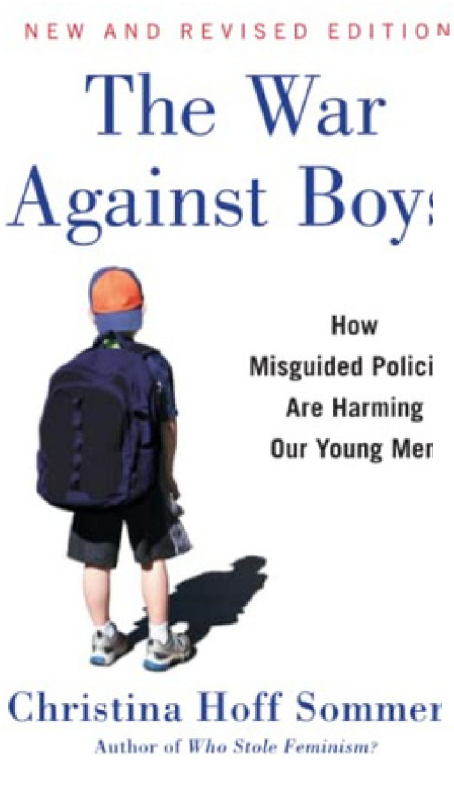
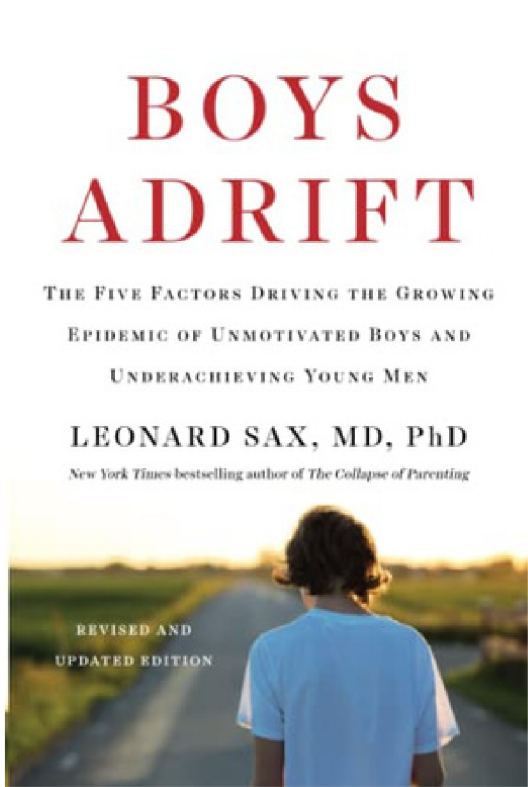
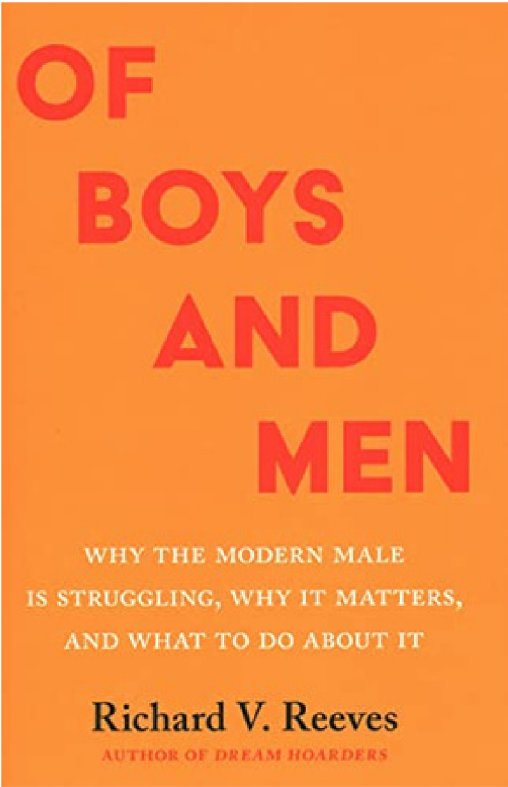
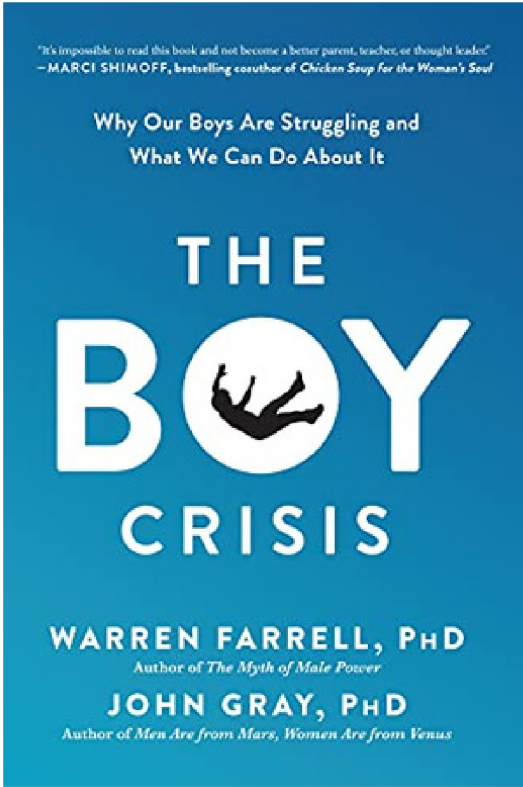




# A GOOD MAN *IS* HARD TO FIND

MODERN EDUCATION AND THE CRISIS OF 'MEN WITHOUT CHESTS'



# THE MISEDUCATION OF THE AMERICAN BOY

Why boys crack up at rape jokes, think having a girlfriend is “gay,” and still can’t cry—and why we need to give them new and better models of masculinity

By Peggy Orenstein

## *The Atlantic* Today’s Masculinity Is Stifling

As boys grow up, the process of becoming men encourages them to shed the sort of intimate connections and emotional intelligence that add meaning to life.

By Sarah Rich

# The Washington Post

Opinion  
OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

## The Boys Are Not All Right

By Michael Ian Black  
Feb. 21, 2018

3 MIN READ

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# The New York Times

VOICES ACROSS AMERICA

## Opinion | The data are clear: The boys are not all right

By Andrew Yang  
February 8, 2022 at 1:54 p.m. EST



CHRISTIANITY TODAY

REVIEWS | BOOK REVIEW

## The Struggles of Men Are a Problem for Everyone

From school and work to fatherhood and friendship, we need a vision of manhood that both sexes can celebrate.

JEFF HAANEN | FEBRUARY 1, 2023





# WHAT IS "THE BOY CRISIS?"

It's a crisis of...

AGRESSION

ADDICTION

APATHY

# THE AGGRESSION CRISIS

It's a crisis of...

Violence

Mental Health

...in search of peace.



