



# ORION'S ARROW

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
ORION MILITARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

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Orion Scholarships Gain Media Attention

## ORION'S FIRST COHORT OF MILITARY SCHOLARS ENROLL IN BOARDING SCHOOLS

In September of this year, Orion's six 2021 Military Scholars began their journeys at five boarding schools in Orion's consortium - Tilton School (NH), Randolph-Macon Academy (VA), The Lawrenceville School (NJ), Fountain Valley School (CO) and St. George's School (RI).

Orion's [scholarship recipients](#) are thriving in their new communities, competing on teams, joining clubs, making friends, and learning new routines. Click below to see how The Lawrenceville School highlighted their Orion Scholars in a student life news feature story:

<https://www.lawrenceville.org/life-at-lawrenceville/news-events/news-detail/-board/school-news/post/lawrenceville-welcomes-first-orion-military-scholars>.



Ben M and Rachel D  
Orion Scholars at The [Lawrenceville School](#)

# New Research: Military Teens Well-Being and Our Future Force

In October, the National Military Family Association and Bloom: Empowering Military Teens released the results of a first-of-its-kind survey of 2,000 military children ages 13 to 19, rating their experiences. The data showed that 48% of military teenagers show signs of emotional distress. Forty-two percent of survey respondents reported having low mental well-being; 45% scored moderate in mental well-being which is still considered at risk. Only 13% of military teens scored in the high mental well-being range.

Well-being and psychological functioning were measured using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale (WEMWBS). The report states that, "according to the Centers for Disease Control, "[b]uilding strong bonds and relationships with adults and friends at school, at home, and in the community provides youth with a sense of connectedness. This feeling of connectedness is important and can protect adolescents from poor mental health ..." However, the survey showed that most military children struggle to establish connectedness due to frequent military moves, deployments and separations.

Furthermore, an overwhelming majority, 65%, of military teenagers plan to serve in the military, compared to only 13% of civilian teens. The future of America's volunteer force relies upon these military teenagers' well-being. Orion Military Scholarship Fund aims to give today's military children the stability and connectedness they need to become tomorrow's strong leaders. Access the full report at: <https://www.militaryfamily.org/the-military-teen-experience/>.



## FAST FACTS About Military Teens' Mental Health



Typical military children change schools nine times before graduating high school



48% of military teenagers show signs of emotional distress



87% of military teens score low to moderate in mental well-being



A sense of connectedness can protect adolescents from poor mental well-being



**Give  
Today**

# Why Boarding School?

## What stable educational experiences offer military teens

Modern-day boarding schools are nothing like the stuffy, privileged institutions portrayed in movies and television. To the contrary, today's boarding schools are vibrant, diverse, closely-knit communities offering students transformative educational experiences. According to data from The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), boarding school students (compared to public school and private day students) are more satisfied; feel more supported; have higher quality teachers; are better prepared for college; spend less time watching TV; spend more time competing in sports, playing music and doing homework; and are more academically challenged. For more information, check out <https://www.boardingschools.com/> and <https://www.nais.org//>.

### FAST FACTS About How Boarding School Can Help Military Teens



96% of boarding students say their schools are ethnically and racially diverse



46% of students enrolled in boarding school are receiving financial aid



98% of boarding school students are satisfied or very satisfied with their academic experience



75% of boarding students say they feel supported by their school community

## Orion 'Boot Camp' Teaches Military Scholars, Families What to Expect at Boarding School

Orion's 2021 Cohort of Scholars and parents gather for virtual 'Boot Camp'



On August 15, 2021, the first cohort of Orion Military Scholars and their parents gathered online for the inaugural "Orion Boot Camp." Families zoomed in from all over the Western Hemisphere, stretching from Cuba to Hawaii. After opening remarks from Orion's cofounders, the four-hour Zoom webinar included scholars-only break-out sessions led by recent boarding school alumni, titled "Dress Codes, Lingo, and Managing Your Time and Money" and "How to manage the rigor, social drama, and dorm life at boarding school." Parent break-out session topics were "Let them fly and thrive: How to not be a Zamboni Parent and who to call when you are concerned about your child" and "What happens if your child stumbles and breaks a major school rule?" The event wrapped up with Q&A, then parents and scholars celebrated their newfound knowledge of boarding school customs and culture with a post-Boot-Camp social hour ... BYOS - Bring Your Own Snacks. 😊

# Team Orion Adds Three Advisors: Frances Tilney Burke, Marty Guay, Jack Ballentyne

Team Orion is led by cofounders Eric and Krista Peterson and Francis and Lisa Molinari. However, Orion's Advisors and Ambassadors are essential to our success. Recently, three advisors joined the team. Formerly Chief Operating Officer for Military Child Education Coalition, Jack Ballentyne, an Army brat and veteran, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Orion. Marty Guay, Vice President of Business Development at Stanley Black and Decker, offers his expertise in strategic advancement. Frances Tilney Burke, military spouse and post-doctoral fellow at Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, provides knowledge of defense policy issues affecting military families. Full Orion Team member bios can be found at <https://www.orionmilitary.org/our-team>.



Tilney Burke



Guay



Ballentyne



Top: Victoria Serra, Ted Carter, Guy Simmons, Chuck Jones  
Bottom: Francis Molinari, Lisa Molinari, Krista Peterson, Eric Peterson

## Orion in the News!

Orion Military Scholarship Program is garnering media attention, to include interviews in Military Spouse Magazine and Military Families Magazine, a second podcast with MCEC, and social media mentions galore! Thank you for sharing our good news with military families, supporters and donors!

