Families of Color NEWSLETTER

Family Weekend 2025

CHOATE ROSEMARY HALL

HIGHLIGHTING SIGNATURE PROGRAMS AND THE KOHLER ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOR PATHWAYS MENTEES

Dean of Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Rachel Myers, and Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusion for Student Programming and Support, Ms. Jillian Forgue, were thrilled to help welcome back 35 returning upper form student Pathways mentors for the Choate Leadership Experience (CLE), August 26-28. After an evening together with International student mentors making welcome signs for their newest Choate mentees, Pathways mentors began to warmly welcome 31 new students of color to campus on August 29. Aside from various student-led and parent-targeted programming and social bonding activities throughout orientation, all Pathways mentees attended a special program led by the directors of Choate Signature Programs. Afterwards, mentees were invited to tour the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC) with the director, Joe Scanio, and greenhouse manager, Lena Nicolai. Before his passing in September 2022, Mr. Kohler Jr. '57 shared with Dr. Myers, that he was delighted to know that students of color in the Pathways program were getting exposed to the KEC and learning about the Environmental Immersion Signature Program (EIP) within their first few days on campus. The goal of this early exposure to the unique Signature Programs offered at Choate, is to proactively and intentionally create curiosity amongst our newest students of color about applying in the future to any of these programs.



Joe Scanio tours Pathways mentees through the KEC.

Learn about Signature Program offerings

Learn about the incredible legacy of Herbert Kohler Jr. '57

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: ON-CAMPUS CELEBRATIONS AND CULTURAL TRAVEL PROGRAMS

Choate will host its fourth annual celebration of International Education Week (IEW) from October 24 - November 1, 2025. This is a long-standing national tradition celebrated by study abroad and international student offices across the United States to promote global connections and celebrate the diversity on our campuses. Choate's events will include: a Columbia University dual degree international program college visit, Diwali, our own Global Opportunities Fair, Spanish fan making,a trip to Moroccan restaurant, rangoli making and tile painting, cooking nights with faculty, a Latin dance workshop, African bead-making, local day trips, and so much more! Click here to see a detailed list of the events planned for International Education Week.

We were also thrilled to announce our short-term cultural travel programming for '25-'26:

SOUTH ON A SPOON: FOOD, DIASPORA, AND RESILIENCE – MARCH 2026
The 7-day itinerary offers an immersive exploration of New Orleans, focusing on the rich cultural and culinary heritage of the African American community. Beginning with a walking tour of the historic Treme neighborhood, participants will engage with local food traditions, including a visit to the Treme Market and the New Orleans African American Museum. The itinerary emphasizes the importance of food in understanding history and resilience, featuring notable dining experiences such as Dooky Chase's Restaurant, a key site in the Civil Rights Movement. This journey not only celebrates the flavors of the South but also highlights the significance of food as a means of cultural preservation and community empowerment.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA – MARCH 2026
The Choate Rosemary Hall Orchestra's concert tour to Seoul, South Korea, provides our students with a unique opportunity to engage with rich Korean cultural traditions in the arts, including music, theater, and crafts. They will experience traditional Gugak music played on historical instruments, enjoy the intricate rhythms of the Cookin' Nanta percussion comedy show, and handcraft paper lotus lanterns at the Jogyesa Buddhist Temple. Additionally, our students will learn about contemporary music education techniques that emphasize accessibility while exploring instruction for orchestra students at the Korean School for Visually Impaired Youth. A side-by-side rehearsal with college students from Yonsei University will inspire us as we practice Mahler's Symphony. In line with our mission to promote the works of historically excluded and gender-marginalized composers, our concert repertoire will feature significant pieces by women composers, composers of color, and a special arrangement of Korean Gugak (국악) music for symphony orchestra.

VARSITY GOLF IN ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND – MARCH 2026
The boys and girls varsity teams will travel to the home of golf in St. Andrews, Scotland, where they will practice on some of the world's oldest and most respected courses in order to prepare for the spring season. Students will have a chance to play with old hickory sticks on a local course. The group will also visit St. Leonards School, a boarding school in St. Andrews, and play friendly matches against their students before joining together for dinner. Off the course, students will have a walking tour to learn more about the town's history, visit nearby Glamis Castle, and take a tour of the University of St. Andrews, where over 20 recent Choate alumni are currently studying.

