



# GENEVA SCHOOL of BOERNE

2022 | 2023 Curriculum Guide

*Geneva School of Boerne exists to provide a classical education from a biblical worldview, to equip students for a lifetime of learning, service and leadership to the glory of Jesus Christ.*

## WELCOME TO GENEVA SCHOOL!

We teach students to lead as servants, scholars, athletes and artists. Through award-winning programs, our graduates are equipped with a biblical worldview and are critical, logical thinkers, able to discern truth, beauty and goodness. Teachers lock arms with parents in a time-tested education where Socratic dialogue trains students to civilly discuss ideas and articulately present persuasive arguments.



Our teachers and coaches know our students. They expect good manners, humility and grit whether it be in the classroom, the concert hall or athletic court. We offer a curriculum that builds upon itself from year to year, a required senior thesis presentation and a school-wide spirit of family volunteerism. Because of this, our graduates are leading for the cause of Christ in this world.

Dr. David Corbin  
*Head of School*

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*Head of School*

**Dirk Russell**

*Rhetoric School Headmaster*

**Aaron Southwick**

*Logic School Headmaster*

**Jessica Gombert**

*Grammar School Headmaster*

**Ellen Yarbrough**

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## THE CLASSICAL AND CHRISTIAN MODEL

Geneva School of Boerne is a classical and Christian private school serving students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. A classical education comprises three stages—grammar, logic and rhetoric—known compositely as the *trivium*. Each of these stages is explained more fully in the subsequent pages of this guide. More importantly, however, a Geneva education is a Christian education. We teach from a biblical worldview orientation, meaning we assume that the biblical understanding of truth, the world, mankind and our place in the world is accurate; and thus, we teach every subject from this standpoint and evaluate every idea by these biblical assumptions.

Although Geneva is a K-12 school, describing our structure as a 12-K school more clearly reflects our intentions. We start with the end product of a Portrait of a Graduate (found at right) in mind and work back through the stages of Rhetoric, Logic and Grammar respectively. This model allows the end result to drive the process as we stay focused and committed to our mission.



## PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

A Geneva graduate is a disciple of Jesus Christ, exhibiting excellence, passion and integrity as he leads for Christ's cause in the world. He is a critical, logical thinker, able to discern absolute truth from cultural trends and philosophies. As one who loves the Lord with all his mind, the Geneva graduate will be a lover of learning, and have the ability to grasp new ideas throughout his lifetime in pursuit of truth. These qualities, clothed in humility, create a foundation that will enable him to present engagingly articulate and persuasively winsome arguments. A Geneva graduate honors God's image within himself and thus, is interested in all people because of God's interest and image in them. The classical education and biblical worldview gained at Geneva will equip the graduate to exhibit vocational excellence to the glory of God.

## THE GENEVA DISTINCTIVES

- Classical Christian Education
- Deeply Invested Educators
- Faithful and Supportive Community



## GENEVA SCHOOL OF BOERNE RHETORIC SCHOOL

### OVERVIEW

The Rhetoric School, serving students in ninth through twelfth grades, is the arena in which the knowledge and skills acquired in Grammar School and Logic School are given their fullest measure of expression. This stage of the classical education is not just about teaching subjects to students (though that is important), but about helping them to see the big picture of humanity and history and finding their place in it as disciples of Christ. Put another way, this is training in being Christian thinkers, not just competent test takers.

With these basic knowledge-building skills, students are taught logic and advanced rhetoric in order to clearly, eloquently, respectfully and persuasively communicate their thoughts both orally and in writing. Students study a modern Romance language or continue with Latin; mathematics through calculus; all of the foundational sciences, history, government, fine arts; and the Western Canon engaged from a biblical worldview.

Geneva participates in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) in the arenas of fine arts, academics and athletics. By season, Geneva athletes compete in the following sports: fall – cross country, football, volleyball; winter – basketball, soccer, swimming; spring – baseball, golf, softball, tennis, track and field.



Dirk Russell  
Rhetoric Headmaster

### CLASSICAL EDUCATION LEADS TO RIGOROUS THINKING

“Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics” (STEM) is often misunderstood as being in opposition to a liberal arts education. While the subject matter may differ, the approach to both is the encouragement of rigorous thinking.

At Geneva, we do not advocate the false dilemma of STEM versus the liberal arts. Instead, students are encouraged to excel across the board academically. Challenging AP course offerings in math and the sciences combine with time-tested training in the classics to produce well-rounded students at home in either arena. Geneva alumni regularly go on to college to study engineering, pre-med, research sciences and computer sciences.