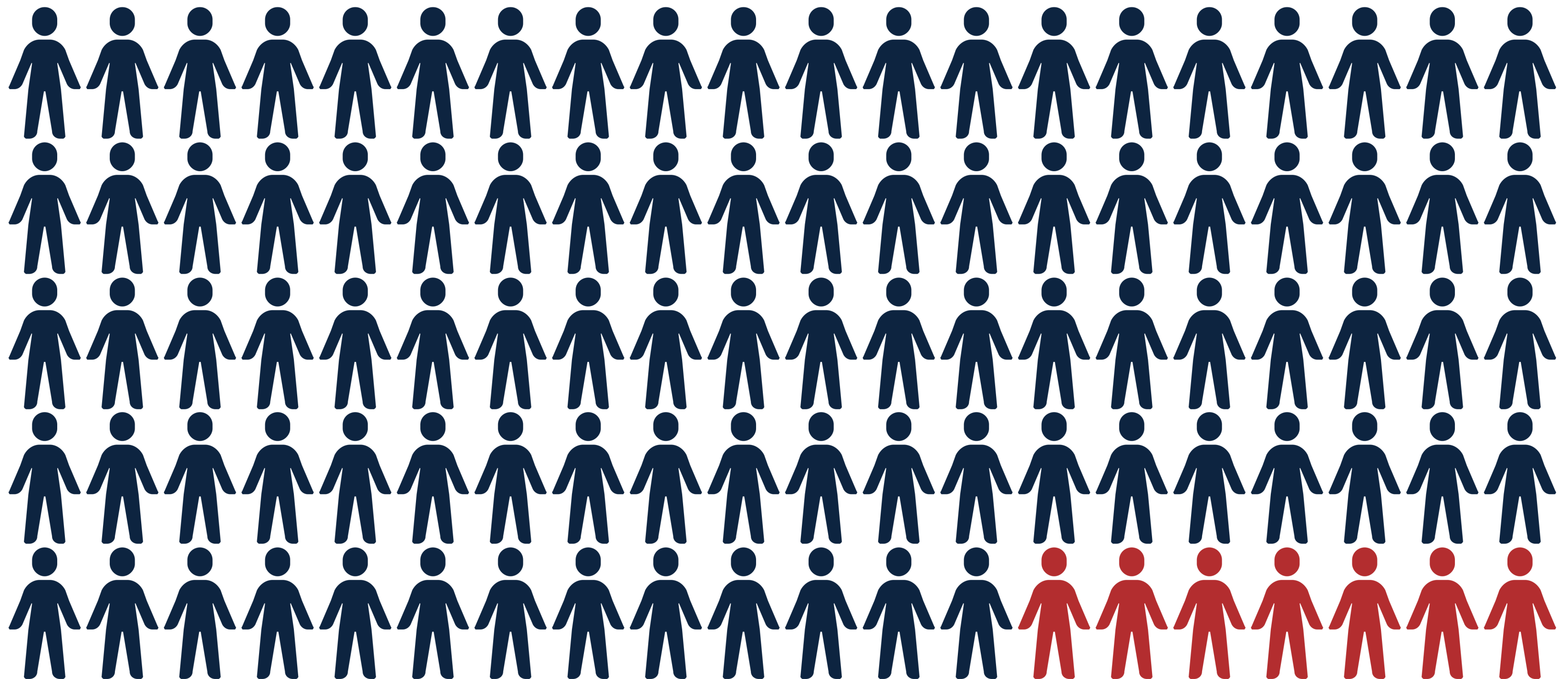
The rate of mass shootings has tripled since 2011.

98% of Shooters are male



Only four of the 191 mass shooters studied were women, two of whom partnered with a male shooter.

The US Prison population increased by more 700 percent between 1973-2013. Of that population, 93 percent are male, and disproportionately young.

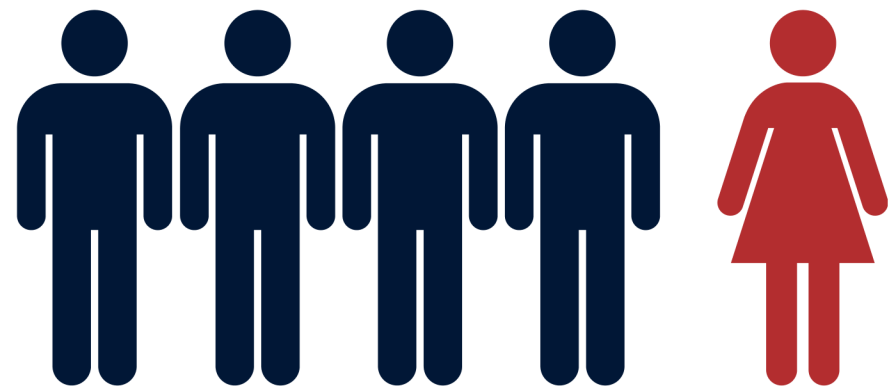




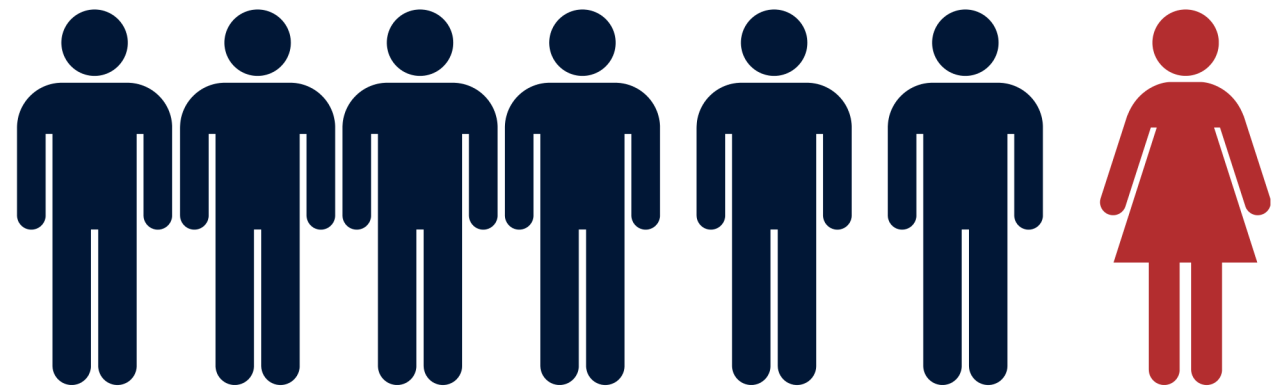
It is estimated that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 7 boys by age 18 will have been the victim of some form of sexualized violence. 99% of perpetrators are male.



# SUICIDE



Ages 15-19 There are 4 male deaths by suicide for each female death by suicide



Ages 20-24 that increases to 5-6 male deaths for each female death by suicide

One male dies by suicide  
every 13.7 minutes in the U.S.



# CAUSES

- Women cry, men die.
  - Women constitute 75% of those who seek professional help to prevent suicide; men constitute 75% of those who commit suicide.
- If No Human Doing, No Human Being
  - Each 1% decrease in GDP leads to an almost 1% increase in suicide.
  - When men retire, their suicide rate soars.

# THE COMPASSION VOID

Boys' peers rarely listen; boys resist church, its fellowship, and the faith that someone will always hear him and love him; they resist therapy and its confidential disclosures that reduce isolation; revealing insecurities is not a "masculine" trait.

Emotional Intelligence is a neglected virtue in boys;  
Heroic Intelligence is the default.



# THE ADDICTION CRISIS

It's a crisis of...

Video Games

Loneliness...

...in search of connection.

# HOW ARE MEN SPENDING THEIR TIME?

National surveys show they're spending most of their time—eight hours a day—on “socializing, relaxing, and leisure.”

That means lots of watching television. But it also means lots of video games. In 2017, the National Bureau of Economic Research released a working paper connecting the lower rates of working young men to the improvement in video game technology.

In 1999, about 50 percent of teen boys played video games for about 34 minutes a day. Today, 97 percent of boys play for an average of 2 hours and 20 minutes a day.

More than 40 percent of the 7.8 billion people on the planet play. In America, among teen boys, 97 percent play.

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Half of American gamers report missing sleep in order to play. A third have missed meals, and a quarter have skipped showers. More than 10 percent have missed work because of games.

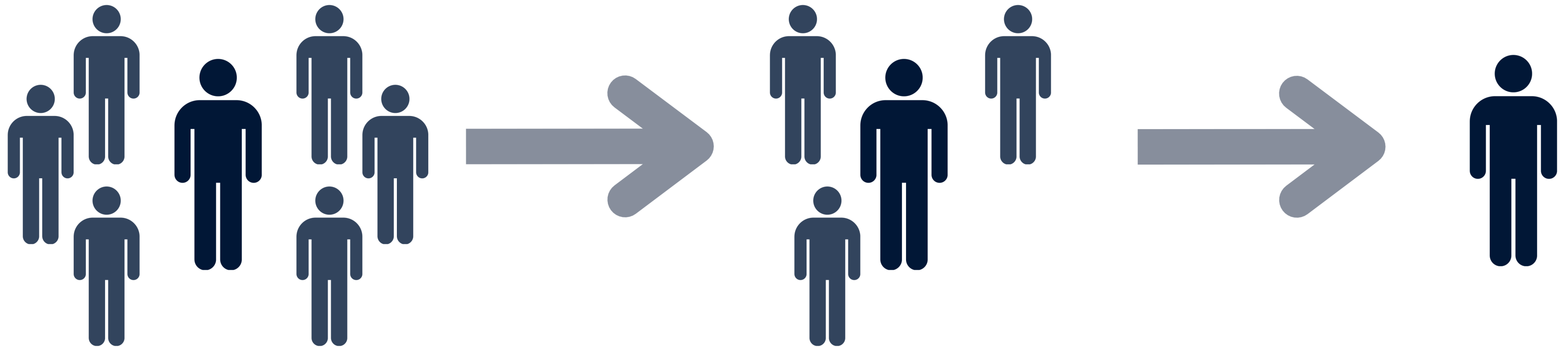
It seems like video games tap into something about the way God made men. When males conquer territory in a video game, a Stanford study showed the parts of their brain associated with reward and pleasure light up with dopamine. The female brain lights up too, but not nearly as much. Another study showed that males feel better about gaming wins, and not as badly about losses, as females. Their incentive is to keep reaching for those wins.



