

SATURDAY, JULY 20 Day 1

8:00 - 9:30 am **Registration**

10:00 - 10:30 am **Opening Welcome Session**

Problem Solving: Mission and Culture, Part I: *This is the Life...*

Presenters: Jackie O'Rourke Jay Bonner and Brent Ferguson

Good schools have a very clear purpose, which is expressed through vision, mission and values and lived through daily practices. Combined, this constitutes a school's culture. Learning how to understand and read school culture will help facilitate day-to-day decision making, communication and relationship building. Working in teams and with a specific school description (mission and values, demographics, history and traditions, etc.), participants will be presented with a "real boarding school life" problems to solve.

12:00 - 12:45 pm --- **Lunch** --- (working with School Culture groups continues)

1:00 pm **The Power of the Community**

Presenter: Brent Ferguson

Each boarding school community has its own unique identity; despite this, all boarding schools require some essential community commitments. This session will explore some of these shared commitments and how to navigate the educator's significant role as a model. We will use Ted and Nancy Sizer's seminal work, *The Students Are Watching*, as a reference for this session.

--- **Break** ---

Problem Solving: Mission and Culture, Part II

Groups will present their approach to the morning's experience and take questions and suggestions from other groups, keeping in mind their individual school's mission and culture..

--- **Break** ---

"This American Boarding School Life I"

Presenter: Jay Bonner

Faculty present on personal experiences as a boarding school professional followed by questions and answers.

Advisee Group Discussion

Participants meet with their Advisee Group and Advisor to review the day's program and begin to explore areas of strength, support, and mentoring needs. In the life of boarding school, the role of the advisor is essential to the growth and development of students and the relationships with families. Throughout the Boot Camp program, your advisor will guide your experience.

5:15 - 6:30 pm **Welcome Reception @ Sunset Cantina**

5:45 - 7:00 pm --- **Dinner** --- (available in the West Dining Hall after the reception)

SUNDAY, JULY 21 Day 2

7:00 - 8:15 am --- **Breakfast** ---

8:00 - 8:30 am Yoga w/ Jackie

8:30 am **Playing with a Problem: Communication**

Presenter: Jackie O'Rourke

Working in teams, participants will be given a situation to discuss, resolve, and share.

In the Trenches, Part I: Survival Strategies for Managing My New Life

Presenter: Jay Bonner

During this session, we will be laying the groundwork for a successful year, beginning with the end in mind -- practical advice on how to manage the demands of your new life. We develop strategies for forming the habits for long-term career success and for getting through the opening weeks & months of your school year.

--- **Break** ---

Knowing Yourself and Managing Your Transition

Presenter: Brent Ferguson

Understanding your strengths and your blind spots is important as you transition into a new position. During this session, we will introduce a set of assessment tools to help you better understand yourself as well as your leadership/personality styles. We also offer key questions and strategies to implement as you think about this new chapter of your career. This session will include a paradigm for disabusing either-or thinking to embrace both-and mindset with respect to relationships, personalities, and needs.

Advisee Group Discussion

Participants meet with their Advisee Group and Advisor to review the morning's program.

12:00 - 1:00 pm --- **Lunch** ---

1:15 pm **Small Group Topic Rotation (three 45 min sessions + passing time)**

These mini-sessions are designed in a small group format to go deeper into the challenging circumstances of professional boundaries, effective communication skill and understanding the value of feedback as we learn and grow together in a boarding school environment.

Topic A: Defining Adult Relationships and Engaging in Crucial Conversations

Presenter: Jay Bonner

Communicating a difficult message, implementing an unpopular initiative or delivering an inflexible directive are occasions that have the potential for negative responses from students and colleagues. Practicing the "collect, connect, commend and correct" mantra brings peace to those trouble spots that can occur in our daily interactions. In addition, this session will touch on the nature of parenting/professionalism versus friendships.



Topic B: “How am I Doing?” Giving and Receiving Effective Feedback

Presenter: Brent Ferguson

We signal feedback all the time, most of it informal. But are we aware of the effects of how that feedback is formulated? The shape and choice of our words of critical feedback and encouragement can have a huge effect on the effective growth of the students in our care. This session will also address the importance of requests for, and reception of, professional feedback from peers and direct-report colleagues.

Topic C: “Can I Have Beer in My Fridge?”

Presenter: Jackie O’Rourke

Understanding personal and professional boundaries in your school community is important. This session helps process the questions of living in the boarding school ‘fishbowl’ of campus life with your colleagues and students.

--- Break ---

“This American Boarding School Life II”

Presenter: Jackie O’Rourke

Faculty present on personal experiences as a boarding school professional followed by questions and answers.

Panel Discussion: What is This Life Like, Really?

This will be an open Q&A, informed by early sessions, issues that emerge, and questions submitted directly and indirectly/discreetly to panel.

5:00 pm --- Dinner & Free Time, incl. option for Movie night (popcorn & beverages provided) ---

MONDAY, JULY 22 Day 3

7:00 - 8:15 am --- Breakfast ---

8:00 - 8:30 am **Yoga w/Jackie**

8:30 am **Playing with a Problem: Managing Time and Responsibilities**

Presenter: Brent Ferguson

Working in teams, participants will be given a time management problem to discuss, solve and share.

Small Group Sessions (two 40 min sessions + passing time)

Designed to focus on the responsibilities of the very specific roles in which many of us serve, these session topics will provide material to support participants as they begin planning for their transition into wearing the various ‘hats’ of a boarding school educator. Participants choose two of three sessions to attend.



The Dorm Parent

Presenter: Jackie O'Rourke

What does "running a dorm" or "being on duty" actually mean? What does it mean to serve as a parent in an adolescent world? Defining relationships and exploring the details, the strategies, the opportunities and the challenges that are all a part of this key role in boarding schools.

The Advisor

Presenter: Jay Bonner

Often referred to as the "first point of contact" for parents and teachers, the advisor plays an important role in a student's journey. What is involved in becoming and being an exemplary advisor? What are the boundaries? How do you manage parent expectations? How can you stay informed about your student's progress? All of these questions and more will be processed in this part of the program.

The Teacher-Coach

Presenter: Brent Ferguson

Coaching provides another way to engage with students. The coach provides a leadership model for athletes that transfers into other areas of school life. What are some of the key features of the coach/leader role?

---Break---

In the Trenches, Part II: Survival Strategies for Managing My New Life

Presenter: Jay Bonner

Develop strategies that will serve you as you start your new life. You will emerge from this final session with concrete action steps to thrive at the start of your first years.

12:00 - 1:00 pm

--- Lunch with Advisee Groups ---

1:15 pm

"This American Boarding School Life! III"

Presenter: Brent Ferguson

Faculty present on personal experiences as a boarding school professional followed by questions and answers.

Advisee Groups (participants connect with advisors and complete evaluations)

Graduation

3:30pm

End of Workshop