay connected with the people who support you, and don't be afraid to create something meaningful, even if it starts small." This is the philosophy that she lives by every day at Emory University in Georgia.

Angelina's focus on maintaining personal connections stems from her own mental health struggles during the isolation of COVID and realizing that many other students were facing similar struggles. So, inspired by the open and supportive environment she experienced at Rectory, Angelina founded the Emory Mood Psychology Club during her freshman year to create a safe space where students could share their feelings and learn healthy coping strategies for managing mental health challenges.

What began as a small group of five members three years ago has grown into a vibrant community of over fifty active participants. The club now hosts regular workshops, welcomes guest speakers, and organizes campus-wide events. One of their most impactful initiatives has been the annual "Free Hug" event—inspired initially by a TikTok video—which now draws more than 200 participants yearly and is a heartfelt reminder of the power of connection and compassion.

Now a senior, Angelina leads with empathy, initiative, and a deep sense of purpose. She credits much of her growth to the supportive dorm environment created by Ms. Bradley and Ms. O'Neil, where she and her dormmates felt truly seen and safe. "That space inspired me; it's where I found my sense of community," she reflects. As she completes her degree in Quantitative Economics, Angelina continues to balance a rigorous academic and extracurricular schedule with grace and determination. We are immensely proud of all she has achieved and excited for all that lies ahead. 🐾

ALEJANDRO MORENO '98

Alejandro reports, "I am retired Military and enjoying life."



Alejandro Moreno '98.

2000s

JESSE PALMER '08

Jesse reports, "I'm thrilled to share that I've published my debut novel, *The Echo of Revenge*, which is available on Amazon in book, ebook, and paperback format. *The Echo of Revenge* is a dark thriller about two ambitious law students whose paths cross in an LSAT class. What began as a single, life-altering night spirals into a relentless pursuit of justice and revenge, binding them together in ways neither can escape. At its core, the story confronts the raw power of a single accusation in the digital age, where social media can magnify outrage, distort facts, and erase nuance in an instant. It also explores what happens when guilt is assumed before truth is understood, and how the pursuit of justice, no matter how well-intentioned, can become morally fraught in a world where perception often outweighs reality."



Jesse Palmer '08 with her debut novel, *The Echo of Revenge*.

MIN JAE YOO '09

Min Jae reports, "I got married in April 2024, completed an MBA and graduated from Stanford Graduate School of Business, and am likely starting a company."



2010s

JACKSON LARRABEE '11

Jackson reports, "My wife, Jasmine, and I are overjoyed to share we welcomed a new baby girl, Madeline, in September 2024."

FELIPE DE JESUS FIERRO ARMENDARIZ '12

Felipe reports, "I'm currently working as a consultant at NASDAQ."

DARRIAN SHUNAMAN '12

Darrian reports, "My wife and I welcomed our son, Landon, on March 12, 2025. Everyone is happy and healthy."

DARCEY BASTOW '14

Darcey reports, "I have now been working and living at Rectory for three years as a dorm parent, coach, and substitute teacher, and recently started teaching science classes. It's an amazing experience getting to work with former teachers, former classmates, and new friends. I have been lucky enough to assist with many programs that I was a part of in my Rectory years, like chorus and the musical. I am on track to graduate this Spring from SNHU with a degree in creative writing and look forward to the new opportunities that will afford me."



Darcey Bastow '14 and her colleagues dressed up for Halloween.

REGINA FIERRO ARMENDARIZ '14

Regina reports, "I studied Architecture and Interior Design, and right now, I'm working on several projects in those fields."

CHENG LOU '14

Victor reports, "I am currently working as an admissions counselor at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA."

RODRIGO MEJIA ARECHIGA '14

Rodrigo reports, "I'm a corporate and real estate lawyer."

JUAN PABLO RIVERA SORIANO '14

Juan Pablo reports, "I'm starting my own company. We're creating AI for education purposes to improve the way students learn by AI, creating the content they need personalized to their learning profile."

ALFREDO GUTIERREZ PINTO '15

Alfredo reports, "I just graduated from architectural school in Anahuac, and right now, I'm working in a little architectural firm."

MAE SHARPLESS '15

Mae reports, "I am currently getting my Master's in Media, Art, and Technology at NC State. My thesis combines traditional craft with emerging technologies. I have been creating ceramic pieces that combine with projection mapping to bring them to life. I finished my first year in May 2025 with a 4.0 and joined my school's Honor Society!"

DIEGO SOLBES GEMAYEL '15

Diego reports, "After Rectory, I came back to Mexico, completed college, and I am now working in one of the biggest communications companies in my area."

MATTHEW BEAZER '16

Matt reports, "I am currently living in San Francisco, working as a Product Manager for JP Morgan."

TIANSHU WANG '16

Tianshu reports, "Hi Rectory! It's been almost 10 years since graduation! Time flies so fast! I graduated from Duke and recently started a new job as an Autopilot Silicon Validation Engineer at Tesla in Palo Alto. I am pursuing a Master's degree at Stanford University. Rectory has prepared me well for a prosperous career with confidence and integrity. I'm more than happy to connect with my fellow Rectory alumni in the Bay Area! I'll miss Mr. Williams, and I really appreciate his devotion to making Rectory the best boarding middle school."

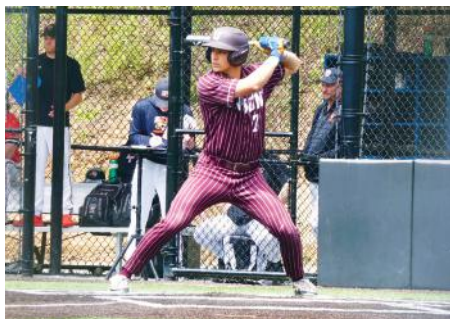


Tianshu Wang '16.

CLASS OF 2016: 🐾 10TH REUNION

COOPER AMES '18

Cooper reports, "I attend Union College, where I am majoring in Biomedical Engineering and also play baseball. I recently accepted a summer internship at Putnam Plastics, who manufacture medical devices across 36 countries."



Cooper Ames '18 at bat for Union College.

JIawei FENG '18

Tom reports, "I was accepted to the Master of Environmental Studies program at University of Pennsylvania."

EMILIA GUTIERREZ PINTO '19

Emilia reports, "Right now, I am in my fourth year of Medicine."

STEVEN MASCOLO '19

Steven reports, "I just completed my junior year, where I enjoyed serving as the team treasurer for my university's club hockey team. For the spring semester in 2025, I studied abroad at The University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia! Go Rectory Wolves!"



Steven Mascolo '19.

2020s

AITANA CERDERA GONZALEZ '20

Aitana reports, "I am studying Civil Engineering."

XIMENA GUTIERREZ PINTO '20

Ximena reports, "I'm studying Law in Mexico."

ISABEL HADDAD DEL VAL '20

Isabel reports, "I am studying Finance right now and am in my fourth semester."

TONY WANG '20

Tony reports, "I am a freshman at Purdue University studying Game Development."

CARSON AMES '21

Carson reports, "I made the first team for Football at Pomfret School and have committed to playing baseball at Amherst College starting in the fall of 2025."



Carson Ames '21.

SEUNGYEON CHOI '21

Ethan reports, "I was admitted to Cornell University, USC, and Boston College. I am attending Boston College beginning fall 2025!"

MANUEL MARTIN DEL CAMPO '21

Manuel reports, "I credit Rectory with making me an independent and self-disciplined person. I still really appreciate things such as the MELP program for allowing me to enjoy different experiences."

ALVARO AGUILAR MARONO '22

Alvaro reports, "I graduated from high school in the Spring of 2025."

TONI EBUNLOMO '22

Toni reports, "I've recently graduated high school."

DANIELA ALCALA HADDAD '23

Daniela reports, "Right now, I'm in high school."

YOONBIN KIM '23

Ellie reports, "I continue to study at Northfield Mount Hermon."

LINDYN MOROCHO '24

Lindyn reports, "I am living in New York and attend The Taft School." 🐾

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

CONTACT ALLISON
CHANNEY, ASSOCIATE
DIRECTOR OF
DEVELOPMENT AT:

860.928.0204

ALLISON.CHANNEY@
RECTORYSCHOOL.ORG



STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALUMNI HAPPENINGS:

RECTORYSCHOOL.ORG/
ALUMNI-NOTES



IN MEMORIAM

THE RECTORY SCHOOL COMMUNITY EXTENDS
ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE LOVED ONES OF
RECENTLY DECEASED ALUMNI AND FRIENDS.

HAROLD ANTHONY '51

*January 11, 1936 – February
28, 2025 (Age 89)*

DOUGLAS BOYD '56

*April 12, 1942 – October 16,
2023 (Age 81)*

BRADFORD GAUTHIER '64

*November 28, 1950 – July 27,
2024 (Age 73)*

ANDREJ KUCHER '03

*February 2, 1988 – November
2, 2024 (Age 36)*

MARIAN MACGREGOR

(PAST FACULTY)

*October 19, 1925 – September
30, 2024 (Age 98)*

JAY MILNOR

(PAST FACULTY)

*July 11, 1923 – December 28,
2024 (Age 101)*

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND, HAL '51

I remember the first time I picked up my Rectory phone to find Harold “Hal” Anthony ’51 on the line like it was yesterday. He was quick out of the blocks first explaining that only Rectory people call him Hal instead of Harold then asking who I was and how long I had been at Rectory. Hal then made his way through a series of stories, updates, and questions that had me writing notes feverishly trying to capture as many names and other details as I could. I learned a lot about Rectory from Hal that day, and I learned that I had a lot to learn about Rectory, too.

Over the course of the next few years, I would recognize Hal’s number when it periodically illuminated my desk phone. Everytime we talked, it brightened my day. The subject matter of his calls varied quite a bit, but no matter what we talked about, Hal’s love for Rectory was palpable.

Sometimes Hal called to give us updates on himself and his Rectory contemporaries. He was an Alumni Office’s dream as it is no small task to keep track of so many alum, and Hal let us know who was where and what they were doing there.

Sometimes Hal called to share his interactions with Rectory’s extended network. He was affiliated with another independent school, whose Head of School was none other than Rectory’s retired Head of School Fred Williams’ brother. Hal had had a conversation with Fred’s brother, and he wanted me to pass along the news, “Give your Headmaster a message for me,” Hal would say in instances like this. I always obliged, and Fred Williams always received those messages with a knowing smile.

Sometimes Hal called to keep the Alumni and Development office on its toes. Most of those times, Hal just wanted to be sure we remembered his Rectory generation and preserved the first half of Rectory’s history. It was clear Hal had high standards for Rectory, and all of us were eager to live up to those standards.

Sometimes Hal called to fill us in on his family. Two of his children, Scott ’85 and Trent ’90, attended Rectory, and that kept Hal connected in a special way. The only time I met Hal in person was during Rectory’s Centennial Weekend in 2022. He had arrived for a talk given by George Groom and Brad Seaward, both of whom taught Hal’s sons, and his joy for Rectory was even more evident in person than it was on the phone.

Calls from Hal became fewer and farther between after that day, and we learned of his passing in February of 2025. Hal’s daughter emailed us to let us know, and when we referred to her dad as “Hal” in our reply, she responded, “You called him Hal. You must have known him.” I sure miss hearing from you, Hal, and I, for one, will be sure you remain a part of Rectory’s collective memory. 🐾



LEGACY FAMILIES: PASSING DOWN THE RECTORY EXPERIENCE

By Allison Channey

This past year, the concept of legacy has been a central theme here at Rectory. The legacy left by a retiring Head of School and a completed Master Plan. The legacy left by Rectory graduates for their younger schoolmates. The lasting legacy Rectory has had, and continues to forge, on our community. Perhaps the most powerful expression of legacy, however, is seen in the alumni who return to campus as parents. In the education field, a “legacy” student is one whose parents attended the same institution a generation prior. With this in mind, I reached out to some of our legacy alumni to learn what about their experience led them to entrust Rectory with their children. While I wasn’t able to speak with all of our legacy families, the alumni I did connect with represented many different eras of Rectory’s centennial history.

Despite the years that separate their time here, a common theme emerged: parents value the strength of community and the power of personalized education. They spoke of classmates and dorm parents who made them feel part of a global family. Some reflected on the leadership and self-discipline they developed in classrooms and on sports fields. But above all, they remembered the teachers who shaped their lives and laid the foundation for who they are today.

