FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

Like many, I am fascinated with stories of our nation’s founders. You and I benefit from the sacrifices these women and men made 200 years ago. We are free to assemble, talk and worship as we see fit thanks to their wisdom and hard work. Two towering figures are John Adams and Mercy Otis Wilson. Their correspondence, at times heated, led to memorable exchanges as they debated the principles and policies on which our newly-formed nation would survive and thrive. In a letter dated April 1776, Adams wrote:

The Form of Government, which you admire, when its Principles are pure, is admirable indeed. It is productive of every Thing, which is great and excellent among Men. But its Principles are as easily destroyed, as human Nature is corrupted. Such a Government is only to be supported by pure Religion, or Austere Morals. Public Virtue cannot exist in a Nation without private, and public Virtue is the only Foundation of Republics.

Geneva is part of the classical Christian school movement. It is a movement that, while still in its infancy, is growing and thriving. Classical Christian schools exist to provide an education steeped in the foundational texts of Western Civilization combined with the aim of developing women and men of Christian virtue. These classical Christian schools intend, first and foremost, to serve God’s kingdom. An added and not inconsequential benefit is to our nation.

In the pages that follow, I hope you find glimpses of the future, virtuous women and men who are being formed in our homes, churches and school.

Brad Ryden
Head of School

GENEVA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

Geneva began in 1999 with 13 students in borrowed classrooms at St. John Lutheran Church and moved to the current campus in 2004 where it now has 690 students in grades K-12. Geneva is characterized by five unique distinctives—it teaches from a Christian worldview, upholds the classical ideals of truth, beauty and goodness, has deeply-invested teachers, fosters a tight-knit, engaged culture and values a commitment to excellence in all things. Classical educational methodology is based upon the trivium (Latin for “three roads”), first articulated in the Middle Ages and carefully tailored to the predictable developmental stages of the student. Grammar is the first and foundational stage of the trivium. The Grammar School focuses on the study of the fundamental elements of each subject area in order to build a framework for future knowledge. The Logic School focuses on helping students question, challenge and test what they are learning. Classes are discussion-based with an emphasis on recognizing causes and effects. The Rhetoric School is not just about teaching subjects to students, but also about helping them to see the big picture of humanity and history and finding their place in it as disciples of Christ. This is training in being Christian thinkers, not just competent test takers. Geneva challenges students to lead as servants, scholars, athletes and artists and has a lot in the process.

This photo (taken by senior Maddie Chandler) is an aerial shot of the entire student body and faculty positioned in the shape of a 20 to celebrate 20 years of Geneva. May we give thanks to God for His faithfulness for what He has done over these 20 years. To God be the glory.
The Grammar School celebrated pages read over the summer break at the annual Summer Reading Awards Assembly. Librarian Lisa Patti and Headmaster Jessica Gombert recognized 293 students with awards—270 students earned gold, 20 students received silver and three students earned bronze medals.

These students (and the teachers who participated in the summer reading challenge) read a combined total of 443,178 pages over the summer. In addition to earning a gold medal, 30 students in fifth grade received an XL Hershey’s chocolate bar for going “Above and Beyond” by reading over 1,700 pages.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade were challenged to practice math over the summer and bronze, silver or gold medals were given according to the amount of time they spent doing so. A new school record totalling 260,708 minutes was set. Third grade student Jaden Boerboom earned the most minutes and the right to play Head of School Brad Ryden in a math game titled Place Value Pockets.

“On average, students lose 2.4 months of their grade equivalency level when they do not practice math over the summer. The Summer Math Challenge was created to combat this. My personal passion is to reveal the beauty of mathematics by making it more engaging for students,” Math Specialist Tina Dube said.

All juniors and seniors have the opportunity to participate in the AIM Program – Adopt, Integrate and Mentor. Grammar School classes in grades K-5 adopt Rhetoric students (or perhaps it’s the other way around) each Wednesday morning before class instruction begins.

This weekly time allows for integration of age levels on the campus and provides opportunities for mentorship. Lasting bonds are forged and it does older students good to know that little ones are looking to them as heroes.

This program fosters relational connections on campus like the friendship formed between senior Jack Cupit and first grade student Drew Davis (shown above) and is one of the many things that makes Geneva unique and builds our strong community.

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HIGHLIGHTS AND HAPPENINGS

Geneva gets fired up to celebrate 20 years and 1 Fun Day at the Jogathon Pep Rally! The cheerleaders and band led the crowd in songs and cheers to encourage students and faculty to secure pledges for the financial assistance program. Each student was challenged to get 20 pledges of $20 or more.

Students, faculty and parents run laps in the Jogathon to raise money for financial assistance for students for the next school year. The theme was “1 Day of Fun Celebrating 20 Years of God’s Faithfulness.” The total raised will be announced in January.

The entire community enjoyed a beautiful day of food, games and community-building at Eaglefest. The event followed the Jogathon and preceded the Homecoming Pep Rally on the 1 Day of Fun in October!

What a wonderful Homecoming! There was a huge crowd at the tailgate and football game and the new alumni tent fostered a place for old friends to gather and watch the game and reminisce. It was good to have so many alumni home. Geneva forever!

GENEVA WORKS OF ART

Seventh-grader Lillian Flora used ink for her stipple hand in the ASL position of the first letter in her Bible verse.

Junior Gracie Janse painted this floral still life with acrylic paint in her Advanced Art class.

This banyan tree was created in ink and oil by third-grade student Hayes Harden.
Logic and Rhetoric School students must be nominated by at least half of their teachers for displaying these traits during the first quarter: exemplary behavior, performing at or near academic potential and possessing a positive attitude toward school.

6TH GRADE

7TH GRADE

8TH GRADE
Alexandria Bussey, Kenzie Cates, Claire Coutrell, Emily Coutrell, Cammy Curtis, Bethany De Luna, Josh Dennis, Alex Doran, Esan Fikes, Shawn George, Philip Gordon, Sophia Hammonck, Alex Havranek, Hayle Heinen, Macy Jamison, Lilly Kaiser, Hailey Kirchner, John LeBorne, Lindsay Lee, Tino Malouf, Olivia Morgan, Will Muck, Suzi Nilsson, Nick Nowoswasky, Joshua Rabinowitz, Grant Roberson, Ella Sorrells, Lauren Swientek, Jack Taylor, Kate Travis, Trinity Young

9TH GRADE

10TH GRADE
Lauren Abell, Sharon Abuzeid, Zach Brunsvold, Kaitlyn Cates, Kathryn Chisolm, Jacob Dishongh, Cassidy Egli, Alexa Elizonndo, Corban Fikes, Garrett Fritcher, Sydney Griffee, Emmy Hamilton, Micah Howard, Shyla Jennings, Lily Langenbahn, Ashlyn Lavezzari, Lauren McDaniel, Ainsley McCoy, Bella Moninski, Grant Mowery, Anna Beth Muck, Avery Ochoa, Presley Pruitt, Nicolas Siller, Maggie Swanson, Emily Swipes, Tyler Syring, Kevin Vogt, Elizabeth Walter, Aubrey Webb

11TH GRADE
Brock Ambelang, Jos Balli, Cade Barone, Soren Burkholder, Caroline Chandler, Isabella Coates, Alexis Davis, Audrey Davis, Julianne De Luna, Sydney Dennis, Michael De Vries, Judah Diller, Emma Grace Erfurt, Jackson Friesenhahn, John Henry Friesenhahn, Cody Lane George, Alexa Georgelos, Lana Harrison, Quentin Hartman, Quincie Hartman, Grey Herlihy, Alex Iyer, Gracie Janse, Katherine Lacy, Ashton Landis, Hannah Ledoux, Hannah Pratt, Lily Radigan, Pauline Rahal, Matthew Renfroe, Gabe Ross, Emma Russell, Connor Schaefer, Lily Shrode, Trey Stepanow, Katie-Grace Styles, Riley Tippit, Julian Claire Treusdell, Grace Wacker, Alethea Ward, Emma Wilson, Jackson Young

12TH GRADE
Phillip Ackerman, Jake Allen, Will Bower, McLain Brock, Dawson Cate, Jack Czapit, Abigail Dees, Emma De Vries, Lydia duPerier, Mackenzie Fitzgerald, Catarina Flores, Gracyn Freiling, Jayne Goodman, David Grote, Braiden Hall, Luke Hardin, Cammie Kidd, Sarah Ledoux, Gillian Lodlin, Corley Petrie, Brooke Radigan, Evan Schaefera, Elise Valdez, Margaret Vuia, Charlotte Walker

Eighth graders in Mrs. Wilson’s Civics classes write Christmas cards that will be included in care packages through Operation Gratitude for the men and women in our military.
SCHOLARS EARN NATIONAL HONORS

Three Geneva seniors earned recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Gracyn Freiling and Cameron Kidd (pictured at left) were named as National Merit Commended Scholars. Catarina Flores (below) was named a National Hispanic Scholar.

These students achieved this award for their academic accomplishment on the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The 2020 Senior Class is the 10th consecutive senior class to have members earning National Merit recognition.

HEADMASTER’S LIST

The Headmaster’s List recognizes Logic and Rhetoric students with a 3.9 GPA and above (Summa Cum Laude) and those with a GPA between 3.75 and 3.9 (Magna Cum Laude) for the first quarter of the school year.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

6TH GRADE  

7TH GRADE  

8TH GRADE  
Claire Coultrtr, Cammy Curtis, Bethany De Luna, Alex Doran, K.P. FitzGerald, Shawn George, Philip Gordon, Alex Havraneck, Hayden Landis, Will Muck, Suzi Nilsson, Jake Plesko, Ella Sorrells

9TH GRADE  

10TH GRADE  
Lauren Abell, Zach Brunsvold, Kaitlyn Cates, Kathryn Chisholm, Jacob Dishongh, Sam Doran, Corban Fiske, Garrett Fritcher, Sydney Griffey, Micah Howard, Lily Langenhahn, Ainsley McCoy, Bella Moninski, Grant Mowery, Anna Beth Muck, Ainsley Plesko, Presley Pruitt, Nicholas Siler, Elizabeth Walter

11TH GRADE  
Brook Ambelang, Cade Barone, Judah Diller, John Henry Friesenhahn, Cody Lane George, Alexa Georgelos, Luna Harrison, Quentin Hartman, Quinnc Hartman, Alex Iyer, Gracie Janse, Katherine Lacy, Ashton Landis, Hannah Ledoux, Pauline Rahal, Matthew Renfroe, Gabe Ross, Connor Schaefer, Trey Stepansow, Riley Tippst, Grace Wacker, Emma Wilson, Jackson Young

12TH GRADE  

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

6TH GRADE  
Brice Allison, Reese Anerman, Lilly Billings, Payton Boles, Baysia Bragg, Casey Britton, Trinity Cloud, Maggie Deimond, Gage Elizondo, Norah Galbreath, Aubrey Granstaff, Julia Hammock, Catherine Hiner, Aidan McDaniel, Ella Grace Owens, JonMichael Raimondo, Logan Reyes

7TH GRADE  
Victoria Allen, Mark Bannwolf, Aidan Bowers, Abby Brehmer, Chloé Caulfield, Mia Cohoon, Francesca Dacy, Kate Friesenhahn, Keira Irwin, Colton Lutz, Jackson Mitchell, Piper Pruitt, Hannah Reyes, Jake Reeborn, Samuel Siler

8TH GRADE  
Kenzie Cates, Ford Elizondo, Esan Fikes, Hailey Kirchen, John LeBorne, Tino Malouf, Kate Travis

9TH GRADE  
Hayden Allen, Mattie Sue Arnoldi, Mari-Fe Ball, Claire Erfurt, Luke Kaiser, Ellie Ledoux, Mary Kate Mitchell, Alex Peet, Zach Petty, Brynn Riebel, Ransom Smith, Sydney Turnbow

10TH GRADE  
Sharon Abuzied, Aidan Christol, Sarah Coudres, Cassidy Egli, Julianna Goodman, Chloe Higgs, Ashlynne Lovezzi, Gwyneth Lewllyen, Lauren McDaniel, Tyler Syring, Kevin Vogt

