



**FISHBURNE**  
MILITARY SCHOOL

**THE PARENT'S GUIDE TO FISHBURNE**

We see what's great in your son.  
Come see why that's great for you, too.



— CADET First Sergeant 3rd Year

*“I like myself more here.”*

*“I was looking for something that could bring meaning to my life...*

*I found it.”*

— CADET Corporal 2nd Year

**Fishburne** is the smallest military school in Virginia on purpose — so we can truly get to know every boy who comes here and help propel him toward the future that has the most meaning and purpose... for him. Because we're small, no boys can hide here. So, instead of feeling invisible, misunderstood or not challenged, every boy at Fishburne — finally seen and totally supported — grows into the best version of himself.

All of that makes Fishburne Military School the ideal choice for boys because we do the one thing no other school can. We see what's great in every boy. We see the leader. And the athlete. We see the dreamer. And the thinker. We see the loyal friend. And, maybe best of all, we see a future brother.

We also see behind the shyness. We look past the mistakes. And right through the bravado. And in the end, we see the best future for each boy who comes here.

┌ It's not always easy. It is always awesome. ─

*“He smiles.  
He feels confident.  
He likes school for  
the first time since  
second grade.  
He feels a part of  
the school.”* — PARENT



★ HONOR UNIT WITH DISTINCTION



## A school community that is the right fit

Our size works well for the Cadets, their families, and us. The campus is informal and its physical space and small town location are a point of difference with other much larger schools that are located in sparse rural areas. Plus, it ensures every student is seen, giving them the opportunity and support they need to achieve academic, athletic, and personal success.



## All (or most) of the reasons parents love Fishburne Military School.

### All-Boys

Being an All-Boys school works for us because it works for our students and their parents. More focus. Fewer distractions. And the power of the brotherhood that can only be created at an All-Boys school. Boys also appreciate the sense of order and respect it provides in a world that can be noisy, complicated and distracting.

### All inclusive

Unlike so many other private boarding schools, we're non-denominational and diverse. When you see what's great in a boy, you only see what's great. The result is a school where everyone is welcomed, appreciated and held up — telling the world we care about fairness and opportunity, not elitism or nepotism.

### All-Out commitment to JROTC

Fishburne Military School has earned the U.S. Army's highest level of accreditation and is a JROTC Distinguished Honor Unit. The program has enjoyed consistent success in assisting Cadets with service academy and ROTC scholarship applications.

Amazing futures start here

### All in on whatever future fits your son

Fishburne does an amazing job preparing our Cadets for college. (That's why we have a 100% college acceptance rate.) But not every Cadet wants to be college bound — so we're ready to get *your* Son wherever he sees himself thriving. Whether it's a Service Academy or a ROTC scholarship, our JROTC program is the best way to get a leg up. If it's a trade school, we know the best path to get him there too. Like we say, we see what's great in your son; then we help the world see it, too.



GO TO THE Academy



GO TO College

most likely to...



**INSIGHT** According to the Labor Department, Apprenticeship programs have grown 128% since 2009. Some programs, like The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding, have an admissions rate that rivals Harvard and Yale.

GET PILOTS TO Mach 2.0

## Our Unique *Leadership for Life* Curriculum

*Leadership for Life* (L4L) was introduced years ago as a tagline that reflected the school's mission and what it provided to its graduates. And while a great tagline—and worthy mission—L4L is not a marketing gimmick but rather a strategy designed by the educators at Fishburne to

enrain real-world leadership skills and habits in the boys. L4L does not duplicate what the Cadets learn in JROTC, but rather, it builds on that program and other classwork to amplify the attributes of a military-style education and its role in helping the boys be successful within the school environment and in their future lives.



*“Leadership comes from a place of goodness and kindness. Most people don’t get that.”* — FISHBURNE TRUSTEE



## Our Commitment

We continue to innovate and create the military school for the twenty-first century. One that redefines what it means to graduate young men with the skills to move forward wherever their lives take them with key qualities: Character—your moral and ethical self; Kinship—your trust and loyalty to your brothers; and, with Agency—your own inner power and sense of control.