In 1990, 45 percent of young men said they'd turn to friends first when wrestling through a personal problem. Today, that's down to 22 percent.

# RELATIONSHIPS

Thirty years ago, a majority of men (55 percent) reported having at least six close friends. Today, that number has been cut in half. Slightly more than one in four (27 percent) men have six or more close friends today. Fifteen percent of men have no close friendships at all, a fivefold increase since 1990.



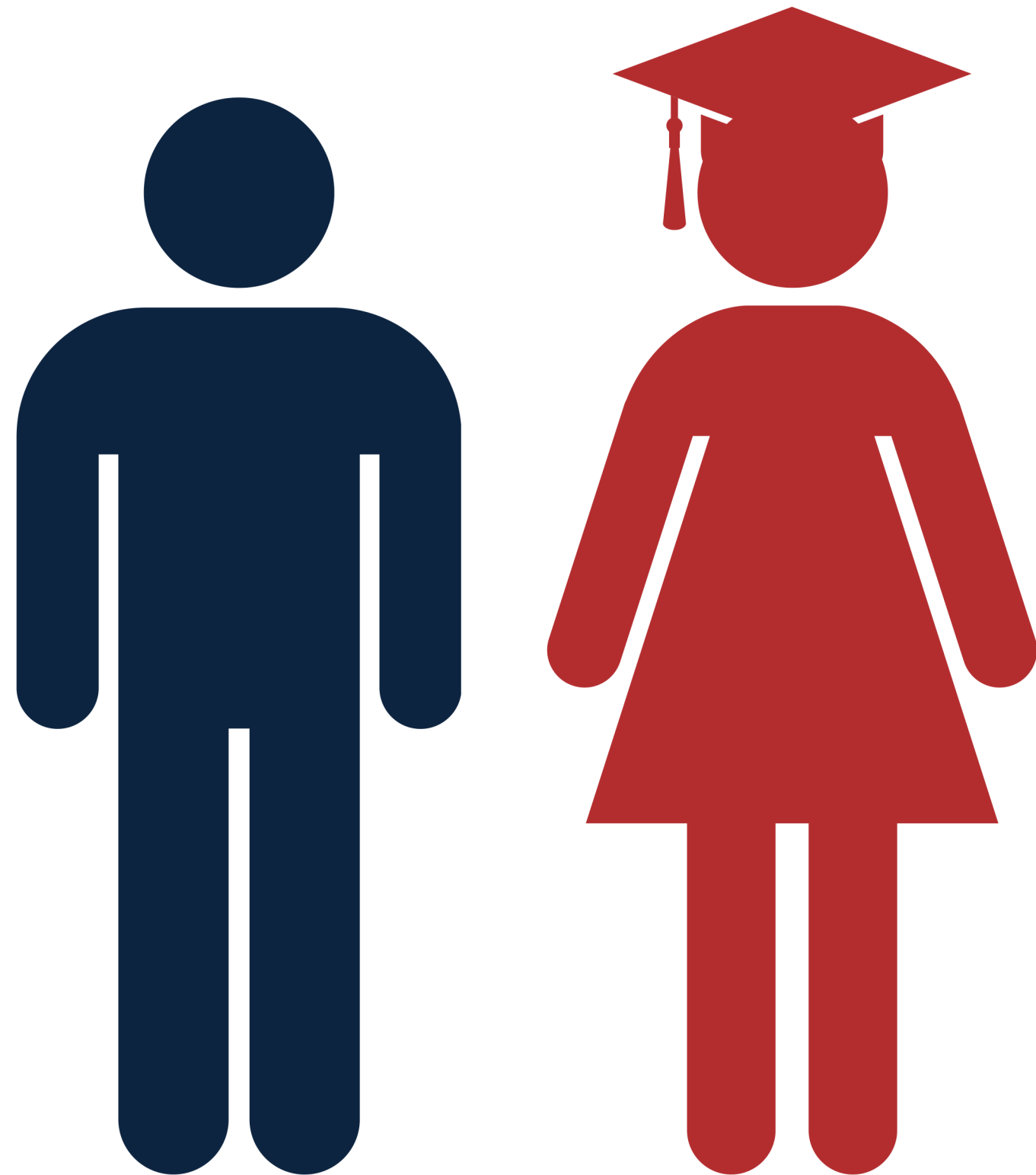
# THE APATHY CRISIS

It's a crisis of...

Education  
Work

...in search of purpose.

# EDUCATION



IN THE SPACE OF JUST A FEW  
DECADES, GIRLS AND WOMEN  
HAVE NOT JUST CAUGHT UP WITH  
BOYS AND MEN IN THE  
CLASSROOM –

**THEY HAVE BLOWN RIGHT PAST  
THEM.**

IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS ACROSS THE WORLD,  
GIRLS ARE LEAVING BOYS BEHIND.



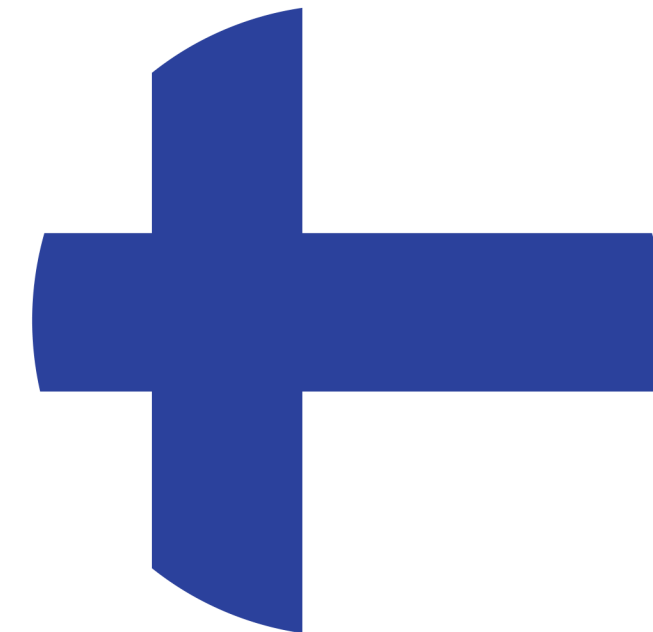


A LOOK AT FINLAND.

What do you know  
about Finland?



Every three years, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) conducts a survey of reading, mathematics and science skills among 15-year-olds called the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).



Finland always ranks at or near the top for educational outcomes...

...thanks to the girls!



## THE TRUTH ABOUT FINLAND'S 'MODEL' EDUCATION SYSTEM

Although Finnish students rank very high for *overall* performance on PISA, there is a massive gender gap.

20% of Finnish girls score at the highest reading levels in the test, compared to just 9% of boys.

Among those with the lowest reading scores, the gender gap is reversed.

20% of Finnish boys score at the lowest reading levels, compared to just 7% of girls.

In fact, American boys do just as well as Finnish boys on the PISA reading test.



