

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID

Welcome prospective students and families, and thank you for your interest in Hotchkiss. As you visit this page, I want to acknowledge the anxiety that many of us are feeling. All around us, the global pandemic continues, while incidences of anti-Black racism are driving significant cultural debate and self-examination. As a result of these times, each of our prospective families will be in a different place in the boarding school search process. I am with you, our school community is with you, and we look forward to supporting your interest in Hotchkiss.

At Hotchkiss, we are committed to welcoming students from many different backgrounds, so I speak now to prospective students: what matters at Hotchkiss is who you are. You might be a first generation college-bound student. Your family may define itself as low-income or middle-class. Perhaps you live in agricultural America. Or maybe you come from a family where generations of people have achieved advanced degrees.

What we care about is you.

We're looking for students with broad perspectives who will pursue their own intellectual passions while contributing in meaningful ways to a community that is high-performing, dynamic, ethical, and deeply rewarding. When you come to Hotchkiss, you become part of Hotchkiss – and Hotchkiss becomes part of you.

These days, life on-campus is a little different as a result of the pandemic, but we are finding new ways for our students to learn and engage while we keep them safe, seen, and supported. While our classes have been de-densified and competitive athletics are being re-imagined, our spirit and sense of community are stronger than ever. As Cheo Coker '91, creator of the Netflix hit series Luke Cage once said, "I graduated from Hotchkiss with Lakeville Grit." We got this!

You should know that admissions at Hotchkiss will be different this year. We won't be able to host our usual program of visits to campus for tours and an in-person interview, nor will we be able to hold open houses on-campus or off-campus events. Instead, we will offer a robust virtual program that will invite you into our academic and co-curricular programs and introduce you to the incredible people of Hotchkiss – all from your home.

We are acutely aware of the importance of this moment in time for educational institutions. Global public health is under threat even as seismic cultural shifts are taking place across the country. History will record how schools like ours have responded. Throughout this time, our focus remains on providing a truly outstanding and differentiated education to students who will give the most to – and gain the most from – our diverse community.

As you consider which will be the right school for you, I hope you will think less about topics like square acreage, new buildings, or the number of international trips available (although Hotchkiss scores high according to all of these metrics). Rather, I hope you will consider our focus on building a diverse and intentional community, and the sincerity of our commitment to preparing young people to engage, thrive, and adapt to a world in which change is a constant. Excellence, diversity, equity, and inclusion are values that will endure.

In reopening Hotchkiss, our priority is the safety of our students, faculty, and staff who will come together here in the Northwest corner of Connecticut to live and learn. We will capture the experiences of our community and work to find ways to bring them to your family to give you insight into the many joys of being part of this school of 600 students from around the United States and the world. During this unprecedented time, we commit to making the most of this moment to reflect upon and advance our mission. Stay safe, and come join us!

Erby L. Mitchell, Jr  
Dean of Admission and Financial Aid



*“ Guided by each other, let us seek better paths.”*