*“This isn’t a second chance school.  
It’s a different chance school.”*



### Explaining Fishburne in a Simple Way

It can be hard to quickly encapsulate how we impact boys’ lives in just a few words. Here are two suggestions when sharing a conversation about the Fishburne Military School experience with others.

**FISHBURNE  
IN A FEW  
WORDS**

“Fishburne is ideal for talented boys whose talents haven’t been discovered. When we see what’s great in a boy, it’s not long before he sees what’s great in himself. And at the end of the day, that may be the most important thing he’ll ever learn here. Because of our size, our unique perspective using a military model, and our inclusive environment, Fishburne is the best place for boys to discover their best selves.”

**FISHBURNE  
IN EVEN FEWER  
WORDS**

“Fishburne is a military-style education, not a boot camp. We give our boys the skills and power to go wherever their lives take them.”



**DOUBT**



**FISHBURNE**

It's the most liberating haircut you'll ever get.



**LOYALTY**

**PERSONAL COURAGE**

FISHBURNE IN THE FEWEST WORDS POSSIBLE

*We see what's great in you.*

*Our brand line says 'be somebody' without implying you're a nobody. Or that you need to be rescued.*

*It inspires confidence. It promises transformation. And it's aspirational.*

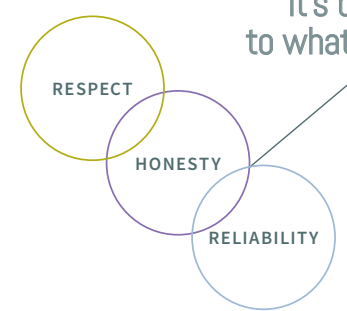
*It links Leadership's 'you can't hide here' perspective—which relates back to the size of our school.*

*For a boy who feels invisible, it tells him he'll finally be truly seen—even if he can't see his own strengths yet.*

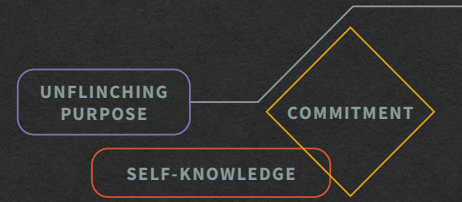
We're not changing our values... just the way we portray them.

- FISHBURNE CORE VALUES
- LOYALTY ▾ PERSONAL COURAGE
  - HONOR ▾ INTEGRITY ▾ SELFLESS SERVICE
  - DUTY ▾ RESPECT
  - STRUCTURE ▾ DISCIPLINE ▾ LEADERSHIP

Loyalty isn't blind allegiance, it's being true to what matters.



Personal Courage isn't blindly running into a fire, it's being driven by the fire of confidence.



Fishburne's core values LOYALTY and PERSONAL COURAGE are presented to give a more relatable understanding for boys, moms, and dads who are unfamiliar with a military-style education.



# STRUCTURE

Structure isn't a straitjacket, it's what keeps your eye on the prize.



# DISCIPLINE

Discipline isn't punishment, it's living with purpose.



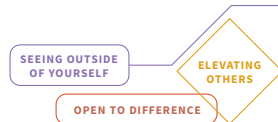
# LEADERSHIP

Leadership isn't about giving orders, it's about making the people around you better.



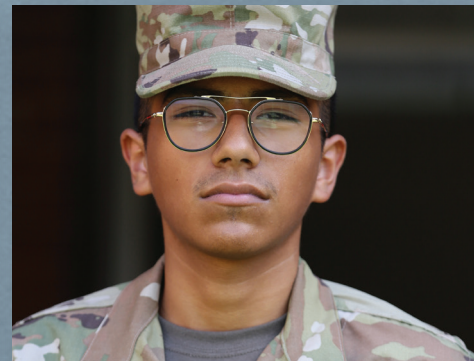
# RESPECT

Respect isn't subservience, it's responding to the best in others.



# HONOR

Honor isn't following the rules, it's living by a personal code that respects others.



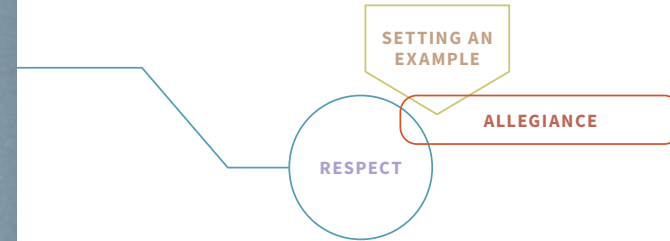
# INTEGRITY

Integrity isn't simply doing what's right, it's knowing what's right — and not wavering.



# DUTY

Duty isn't simply doing your job, it's being trusted to do what's right.



# SELFLESS SERVICE

Selfless Service isn't being a doormat, it's putting the needs of others first.





Fishburne Military School is more times than not a collaborative choice amongst families. We often hear parents say, *“it was a next to impossible decision to let him go to boarding school. But we knew he would thrive, and he wanted to go.”* Your son is the driver at our school, not the passenger — he can take his future wherever he wants to go and will have a support team along the way that other schools won’t provide.

## influencer

Brent’s shyness was mistaken for weakness at his former school. But not at Fishburne. We saw potent leadership abilities behind his quiet demeanor and today he leads his squad with fairness and compassion. We’ll see what’s great in you too, and give it a chance to shine.



## BMOC

BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

At Fishburne, upperclassman aren’t given the upper hand. All the grades mix together — making even the youngest Cadets feel like a big deal. It’s one of the countless ways that our Cadets come together to create an unbreakable bond — and a huge reason why every young man feels like he can be his best here.



# What “We see what’s great in you” means to Boys

At Fishburne, not only do we see you... we see what’s great in you. And we’ll help you.

Fishburne is small for a reason — so you can get the support and encouragement you need... so you can play the sports you want... so you can really get to know your teachers, your ‘brothers,’ and your coaches.

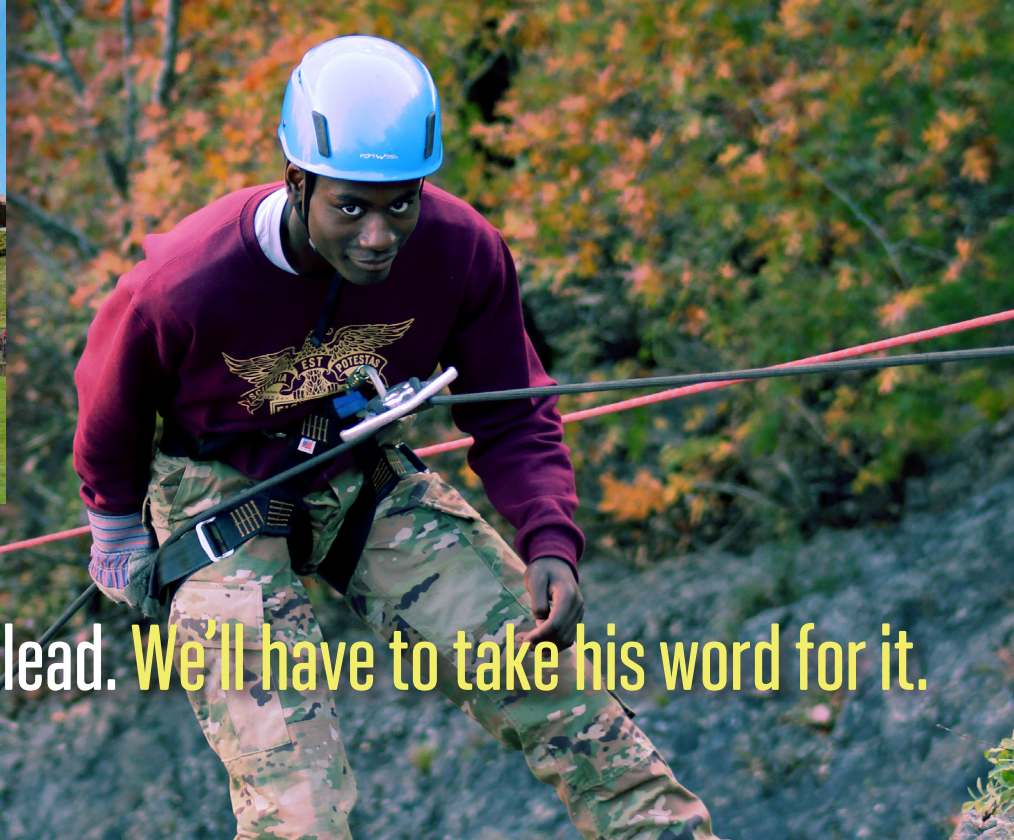
Tell us your goals and we’ll help you reach them. Along the way we’ll show you how discipline actually liberates you, how respect for others raises your own self-esteem, and how honor makes life more rewarding.

Because of our size and our commitment to every Cadet, you can’t hide here. You can’t BS your way through things. And that’s why every Cadet who leaves here knows himself more, likes himself better, and is ready to achieve whatever goals he has.

This is your moment.

And Fishburne is the place that  
— sees you more,  
— gives you more,  
— gets you more.





He said he doesn't like to take the lead. **We'll have to take his word for it.**



**My roommate always wanted to go to UVA. And I always wanted to be in the army. | Fishburne got both of us there.**

Just because we all go to military school doesn't mean we all want the same future. Pretty soon we'll all peel off into our thing — but we'll always be brothers, always know we can come back to each other and feel at home.



## What “We see what’s great in you” means to Moms and Dads

In a world where too many boys — especially boys stuck in the invisible middle — are overlooked, misunderstood, or bored, Fishburne is the ideal place for your son to grow into the very best version of himself.

Thanks to our size (we’re proudly Virginia’s smallest military school), our structure (we are a military school, after all) and our commitment to every single boy who comes here (that’s our promise), boys who used to feel unseen and misunderstood suddenly find their passions, their focus, and their strengths. And it’s life-changing.

Boys can’t hide here. They’re seen by us and, just as importantly, by their fellow Cadets — resulting in a very different kind of peer pressure than they feel now. They’re encouraged, in ways they’ve never been before.

**No one can know your son better than you do.** But we’re gonna try. And when boys feel seen, it’s a transforming experience — the transformation you and your son always knew could happen, you just didn’t know where. Until now.



# FISHBURNE

A different boy in every uniform

Navy SEAL

Poet-Writer

Mixed Martial Artist

Conservationist

Aeronautics Engineer

Audiophile

Cartographer

Altruist

PhD

Mayor

Delta Force

Dad

Humorist

Biologist

Linguist

Force of Nature

Caregiver for  
Disabled Veterans

Statistician

Abducted by Aliens

Environmental Engineer

EMT

Influencer

# Our graduates go everywhere in life

Preparation  
Lessons  
Brothers  
Leadership  
Habits for life  
Stories  
Confidence

And when they leave Fishburne, they take these with them...



We see what's great in you



Still making his bed every morning

Howard Thurston  
CLASS OF 1983 with his son  
Cadet Nathan Markey Ralston

## Delivering the Best Futures for our Cadets

Wherever your son sees himself going, we're ready to see him through. We know most Cadets are preparing for college, where we have a 100% acceptance rate. But many of the boys are aiming for a Service Academy — and they've chosen Fishburne because

we're a JROTC Honor Unit With Distinction, making us the rare school that can nominate qualified candidates directly to the Service Academies. And we also have the know-how to get boys into highly competitive (like, Ivy League competitive) apprentice schools too.

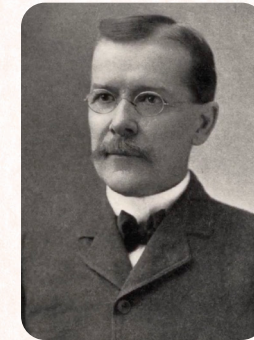




## About Fishburne

Fishburne Military School is the 13th oldest military school in the nation. Since 1879, the school has marched forward with Professor Fishburne's mission – to provide each Cadet with a sound academic foundation, a healthy mental and physical environment, and leadership training for a better understanding of the obligations of honor, citizenship, and self-discipline.

The school has always been small, no more than 200 Cadets, with the focus Professor Fishburne intended – for the school to prepare its students physically and mentally, while equipping them “for college, university, or practical life.”



## Early School Milestones

Professor Fishburne opened Fishburne Academy, a day school called The Waynesboro High School, in 1879, located on Main Street. By 1882, Professor Fishburne's house was completed – the first in the county with running water and a bath – and the school moved to its present site. In 1882, the name of the school became Fishburne Home School, and construction of the wooden Barracks began. Over the next few years, the school took on much of its military character, becoming Fishburne Military School.

In 1901, Morgan H. Hudgins, a graduate of Virginia Military Institute, joined Fishburne Military School as the Commandant of Cadets and Associate Principle to Professor Fishburne. Morgan Hudgins' tenure with the school was to last fifty-one years. A strong and able man, he led the school through periods of growth and substantial development in its military training. The wooden barracks were burnt down to make way for the entrance and front parapet of the brick barracks, and from 1916-1921, a modern, fireproof facility was built in place of the wooden barracks.

By the late 1940s, the school was suffering financial losses. In 1951, the Fishburne-Hudgins Educational Foundation (Board of Trustees), a nonprofit organization, purchased and reopened FMS.

Today, Fishburne Military School is the oldest military high school in the Commonwealth and the 13th oldest in the Nation, still in operation.

We see him.  
And we see

---

( Great Things )

in his future.

**FISHBURNE**



## A Promise to our Students

The world pushes heavy against some young men: too much noise, not the right fit, or clothes, or hair, or friends. The mold feels like it was made for someone other than you. And when you fit, you're seen. When you don't, you're invisible. It's hard to make choices, let alone the right ones, if you can't tune out that noise. And it's hard to burn bright when no one takes the time to look and see. But we see you.

We see you in a way that others don't or won't. We see the capacity of you. The leader in you. The brother in you.

We see the better student in you. The resilient you.

You are never invisible here. Because we've seen thousands of boys, and our mission is to create a world of order that can quiet the noise, level the fairness, the gaze, and give you the chance to be seen every day, and by everyone here.

We know there's a good man in you. One of honor and kindness. One that's worth working for — because that's our mission/goal/promise. We're Fishburne. And we see what's great in you.



Fishburne is ideal for talented boys whose talents haven't been discovered. When we see what's great in a boy, it's not long before he sees what's great in himself. And at the end of the day, that may be the most important thing he'll ever learn here. Because of our size, our unique perspective using a military model and our inclusive environment, Fishburne is the best place for boys to discover their best selves.



225 South Wayne Avenue  
Waynesboro, VA 22980

**FISHBURNE.ORG**  
admissions@fishburne.org

**T (540) 946-7700**  
**T (800) 946-7773**  
**F (540) 283-0774**



*We continue to innovate and create the military school for the twenty-first century. One that redefines what it means to graduate young men with the skills to move forward wherever their lives take them with CHARACTER \ KINSHIP \ AGENCY.*



**CHARACTER**  
YOUR MORAL AND  
ETHICAL SELF



**KINSHIP**  
YOUR TRUST AND  
LOYALTY TO YOUR  
BROTHERS



**AGENCY**  
YOUR OWN INNER  
POWER AND SENSE  
OF CONTROL



**MADE IN  
USA**

Fishburne Military School has earned the U.S. Army's highest level of accreditation and is a JROTC Distinguished Honor Unit. The program has enjoyed consistent success in assisting Cadets with service academy and ROTC scholarship applications.