Glenn Smith ’79 found Rectory after being diagnosed with dyslexia and struggling in the British school system in Bermuda. What he discovered in Pomfret was life-changing: small classes, daily tutoring, and a community that offered structure and compassion. He credits Rectory with helping him find his footing academically and socially, and he saw the same support system benefit his two sons decades later.

Elizabeth “Zim” Zimmermann ’84 reflected on the impact of her own 9th-grade leadership year at Rectory and how the experience was equally transformative for her son, Noah ’19. Though he spent just one year at Rectory, Noah embraced meaningful opportunities to lead, mature, and gain confidence in a supportive environment; opportunities he likely wouldn’t have encountered until his senior year at secondary school. The life lessons he gained during that pivotal year laid the foundation for his future and will continue to influence him for years to come.

Kyle Borner ’01 and his wife, Coco, enrolled their sons after moving back to Pomfret from overseas. Rectory’s focus on academic rigor, discipline, and a lifelong love of learning was paramount for them. Kyle sees strong parallels between his experience and the one his sons enjoy today, especially in the school’s continued emphasis on diversity and its ability to instill respect and global awareness in students from all backgrounds.

For **Marcelo Lozano ’94**, Rectory was his first home away from home—a place where he learned a new language, adapted to a new culture, and became part of a global family that extended far

beyond the classroom. He describes the staff as the heart of the Rectory experience: dorm parents, teachers, and coaches who create a genuine sense of belonging, which he was thrilled to watch his daughter, Alexa ’26, and son, Marcelo ’25, also experience during their time on campus.

Several alums also pointed to the great asset the diversity of the school played in their lives and how it was a pivotal factor in their decision to enroll their child at Rectory. **Hyukkee Moon ’95** wrote “One of the most valuable things I gained from my time at Rectory was a truly global mindset. With so many students from different countries, I was constantly learning about different cultures and perspectives, which deeply shaped me and proved to be a great asset in my career. I wanted my sons to have the same opportunity. Watching them grow into independent globally minded young people, just as I did, is incredibly rewarding.”

Jason Lim ’00 spoke of the wide spectrum of opportunities that Rectory had to offer. “Rectory is more than a school. It is a land of possibility. A place where you’re given the tools, the freedom, and the support to design a journey that is uniquely yours. I can think of no better place for my son, Mark, to start his.” Jason went on to talk about how Rectory’s faculty helped him develop a profound sense of confidence, and they taught him to make choices, embrace failure, and to be willing to explore. He has already seen similar “life lessons” start to take shape during Mark’s time on campus.

Some alum spoke passionately about the support and sense of community. **Ned Thompson ’71**, recalled the constant support of dorm parents and

teachers for both himself and his kids. He said “Instead of going home to just your parents at night, you are surrounded 24/7 by parent figures, you have 20 fathers and 10 mothers so you get that wonderful support.” This was echoed by **Breck Perkins ’73**, speaking of his and his daughter, Natalie’s ’19, experience, “The care that was given and the quality of the education. They taught me how to learn and helped give me the confidence that I could excel. And I got to watch that happen for Natalie when she was there.”

BJ Pulchaski ’95 shared how his own journey came full circle when he and his wife were exploring schools for their son, Robert. “From the moment we met Robert’s teacher, we were impressed,” he recalled. “The campus had grown so much since my time as a student, yet so many aspects still reminded me of the outstanding education and amazing experiences I had there.”

THESE LEGACY FAMILIES RETURN BECAUSE RECTORY’S CORE VALUES HAVE ENDURED ACROSS GENERATIONS. THEY ARE UPHELD BY THE PEOPLE WHO CARE DEEPLY FOR THEIR STUDENTS; STUDENTS WHO GROW INTO CONFIDENT, CURIOUS, AND CONNECTED INDIVIDUALS. WE ARE HONORED TO WELCOME ALUMNI BACK AS PARENTS AND HOPE TO CONTINUE BUILDING AN IMPACTFUL LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. 🐾

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david.turner@rectoryschool.org 860.963.6740 ext. 340



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Contact Allison Channey
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Rectory SCHOOL

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SOPHIA S.M.

SYMMETRY STUDY ►

During this year's Summer at Rectory, Arts and Crafts students learned about drawing symmetry and pattern through looking at colorful moth species, drawing and blending with brightly colored oil pastels.