



# ORION'S ARROW

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
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## Two unique schools join Orion's consortium



THE ORME SCHOOL



PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL

One might wonder, “How does Orion Military Scholarships pick its member schools? Or, do the schools pick Orion?” Orion maintains a consortium of member schools across the United States. Some of these schools were identified by Orion’s founders and specifically invited to join because their academics, athletics, resources, location and community environments could benefit military students and their families.

Other US boarding schools contact Orion, expressing an interest in joining. Orion’s team conducts a thorough review of each prospective member institution and meets with its administrative leaders before extending an invitation to join.

One such school, The Orme School of Arizona,

reached out to Orion’s leadership over the summer of 2023. Orion had been looking for a school in the western United States, one with quality educational programs and a welcoming atmosphere, and The Orme School fit the bill perfectly. Read more about how Orme enhances Orion’s consortium on page 3.

Then in August, two of Orion’s founders, Francis and Lisa Molinari, were invited to a Portsmouth Abbey School event hosted by the school’s board chair. Long story short, “The Abbey” decided to re-join Orion’s consortium. There was no need for Orion to research this unique boarding school because it had been one of Orion’s founding member institutions. Read all about it on page 4.

# Orion Scholar Profile

**Fast  
and  
Curious!**



**Jael G.**

Orion Military Scholar and Army child, Jael G., is surging forward in more ways than one. Now in her sophomore year at The Lawrenceville School (NJ), Jael has made her mark in the classroom, among her peers, and on the athletic fields.

Jael was selected as an Orion Military Scholar and enrolled at Lawrenceville in Fall 2022. Jael dove in head first, receiving high academic honors, while getting involved in numerous school activities, to include: Lawrenceville Singers, piano lessons, JV soccer, varsity track, Big Red on a Budget, ropes course instructor, debate, cooking club, interior design club, and school newspaper writer.

During her freshman spring track season, Jael's 4x100 and 4x200 relays shattered school records. Her individual 400 performance earned her 1st place at Mid-Atlantic Prep League Championships, and at Mercer County Championships

with a personal record of 57.51. She finished second at NJ Interscholastic Athletic Association Prep A Championships, and tenth at New Balance Nationals. Jael plans on competing in both winter and spring track this year.

Despite her busy schedule, Jael has forged strong relationships at school. Her mom reports, Jael is "immersed into the community" and "looking forward to many more adventures and continuing to develop as a leader in her class." Jael says, "[t]here isn't much difference between me as a military child and them as non-military children. I have made plenty of friends as well as mentor bonds in Lawrenceville, it is an amazing place with amazing and kind people."



# Orion School Profile

## Giddy Up!

### Orme and Orion ride together for military children

There's a school in Arizona that's the kind of place where children's dreams are made. Located on a spectacularly scenic 26,000-acre historic cattle ranch - with equestrian and rodeo facilities, cabin-like dorms, hiking trails and an academic emphasis on learning in harmony with nature - The Orme School is a boarding school like no other.

Orme, a co-ed college preparatory boarding school serving grades 8 to 12, offers Orion Military Scholars a new kind of experience, one rooted in its history as a working cattle ranch that includes sustainable farming, horsemanship, water conservation and environmental science programs.

Orme also provides a close-knit community. This comfortable, family-like atmosphere benefits military students who typically experience instability due to military moves.

Kristin Durow, President of Orme School, stated, "As the child of a veteran, I have personally experienced the challenges faced by military families who undergo frequent relocations. The Orion program alleviates some of the uncertainties for these families by providing access to boarding school education, offering students the opportunity to flourish in a stable and nurturing environment. We, at Orme, take great pride in our involvement with this incredible initiative."

Read the [press release HERE](#).



THE ORME SCHOOL

1929



"THE BEST EDUCATION A CHILD CAN HAVE IS ONE THAT STRESSES A SOLID ACADEMIC FOUNDATION IN A FAMILY SETTING WHERE EACH STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO BE AN IMPORTANT, CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY."

# Orion School Profile



## Reunited for Good The Abbey and Orion Partner Again

"It feels right to have The Abbey back," said Francis Molinari, Orion cofounder and Vice President of Military Affairs, after Portsmouth Abbey School (RI) rejoined Orion Military Scholarship's group of member schools this Fall. The Abbey was one of the nonprofit's original founding member schools in 2020, but the partnership lapsed during a school leadership change in 2021. The two organizations have now renewed their mutual interest in serving military families.

Head of School, Matthew Walter, stated, "We are delighted to partner with Orion once again to welcome military families to Portsmouth Abbey School. Our Mission to help young men and women grow in knowledge and grace while nurturing reverence for God and the human person, a love of learning, and a commitment to community life resonates with many families as they answer their call to serve while balancing family and educational needs."

Located on 525 wooded acres along the Narragansett Bay, Portsmouth Abbey School is unique among top US boarding schools due to its English Benedictine Catholic roots, notable architecture, and classical curriculum taught in the Western intellectual tradition founded in ancient Greece.

Eric Peterson, cofounder and President of Orion commented, "The Abbey's combination of its Catholic mission, warm and connected community and exciting program opportunities fills a unique niche among our member schools and will be welcomed by military families."

Read the [full press release HERE](#).



PORTSMOUTH  
ABBEY  
SCHOOL

## Orion Military Scholar Blogs About Boarding School Journey



Hi, I'm Vivian! I'm a freshman in high school and a proud Army Brat. I have switched schools eight times in my life, and I probably would have attended three to four high schools. However, I was lucky enough to hear about a unique opportunity opening up for military brats. This is where my story changes," writes Orion Military Scholar, Vivian S. in her [first blog](#) for Bloom Military Teens in September. Vivian, a freshman at St. Andrew's School (DE) has agreed to write about her boarding school journey for Bloom, a [website](#) by, for, and about military teenagers.

Vivian's [October blog](#) describes her thoughts during her first week at school: "Four years. I've never lived anywhere for four years. I've never gone to the same school for four years. I've never been with the same people, or had the same teachers, or gone to the same grocery store for four years. It's an exciting thought for sure, daunting definitely. But trying to deprogram my brain from its

'time bomb' is what I'm really struggling with."

Vivian explains the mind of a military child, "I have coded my mind to make the most out of every time, to take pictures, make friends (and quick!!), and make the most of everything that I have. And this is where that thought comes in. I have four years here. I don't have to take a picture of every walk I take or force myself out of my room at every free time. I have time."

Vivian reasons, "So every time I have the thoughts of 'I need a picture,' or 'I should really go outside,' or 'I need to make sure \_\_\_ is here!!', they're followed by the thought, 'I have time, I don't need to document this specific moment, I can just be.'"

*"I found a home after so many years of houses."*

With a new, long-term perspective, Vivian concludes, "I'm so happy, and I don't want to forget it! I wish for every military brat, for them to have the sense of belonging I've found here. I found a home after so many years of houses."



# Orion's 'Red, White & Brews' Veterans Day Event



On Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11th, Orion hosted its first annual "Red, White & Brews" event at Newport Craft Brewery in Rhode Island, to raise a glass for those who serve while raising money for military scholarships. The event featured musician Peter Dorrien Traisci, fifteen raffle prizes, Wally's Wiener Wagon, and private label "Bravo Zulu Brew." Orion is thankful for the many supporters who donated generously at the event!