11TH GRADE  
Isabella Coates, Audrey Davis, Emma Grace Erfurt, Jackson Friesenhahn, Hannah Pratt, Lily Radigan, Emma Russell, Lily Shrode, Julian Claire Treusdell, Austin Turgon, Alethea Ward

12TH GRADE  
Emma De Vries, Richard Hicks, Josh Lopez, Nathan Masso, Josh Nate, Russel Navarro

TRAINING IN LOVE

As you know, our theme for the school year is “Love.” This is fitting, because a school environment is wonderful training ground for the exercise of love, especially if love is indeed an act of the will that seeks the best for the beloved. We send our students to school to learn academic material, but hopefully we also send them to be guided in what it means to be a good person.

Towards that end, being side-by-side with fellow forgiven sinners on a daily basis provides ample opportunities for acts of love, and sometimes it is not like a Hallmark card; it can often be painful. Training in love, like training in anything, involves sacrifice and pain. We should remember that because sometimes those tears are really sweat—the sweat of intense training in love.

Rob Shelton  
Rhettoric School Headmaster

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Class of 2011 graduate Alex Ryden is the highlighted alumnus in this issue of The Eagle Eye. He is a 2016 graduate from UT Austin with a Plan II degree. He is in his final year of medical school at the Long School of Medicine in San Antonio. He is currently in the process of applying to medical residency in Internal Medicine. Here is an excerpt from his responses to a set of questions given to an alumnus each quarter. You may view Alex’s answers in their entirety on the school’s website.

Please describe the most significant value you learned from Geneva.

Being a critical thinker was a major takeaway from my time at Geneva. I think having the skills to parse through complex ideas has personally served me well throughout my upper level education. It allows me to be flexible in the face of new and challenging ideas and problems.

In what ways did your Geneva education prepare you for the work you are doing now?

The ability to speak in public has been the single greatest skill I took from Geneva, with good writing skills being a close second. I cannot speak for other fields, but medicine involves a lot of talking. You talk with your team, you talk with consultant physicians, you talk with the patient, you talk with nurses, etc. Being able to do so comfortably has made my journey much smoother. Being a good writer is also very useful, if for no other reason than I recently had to write yet another personal statement.
Here are the last responses from this senior class of 57 set to graduate in May. View the responses in their entirety on the school’s website.

**HANSON BROWN**
What is the most influential book you have read? 
*Do Hard Things* is the most influential book I have read because it taught me to realize that my life is my own and not controlled by anyone but me.

**JACK CUPIT**
What will you miss most at Geneva? 
I will miss the supportive and loving Geneva community. No matter what I’m doing, I always feel like both my peers and my teachers are there to help and encourage me.

**ERIC DREES**
Who has influenced you the most at Geneva? 
Mr. Shelton is a good leader, a decisive decision maker, a hard worker, a man of God—all of these are desirable traits that he possesses and traits I hope to learn.

**LYDIA DUPERIER**
What does being a Geneva student mean? 
Leadership, honesty and love make up a Geneva student and I have learned that it means I am set apart. It is a privilege to be at Geneva and I am forever thankful.

**MACKENZIE FITZGERALD**
What at Geneva do you hope never changes? 
Geneva has the most genuine and caring people; I have always felt welcome here. I have never met any people like the ones at Geneva and I hope I never lose touch with them.

**DAVID GROTE**
What is the most influential book you have read? 
Randy Alcorn’s *Edge of Eternity* influenced me and how I think of the Christian walk. It convicted and encouraged me and got me excited about heaven.

**RICHARD HICKS**
Who has influenced you the most at Geneva? 
Many have influenced me while I have been at Geneva. However Mr. Southwick, Miss Thomas and Mrs. Jeffcoat were always so interesting and made me look forward to their classes.

**EMMALEE JONAS**
What will you miss most when you leave? 
I will miss my friends and teachers the most at Geneva. I have loved growing up with them in my life.

**GAGE KOHLER**
What does being a Geneva student mean? 
Part of being a Geneva student means you will have the integrity to do what is right no matter who is watching you.

**GILLIAN LOFLIN**
What is the most influential book you have read? 
*Brave New World* was the most influential book I’ve read other than the Bible. It taught me the importance of being cautious with progress and being different in the world.