TECH AND ROBOTICS IN KYOTO AND TOKYO, JAPAN – JUNE 2026
Students will travel to the Land of the Rising Sun to learn about technology and robotics from a Japanese perspective. The group will start their program in Kyoto, where they will have guest speakers discuss the relationship between culture and technology and the impact of the atomic bombs. Later, they visit Nara Park and some of the architectural wonders of the historic capital of Kyoto, before taking the train to Tokyo to round out the trip in the most populous city in the world. While in Tokyo, the group will visit the Miraikan, the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation. Students will learn about washi making and paper as an early technology, and go to Dawn, a restaurant that features robots that allow for social participation for those who cannot leave their homes. On the last night, Choate students and faculty visit the famed TeamLab Planets to get immersed in futuristic digital art that merges math, technology, and creativity.

All applications should be submitted no later than Sunday, November 2 at 10:30p.m. Should we receive more applications than we have trip spaces, a selection process will occur. We aim to make trip selection decisions before students leave campus at the end of fall term. Any student unable to afford the full cost of the trip (regardless of their scholarship status at Choate) can apply for funding through the Beyond the Classroom Fund at Choate. Please indicate on the trip application that you will be applying for funding. This process will begin once participants are notified of their selection for this experience.



Ned Gallagher discusses the J.F.K. Signature Program with new mentees in Lanphier Commons.

To get more information on programs:

To learn more about Global Travel Opportunities, make your way to an information session on "Global Travel Opportunities" taking place on Friday from 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. and Saturday from 12:50 p.m.-1:35 p.m. in the Elman Auditorium in Lanphier, or contact Ashley Sinclair at asinclair@choate.edu.

COLLEGE COUNSELING AND FAMILIES OF COLOR

At Choate Rosemary Hall, we are fortunate to have a College Counseling team that recognizes the need to provide the most equitable experience for all students and families possible in their navigation of a complex college process. Specifically for our students and families of color, the College Counseling Office actively shares informational emails about college fly-in and other access programs for students from historically underrepresented groups. Students begin receiving these notices after they formally begin the college process in the winter of fifth form year. If your sixth form student is not receiving these, but should, please be in touch with Tim Eash at teash@choate.edu.

The College Counseling Office also provides a stipend for college search and application costs. Fifth and sixth form students who qualify are notified by Financial Aid. This money can be used toward standardized test costs, application fees, or college visit travel expenses. Students work with their counselors to budget the funds and plan accordingly. In addition, when possible, the College Counseling Office provides translators and translated documents for those who only speak Spanish. Regardless of whether you are a Spanish speaker or not, please let College Counseling know if you will require assistance with language translation in the college search and application process for your child. Lastly, our College Counseling team affirms and supports students who seek admission at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) and schools with strong DEI efforts. We encourage parents to check out the videos posted to the Parents Portal!

Get to know our awesome College Counseling Team at one of the **College Counseling information sessions** this weekend or by using the QR code.

RALPH J. BUNCHE, JR. '61 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION FUND

As described in Choate's Strategic Plan, expanding Equity & Inclusion initiatives is a key priority for the School. Established with gifts from parents and alumni in 2021, the Ralph J. Bunche, Jr. '61 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fund is named after Choate's first Black alumnus. Income from this endowed fund supports the programs and initiatives overseen by Choate's Dean of Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Rachel Myers. Gifts to the Bunche Fund help the Equity and Inclusion team build an even more robust program to support and educate the Choate campus community. If you are interested in learning more about the Bunche Fund and giving to Choate, please reach out to Chief Advancement Officer, Anne Bergen (abergen@choate.edu) or Senior Associate Director of Parent Giving, Michelle Rittler '98 (mrittler@choate.edu).

HAS YOUR STUDENT HEARD ABOUT CLUB HUB?!

At Choate, student clubs, organization, and affinity groups offer a welcoming environment for students to explore their interests, identities, and become experienced leaders. The Student Activities Center team announced a new initiative to streamline club communications and boost member engagement, successfully launching Club Hub, a comprehensive platform designed to simplify all aspects of club management. Key Benefits of Club Hub:

- **Explore Clubs:** You can search clubs, filter by category and meeting day, and select a club to view additional details.
- **Easy Join:** To join a club, find it on Club Hub's website.
- **Automated Reminders:** Club members get several reminders about upcoming events via email and mobile app notifications.
- **Quick Meeting Attendance:** Club members can scan the custom event QR code to be marked present.
- **Centralized Platform:** All club information and communications will be stored on Club Hub for easy access.

There are a number of Equity and Inclusion designated student clubs, organizations, and affinity groups to explore and join. If students have any questions about Club Hub, they can email sac@choate.edu or access the customer support chat on Club Hub's website.

Photos from Pathways Pre-Orientation and Opening Days, 2025-2026:















