

The History of Month of the Military Child

- The recognition dates back to the mid-1980s, when former U.S. Defense Sec. Caspar Weinberger named April as the Month of the Military Child in 1986.
- The month-long recognition sought to highlight military children and their families for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.
- Deployments, extended separations, and frequent moves are a regular part of life for military-connected children and their families.
- These students often have unique life experiences that serve to enrich both their classmates and the educators teaching them, sharing stories of their journeys across the country and abroad internationally.



Statistics: Military Service Members & Their Children

- According to the U.S. Department Defense, among the 2.1 million military personnel serving our nation, 38 percent were either single parents or married and raising children, accounting for over **1.5 million military children aged 0 to 18.**
- Of those children, **nearly three-quarters fall in the age range of 0 to 11 years old**, and **60 percent range in age from 6 to 18 years old.**
- Many of these children are likely to be educated in public schools, as recent U.S Department of Education data showed **more than 80 percent of military children attend public schools.**





PGCPS: Serving Our Fort Lee Families

- PGCPS serves as the educational partner to the families of U.S. military service members stationed at Fort Lee, where approximately 70,000 soldiers are trained annually, per U.S. Army data.
- During the 2020-2021 School Year, PGCPS' total enrollment was 6,072. Of that total, 1,841 students, or 30 percent of PGCPS' enrollment were children of military-connected parents or guardians.
- The responsibility of supporting our military students and their families is one PGCPS handles with pride. Our schools regularly collaborate with Fort Lee on various topics, and work closely with the Virginia Department of Education in developing programs aimed at providing resources & support to our military-connected families.





PGCPS & The Month of the Military Child

- During the month of April, PGCPS has shared stories that highlight the important role our military students and their families have within our school communities.
- On Facebook, graphics that detail statistics related to military children and their families were featured, along with encouraging our community to 'Purple Up!' in support of military students on April 21.
- These posts have helped to tell the story of our military-connected students to the thousands of people who follow the school division's official Facebook page.
- Our Communications and Public Relations Department has partnered with PGHS' Social Media class to develop additional digital content related to Month of the Military Child.





PGCPS & The Month of the Military Child

- Below are examples of some of the social media graphics shared on our Facebook page throughout April. In addition, PGCPS' Facebook banner is purple for the entire month, encouraging our families to 'Purple Up!'

PURPLE UP
for Military Kids
● MCEC

APRIL IS
MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

DID YOU KNOW: According to U.S. Department of Defense data among the 2.1 million military personnel serving our nation in 2019, **38.1% were single parents or married and raising children**, accounting for **over 1.5 million military children** aged 0 to 18.

Of those children, **nearly 75% fall in the age range of 0 to 11 years of age**, and **60% range in age from 6 to 18 years old**, with many of these military children likely being students in local schools, becoming a valued part of our school communities.

Source: '2019 Demographics, Profile of the Military Community', U.S. Dept. of Defense

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'Purple Up Day' is **April 21, 2021!** Be sure to wear purple in support of the wonderful military children in our schools and community!

WHY PURPLE? The color purple signifies all branches of the U.S. military are supported - U.S. Army green, Air Force blue, Marine Corps red, Navy blue, and Coast Guard blue.

PURPLE UP
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DID YOU KNOW: Military children face unique challenges that the general student population may not face in their lives. As military families transition from one duty station to another, children often attend many different schools.

In fact, the average child in a military family will move **six to nine times during a school career**. That's an average of **three times more frequently than non-military-connected families**.

Source: DoDEA Educational Partnership



PGCPS & The Month of the Military Child

- Also during April, Prince George County Public Schools distributed a news release to our media partners discussing the importances of Month of the Military Child.
- The article was developed collaboratively, including messages from Superintendent Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Asst. Superintendent and U.S. Army veteran Dustin Menhart, School Board Chairman Rob Eley, and Fort Lee School Liaison Officer Chaundra Taswell

“Resilient is often the word that comes to my mind when I think of military children. Their ability to withstand the challenges of military lifestyle is without a doubt a mantra that speaks to that resilience and aligns perfectly with the Month of the Military Child theme for April this year, Military Children and Youth: A Resilient Force in a Changing World.”

- USAG Fort Lee School Liaison Officer Chaundra Taswell

Prince George County Public Schools Celebrates Military Students, Families During April's Month of the Military Child

Month of the Military Child highlights those students from military-connected families within our school community throughout the month of April.



PRINCE GEORGE, Va. - Prince George County Public Schools is proud to join school divisions across America in recognizing the Month of the Military Child during the month of April, which highlights those students from military-connected families within our school community.

The recognition dates back to the mid-1980s, when former U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger named April as Month of the Military Child in 1986 as a way to recognize military children and their families for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome. Deployments, extended separations, and frequent moves are a regular part of life for military-connected children and their families. These students often have unique life experiences that serve to enrich both their classmates and the educators teaching them, sharing stories of their journeys across the country and abroad internationally.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, among the 2.1 million military personnel serving our nation, 38 percent were either single parents or married and raising children, accounting for over 1.5 million military children aged 0 to 18. Of those children, nearly three-quarters fall in the age range of 0 to 11 years old, and 60 percent range in age from 6 to 18 years old. Many of these children are likely to be educated in public schools, as recent U.S. Department of Education data showed more than 80 percent of military children attend public schools.

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The responsibility of supporting our military students and their families is one Prince George County Public Schools handles with pride. Our schools regularly collaborate with Fort Lee on various topics, and work closely with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in developing programs aimed at providing resources and support to our military-connected families.

These efforts have been recognized by the VDOE and the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on the Education Opportunity of Military Children as four PGCPS schools have been named Virginia Purple Star Schools for their commitment to serving students and families connected to the military. In 2019, North Elementary and L.L. Beazley Elementary received the accolade, followed by both Harrison Elementary and William A. Walton Elementary in 2020.

**Serving the needs of all of our students, including those from military-connected families, is*



THANK YOU!

For Celebrating Month of the Military Child & Supporting Our Military-Connected Students & Families This Month & Everyday!



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