- Girls are about a year ahead of boys in terms of reading ability in OECD nations.
- Boys are 50% more likely than girls to fail at all three key subjects: math, reading, and science.
- Girls are 14% more likely than boys to be "school ready" at age 5.
- Sweden is starting to wrestle with what has been dubbed a *pojkkrisen* (boy crisis) in its schools.
- Australia has started a reading program called Boys, Blokes, Books, and Bytes





- In virtually every school district in the U.S., female students outperformed male students on ELA tests. The gap is roughly  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a grade level and is larger than the effects of most large-scale educational interventions.
- The most common high school grade for girls is now an A; for boys, it is a B.
- $\frac{2}{3}$  of high schoolers in the top 10% are girls;  $\frac{2}{3}$  of boys in the bottom 10 percent are boys.
- Girls more likely to take AP/dual enrollment courses

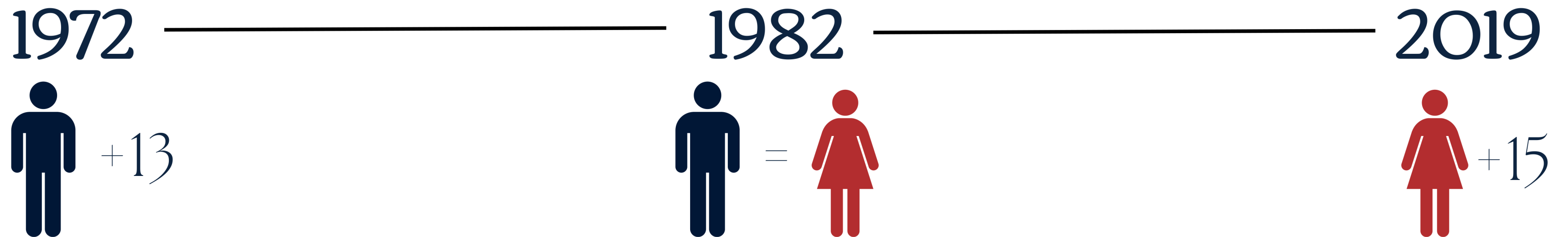
• Girls are more likely to graduate from high school

"When nearly 1 in 4 boys is categorized as having a developmental disability, it is fair to wonder if it is educational institutions, rather than boys, that are not functioning properly."

# TITLE IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities.

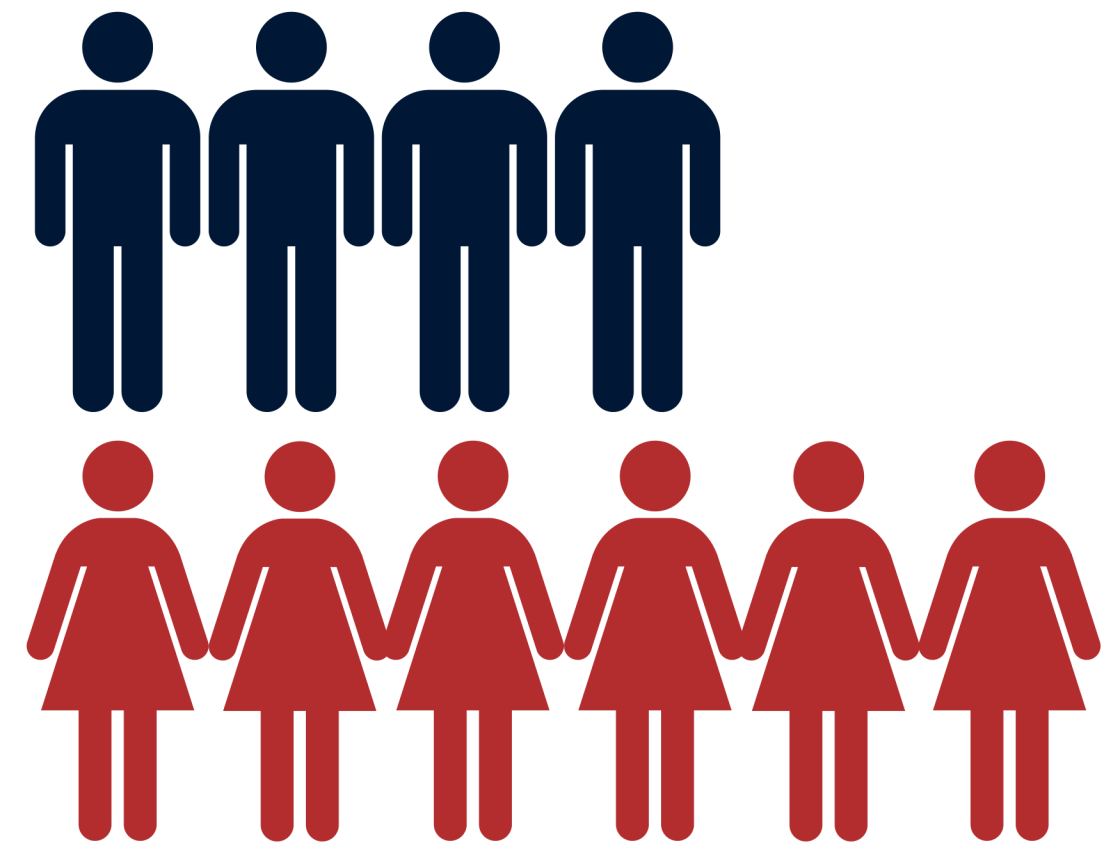
## Bachelor's Degree Attainment



# COLLEGE BY THE NUMBERS

- Women now receive about half of business degrees, up from 1 in 10 in 1970.
- Women now receive the majority of law degrees, up from 1 in 20 in 1970.
- Women are earning  $\frac{3}{5}$  of master's degrees and associate degrees.
- In 2020, the law review at every one of the top 16 law schools had a Womack as editor-in-chief

## BACHELOR'S DEGREES AWARDED



Many educational interventions, like free college, benefit women more than men; their appetite for success is just higher. Girls and women have had to fight misogyny without. Boys and men are now struggling for motivation within.



Boys and men are now struggling for motivation within.



# WORK BY THE NUMBERS

- Labor force participation among men in the U.S. has dropped by 7 percent in the last 50 years
  - 1 in 3 men with only a high school diploma are now out of the labor force (5 million men)
- 

- Machines pose a greater threat to working men than to women. Men make up 70% of production jobs, 80% of transportation jobs, and over 90% of construction and installation occupations.
- Men often lack the skills required in an automating world. The high-skill, high-pay jobs of the future may involve skills better measured by EQ than IQ.

A decorative horizontal line composed of several short, dark gray rectangular segments, creating a dashed effect.

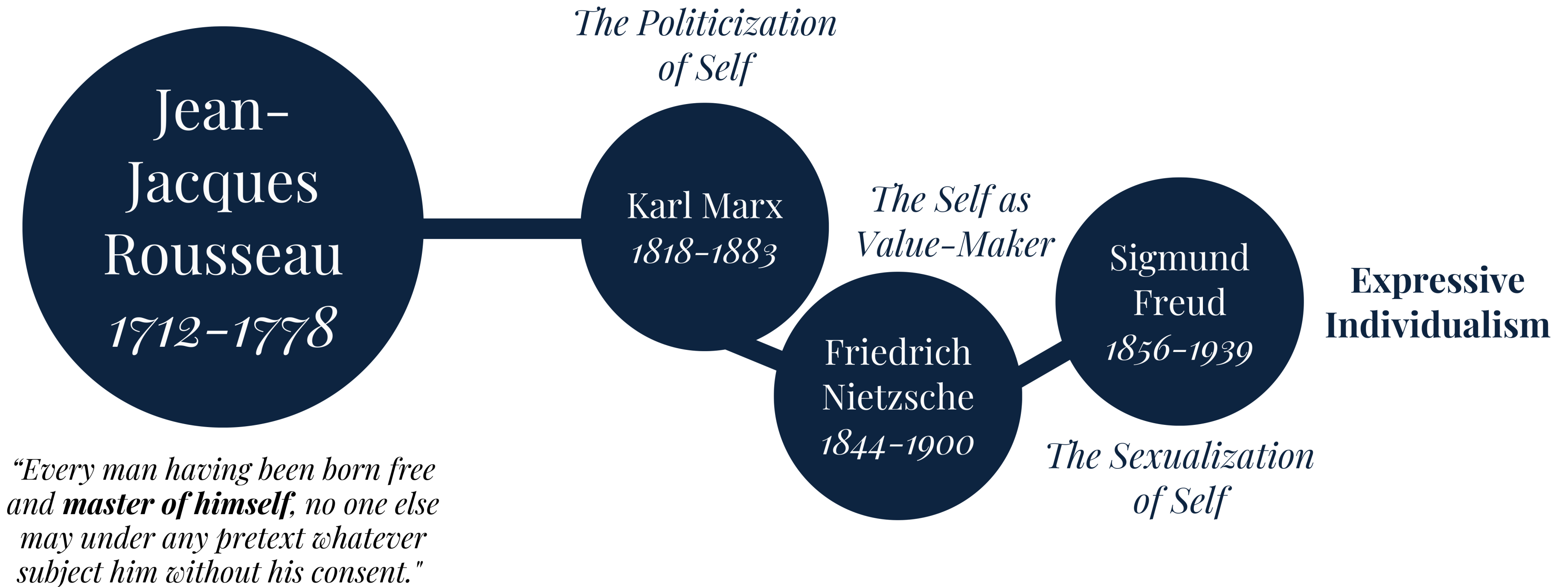
*"The Boy Crisis" can be defined as follows:*

