



# CHOATE

## ROSEMARY HALL

Dear Choate Applicant:

We hope this message finds you and your family safe and healthy. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us in different ways. For the Choate Admission Office, the pandemic created an opportunity to critically evaluate our current admission practices and application requirements. In service of an inclusive, accessible, and fair admission process, we have made significant changes to our application for Fall 2021 entry, as outlined below.

### TESTING:

A student is never assessed solely on testing. We have always committed to a holistic application review, which involves reviewing the entire application and essays, teacher recommendations, grades, course selection and performance, extracurricular involvement, and the admission interview. Understanding that testing can be an inequitable hurdle for many students, coupled with a range of challenges and barriers to test-taking due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to move forward with a test optional admission process. Testing will not be required in your application to Choate.

For those students who choose not to submit testing, we strongly recommend submitting **both** the Graded Essay **and** a third teacher recommendation with their application using the Gateway Personal Recommendation form.

### TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation letters from the school principal/counselor, English teacher, and math teacher remain a required part of the admission application; however, we understand the need to be more flexible with this requirement, and have made the following changes:

- The English and Math Recommendations may be completed by either a current or a previous year teacher.
- If you are unable to submit the English Recommendation or the Math Recommendation, you may submit a humanities recommendation in lieu of an English recommendation, and a science recommendation in lieu of a math recommendation. In both cases, please instruct your teachers to complete the English Recommendation or Math Recommendation forms through Gateway.

Again, for those students who choose not to submit testing, we strongly recommend submitting **both** the Graded Essay **and** a third teacher recommendation with their application using the Gateway Personal Recommendation form.

### **GRADED ESSAY:**

In order to get a fuller sense of your writing ability, we will require a graded essay from all applicants to Grade 9.

For those students who choose not to submit testing and who are applying to grades 10, 11, 12 or Postgraduate, we strongly recommend submitting **both** the Graded Essay **and** a third teacher recommendation with their application using the Gateway Personal Recommendation form.

### **TOURS AND INTERVIEWS:**

In an effort to keep our community as safe and healthy as possible, will not allow visitors to campus for tours and interviews during the 2020-2021 admission cycle; however, we are eager to bring Choate to you! All interviews will be conducted online using the Zoom platform. We encourage families to explore our [Interactive Campus Map](#) and to monitor your email for virtual event invitations throughout the fall and early winter.

[Our Admission Process page](#) has been updated to reflect these changes. We encourage families to consult our online resources, including [our FAQ page](#), to learn more about our application changes and how these changes may affect them during the admission process.

We look forward to supporting you throughout the admission cycle. Go Choate!

The Choate Admission Team

[@choateadmission](#)