**EASTON MYRICK**
Who has influenced you the most at Geneva? 
Coach Herbert and Coach Brock have influenced me the most during my time at Geneva because they are living examples every day of how a man should act and what he should do.

**RUSSEL NAVARRO**
What is your favorite moment at Geneva? 
My favorite moment at Geneva would have to be when Zack Fly did his Mr. Christmas song and Travis, Scott and I came out in Boxes and just danced around him.

**NATALYA PEDRAZA**
What at Geneva do you hope never changes? 
I hope the feelings of Geneva being the closest thing to home never changes. I hope the closeness that students and teachers have remains the same forever.

**CORLEY PETRIE**
How would you encourage a kindergartner? 
I would tell them to take advantage of all the opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, sports, clubs and volunteer work. Find something you are interested in and invest in it.

**BROOKE RADIGAN**
What will you miss most when you leave? 
When I first stepped onto the campus, I realized that individuality was encouraged here. I love how people are celebrated for their uniqueness.

**SETH RAMSEY**
What does being a Geneva student mean? 
Being a Geneva student means I strive to be a leader who recognizes that I have the potential to impact someone’s life for the better. I strive to lead this way every day.

**MARGARET VIÑA**
How would you encourage a kindergartner? 
I would tell them to keep your friends close; you will have a bond like no other. Connect with your teachers because they truly care about you.
EAGLES IN ACTION

Clockwise: Eagles varsity football coach Dean Herbort rallies his team in one of the many road games this season. The Geneva Booster Club Shootout and TALONS UP! DINNER at the end of October was a huge success and a lot of fun! This annual GBC event raises funds for fine arts, athletics and academics. The varsity and freshman cheer squads took home a variety of top awards at the UCA Cheer Camp in August.

SPORTS UPDATE

Eagles sports are going strong this fall! At the time of publication, the varsity volleyball team posted a regular season record of 32-3 and was poised to enter the playoffs. The varsity football team was 2-0 in district play and gaining momentum. The varsity cross country team competed in the TAPPS 4A Cross Country State Meet where the girls finished sixth and the boys team placed ninth overall.

Winter athletics have begun with basketball, soccer and swimmers practicing for their seasons.

Follow varsity reports and game updates on the school’s Twitter feed @genevaschooltx.

HOME SWEET HOME

Many graduates, families, current students and faculty came together to celebrate the school’s eighth annual Homecoming and 20 years of God’s faithfulness to Geneva. It was a full day with the Jogathon, Eaglefest, Homecoming Pep Rally, tailgate and football game all happening in one fun day.

The 2019 Homecoming King, Queen and Court were named at halftime of the Homecoming Game. Seniors Jack O’Quinn and Lydia duPerier (above) were named King and Queen. Freshman representatives were Earl Spencer Yarbrough and Lady Avery Eggerss, junior representatives were Prince Corvin Jonas and Princess Katherine Lacy and the sophomore representatives were Duke Kevin Vogt and Duchess Lily Langenbahn.

Festivities included the giving and receiving of mums and garters, a 37-3 football victory over Texas School for the Deaf and a Rhetoric School Homecoming Dance on Saturday night.
Photos are listed clockwise from top left:

The Drum Line led fans to the football field for the Homecoming Pep Rally in October. The Eagles Band and Drum Line also competed in the TAPPS State Contest on October 28 in Waco where both groups earned Superior ratings. Drum Line also earned Best Tenor Line and Best Cymbal Line honors.

Junior Gabe Ross signs the school’s Honor Code at the annual assembly. Each Rhetoric School student is required to sign this code and is challenged to live by it while at Geneva, with the hope that it will instill a personal code of lifelong integrity and honor.

The Logic School hosts Taco Tuesdays for students typically on the second Tuesday of each month. Headmaster Jeff Jones is shown here with National Junior Honor Society students Jack Taylor, Hayle Heinen, Kenzie Cates and Bethany De Luna enjoying one such morning. This has quickly become a favorite part of the culture of Logic School.

Geneva freshmen re-enacted the Battle of Thermopylae. Third graders, who also learn about Ancient Greece, came to cheer them on.