*The modern man is increasingly characterized as...*

**VIRTUE DEFICIENT &  
ENTERPRISE RESISTANT**

*...revealing a crisis of aggression, addiction, and apathy  
in search of peace, place, and purpose.*

# THE MODERN SELF

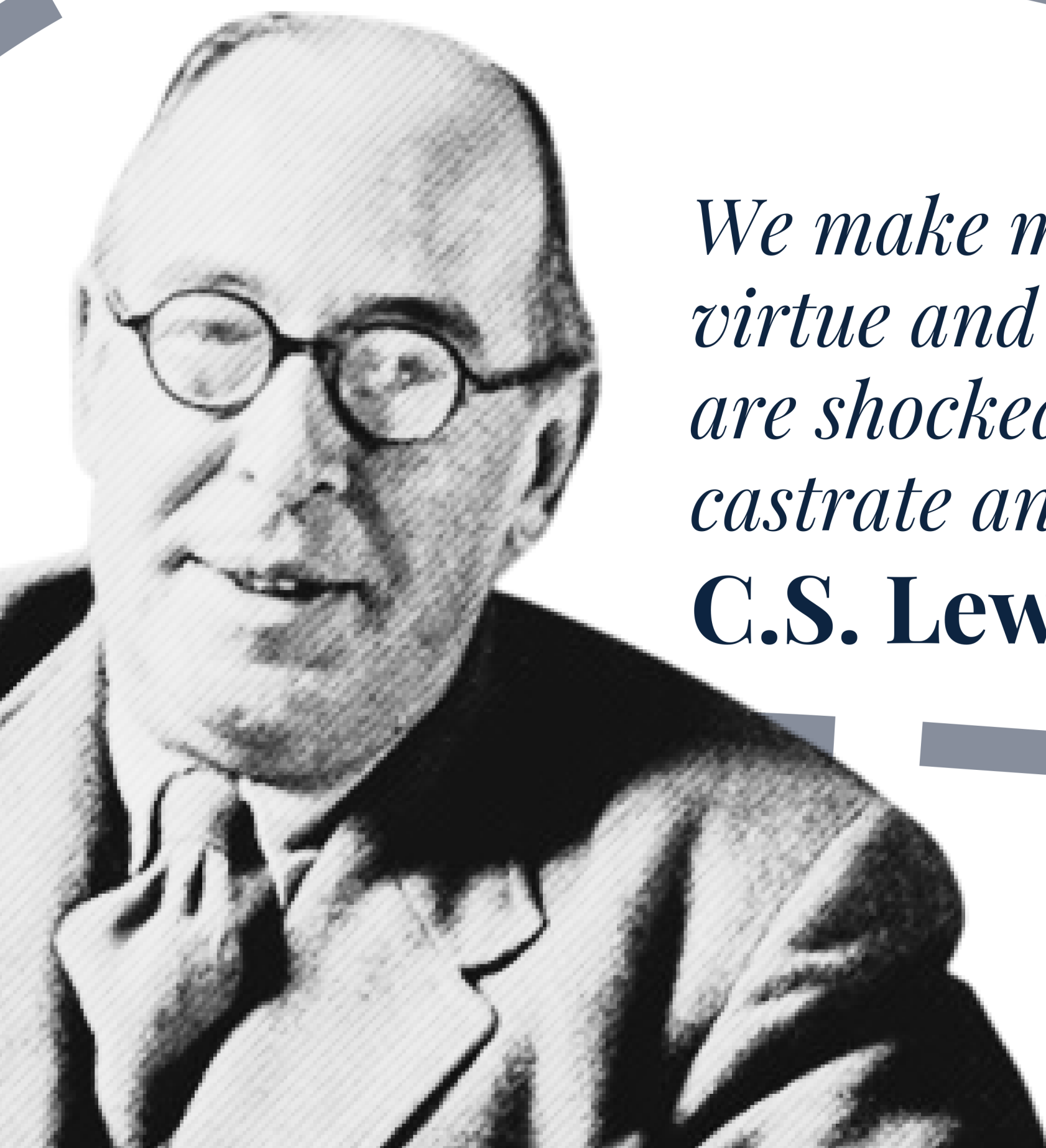




# CABELL COUNTY SCHOOLS

## CREATE YOUR STORY

Modern Education is steeped in an expressive individualism that demands our boys search for **peace**, **place**, and **purpose** on their own by creating their own stories, detached from any transcendent truth, beauty, or goodness outside of themselves.



*We make men without chests and expect of them  
virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honour and  
are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We  
castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful.*

**C.S. Lewis**



2018-2019









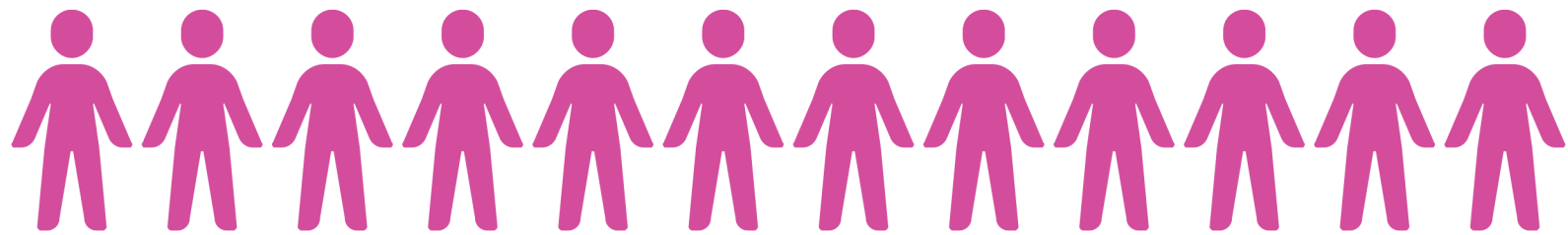


LAST MAN STANDING



# COVENANT'S BOY CRISIS

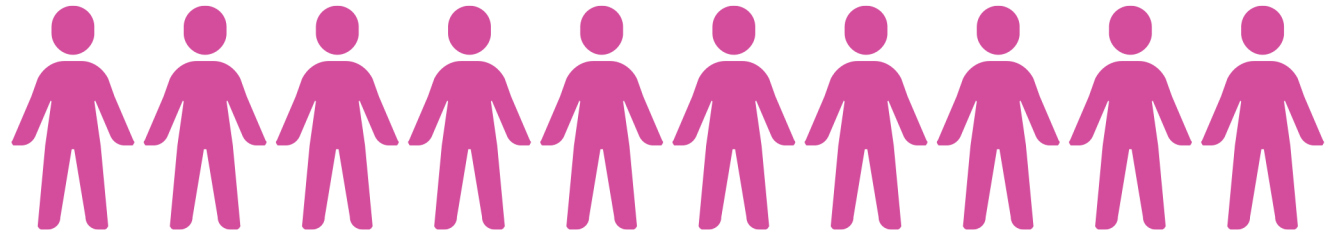
7/8TH GRADE GIRLS (2018-2019)



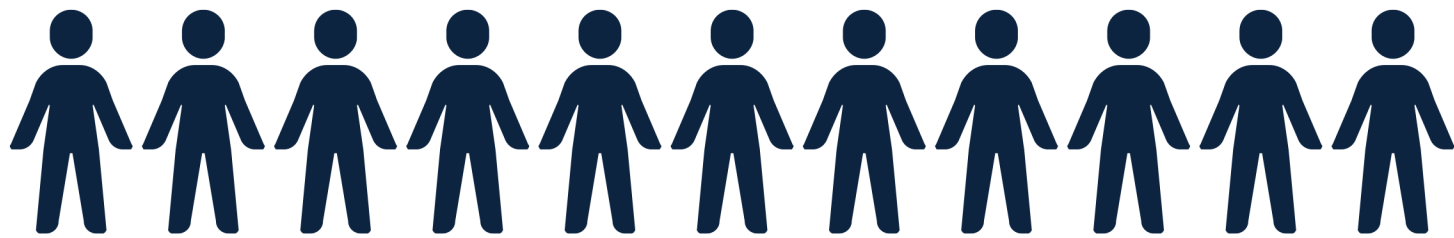
RETENTION 83%



11/12TH GRADE GIRLS (2022-2023)



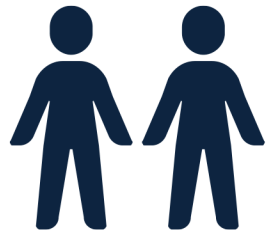
7/8TH GRADE BOYS (2018-2019)



RETENTION 18%



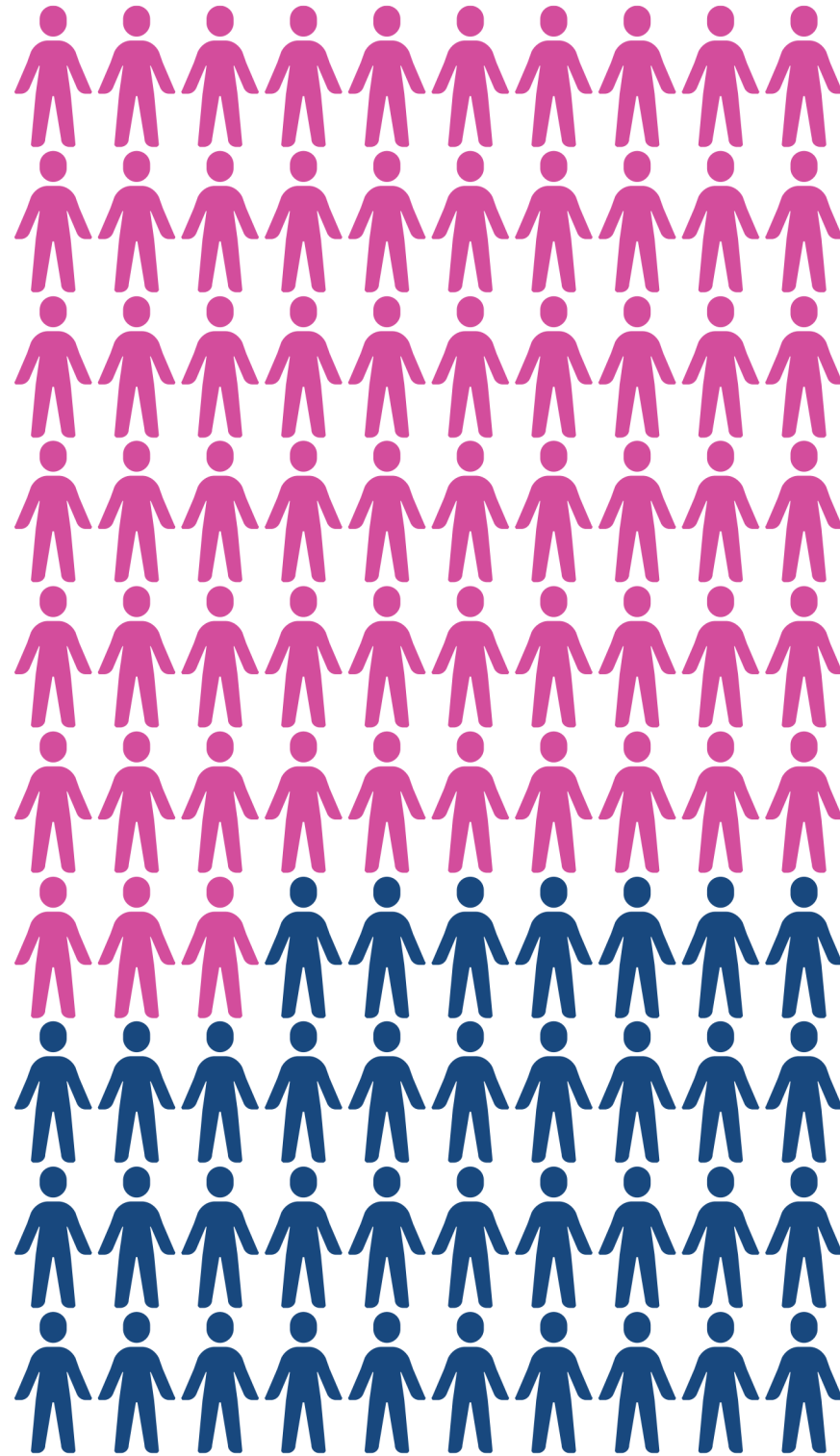
11/12TH GRADE BOYS (2022-2023)



*\*OF THOSE WHO LEFT, MORE THAN 50 PERCENT LEFT IN THE TRANSITION FROM 8TH-9TH GRADE*

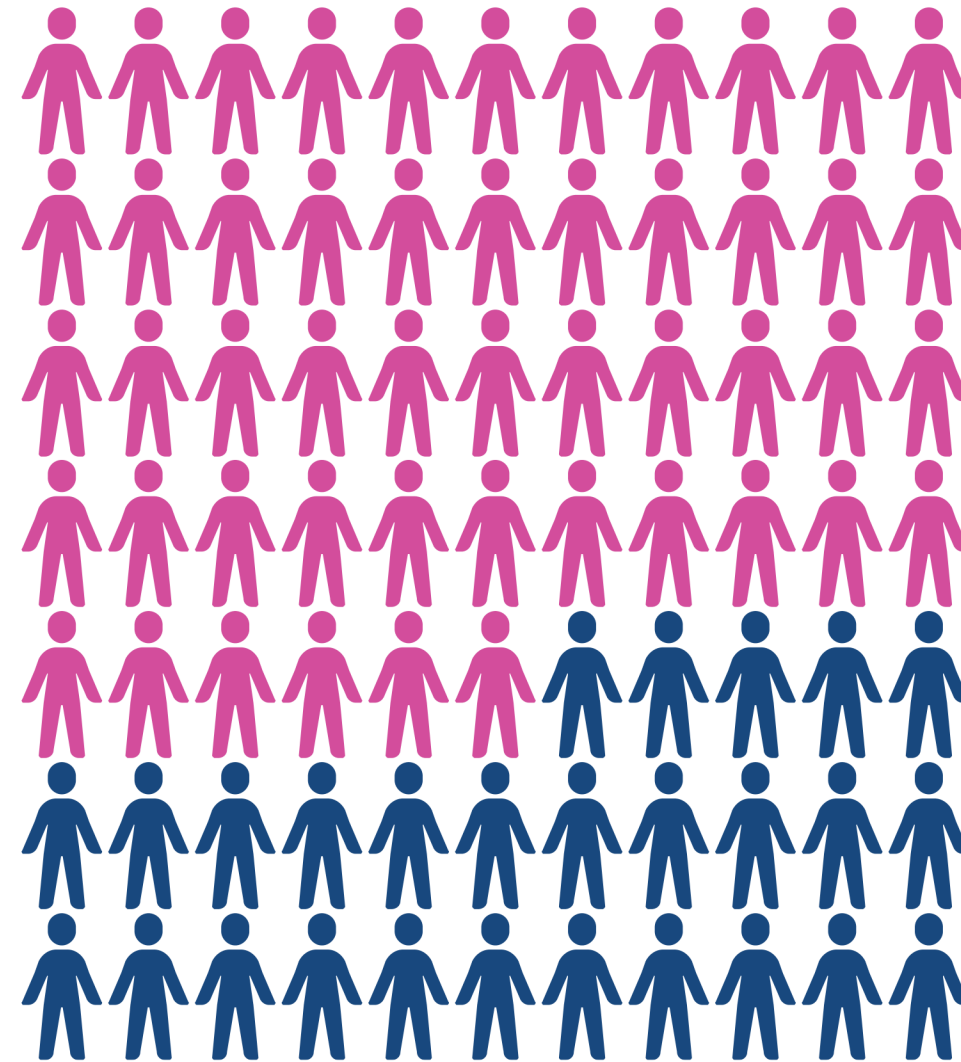
# 2022-2023

## GRADES 5-12



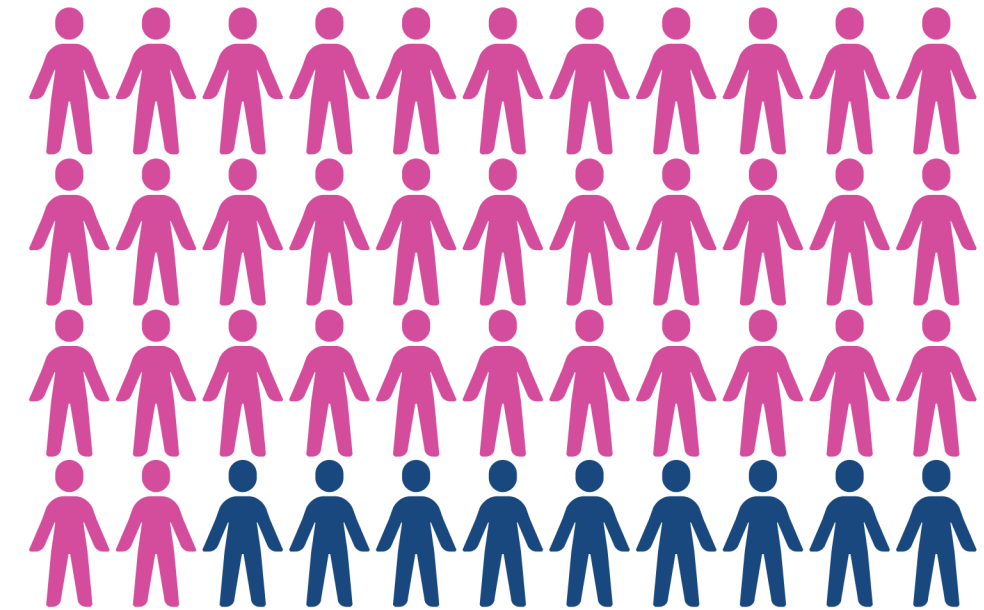
**113 STUDENTS**  
**62% FEMALE**  
**38% MALE**

## UPPER SCHOOL (GRADES 7-12)



**77 STUDENTS**  
**65% FEMALE**  
**35% MALE 27**

## HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-12)



**44 STUDENTS**  
**80% FEMALE**  
**20% MALE**

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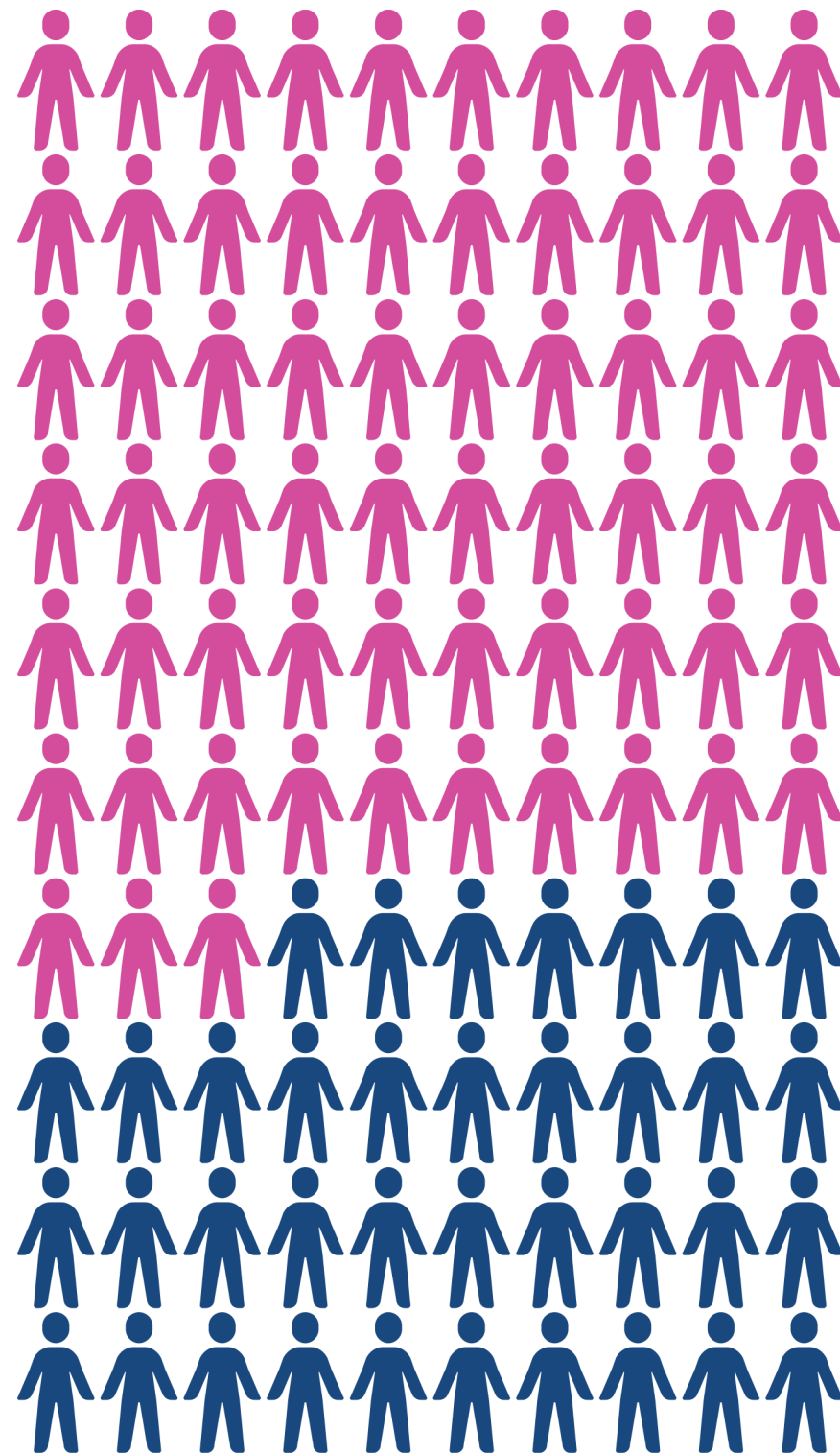
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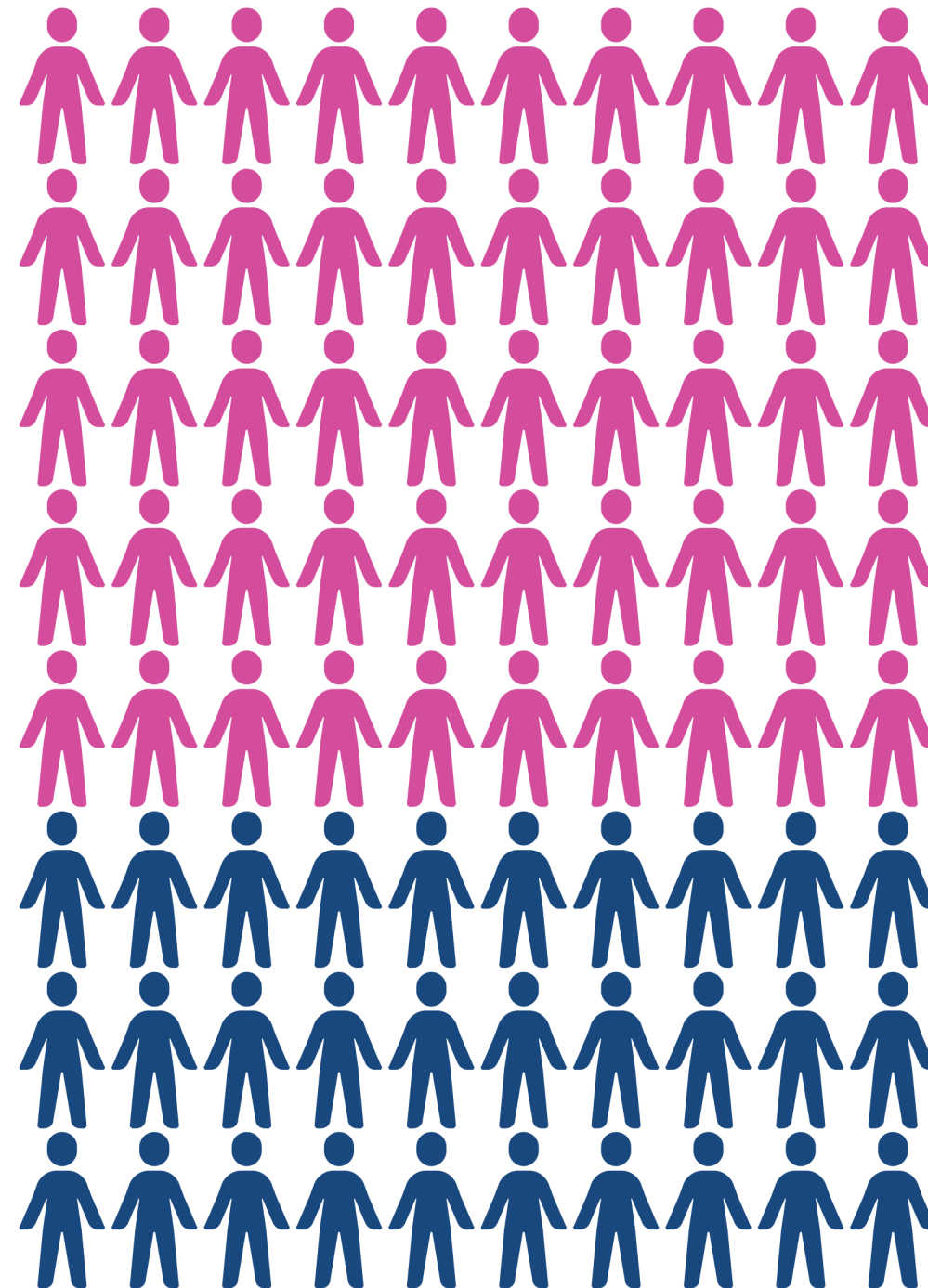
# 2023-2024

GRADES 5-12



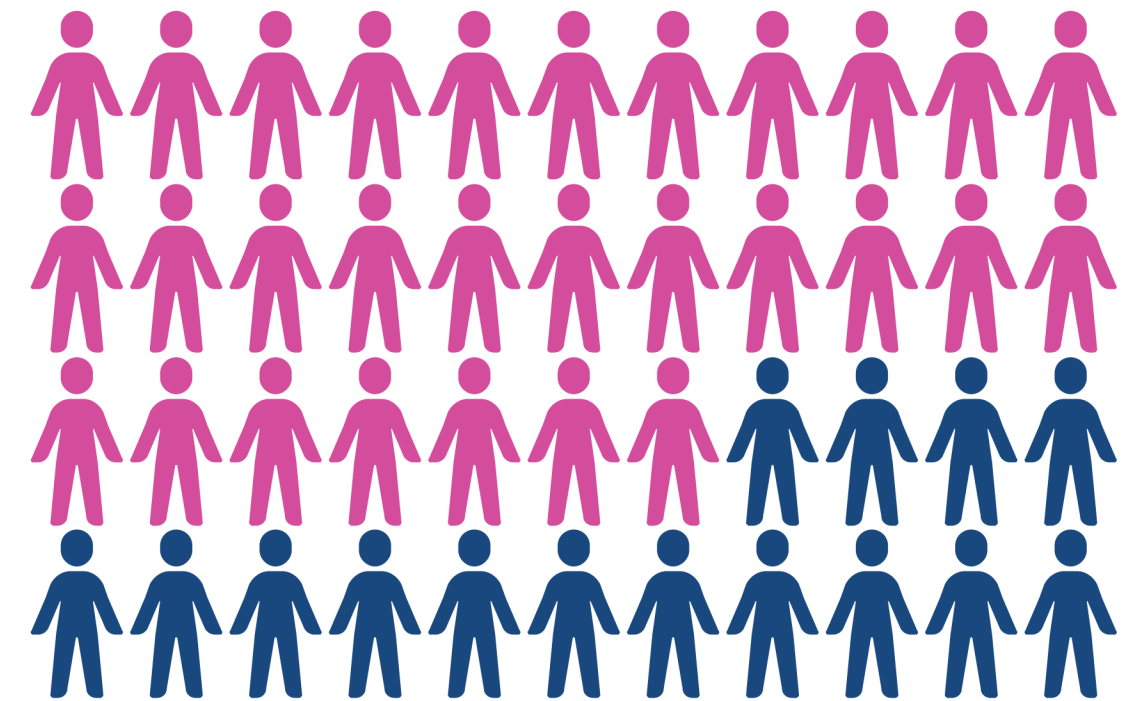
120 STUDENTS 62% FEMALE  
38% MALE

UPPER SCHOOL (GRADES 7-12)



80 STUDENTS  
62% FEMALE  
38% MALE

HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-12)



44 STUDENTS  
66% FEMALE  
34% MALE

# MATTHEW

## 8TH GRADE

Matthew is an eighth grader at Covenant School where he has attended since Kindergarten.

He considered leaving Covenant for a larger public high school, but decided to stay due to academics and relationships. All the boys in his class will be returning for high school in the Fall.



# MARK

## 11TH GRADE

Mark is an eleventh grade student at Covenant School, where he has attended since eighth grade. After eighth grade, he unenrolled, but later re-enrolled a few months into his 9th grade year.

In December 2022, Mark's father was shot and killed by his older brother in their home.



# LUKE

## 12TH GRADE

Luke is a senior at Covenant School as well as valedictorian for the Class of 2023.

He attended Covenant from Kindergarten until fourth grade, when he was he homeschooled until returning his 9th grade year.

Luke's father was diagnosed with brain cancer when he was young, which incapacitated his father.



# JOHN

## 12TH GRADE

John is a senior at Covenant School.

His father left when he was two months old, and because of his mom's health issues, has lived with his grandparents his entire life.

He went to public school until second grade, then homeschooled by his grandmother until 9th grade when he came to Covenant.



**WHAT BOYS NEED**

**OLDER MENTORS & RITES OF PASSAGE**

**ENGAGING CURRICULUM & TEACHER PRESENCE**

**EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND EMPATHY**

**THE GOSPEL**

*CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CULTIVATES*

PEACE

Gospel-Centeredness, Humility, and Emotional Intelligence

PLACE

Reality Over Perception, Healthy Friendships and Impactful Male Mentors

PURPOSE

Great Stories, Rigorous Curriculum, and a Life of Wisdom and Virtue

*Is classical Christian education, in its ideal form, a viable solution to the boy crisis?*



# CONCLUSION

THE MORE OUR SCHOOL HAS EMBRACED  
DISTINCTLY CLASSICAL AND CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS, THE  
BETTER MALE RETENTION WE HAVE SEEN, WITH  
BETTER MALE OUTCOMES THAN NATIONAL  
SURVEYS AND RESEARCH DEMONSTRATE.