### RHETORIC SCHOOL CORE CURRICULUM

GRADE	HUMANITIES	MATH	SCIENCE	LIBERAL ARTS	THEOLOGY
9	Ancient and Classical	Geometry	Biology	Classical Rhetoric I	Bible Interpretation
10	Medieval to Early Renaissance	Algebra II	Chemistry	Classical Rhetoric II	Pauline Ethics
11	Renaissance to Early Modern	Pre-Calculus	AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Anatomy & Physiology and AP Environmental Science	Worldview Analysis	World Religions and Christian Theology
12	U.S. History and Literature	AP Statistics and/or AP Calculus	AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Anatomy & Physiology and AP Environmental Science	Senior Thesis	Christian Apologetics

In addition to the Core Curriculum, students must earn credits in a foreign language, fine arts, athletics and electives. Students can focus on either Latin or Spanish for their language credits. Fine arts offerings include Band, Orchestra, Guitar, Vocal Music, Theatre and Art. Electives are offered in a range of areas: product-based (Magazine, Yearbook, Cinematography); competition-based (Debate, Theatre Competition, Jazz Band); academics (Computer Science, Lewis & Tolkien, Creative Writing, etc.). Geneva also offers 12 AP courses and a Dual Credit English program.





## GENEVA SCHOOL OF BOERNE LOGIC SCHOOL

### OVERVIEW

The Logic School, serving students in sixth through eighth grades, teaches students to analyze statements critically and to argue claims systematically by arranging terms and facts into arguments. Students learn this art of argumentation in order to prepare themselves to always offer a reason, and to do so respectfully.



Aaron Southwick  
Logic Headmaster

This dialectical approach to education can be seen throughout the curriculum (shown below). In the History, Bible and Language Arts classes students read and analyze the structure of original, primary source material. In the Latin curriculum, students move from learning the grammar and the logical structure of a classical language to constructing it into their own language. In math and the science the students learn about the theoretical and the particular world from both an inductive and a deductive approach. These two different ways of thinking are studied in the formal logic classes. Finally, in the writing program the students learn the “before” (Pro) “exercises” (Gymnasium) of writing a classically structured essay. They practice the steps of moving from imitation to invention so that when senior thesis arrives each student will be fully equipped to argue and defend an original claim.

### LIFE IN LOGIC SCHOOL

Student life continues outside the core curriculum in fine arts and in athletics. In fine arts, students are exposed to the harmony of music and the ordered form of the arts thus learning about God’s order and harmony found in the cosmos. All students participate in athletics, whether it be P.E. twice a week or a variety of seasonal and competitive sports; competition happens in the Independent Schools Athletic League (ISAL) of San Antonio.

A liberal arts education is an education of the whole person that values the inculcation of virtue. So, in addition to curricular and co-curricular offerings, we also aim to build and preserve a culture grounded in the Word, which can be seen in our daily morning devotional times, and that is grounded in practiced faith, which can be seen from isolated moments like Tolkien Day to the daily liturgies happening in the classroom. Our aim is to practice good habits that embrace and love and elevate and lead our students to become mature followers of Jesus Christ.



### LOGIC SCHOOL CORE CURRICULUM

GRADE	BIBLE	HISTORY	LANGUAGE ARTS	LATIN	LOGIC	MATH	SCIENCE	WRITING PROGRAM
6	Biblical Theology	World History: Ancient to Medieval	Literature and Grammar	Intro to Latin	Inductive Logic and the Scientific Method	Reveal Math	Earth Science	Progymnasmata I – II Fable and Narrative
7	Systematic Theology	World History: Medieval to Modern	Literature and Grammar	Latin 1A*	Formal Logic	Pre-Algebra	Life Science: Single-Cell to Ecological Systems	Progymnasmata III-IV Chreia and Maxim
8	Church and Our World	Government, Civics and U.S. History	Literature, Grammar and Oratory	Latin 1B*	Dialectic	Algebra I*	Physical Science	Progymnasmata V-VI Refutation and Confirmation

\*These courses are credited as Geneva Rhetoric School graduation requirements.



## GENEVA SCHOOL OF BOERNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### OVERVIEW

The Grammar School, serving students in K-Prep through fifth grade, focuses on the study of the fundamental elements of each subject area in order to build a framework for future knowledge.

Phonics, basic math facts, problem-solving, chronological historical study, fundamental writing skills, increasing reading mastery and hands-on science exploration are emphasized as instruction capitalizes on the natural curiosity of the elementary student. Latin, the foundational language for the grammar and vocabulary of all Romance languages, is taught beginning in third grade.

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*.



Jessica Gombert  
Grammar Headmaster

### THE HEART OF GRAMMAR SCHOOL

We seek to instill a delight in learning with an abundance of knowledge and truth that will develop the minds, bodies and souls of our students. We encourage memorization and understanding of subject matter. Being able to read well is a major goal as well as maintaining an active reading life.

God’s truth, beauty and goodness are interwoven throughout every aspect of Grammar School. We encourage the absence of screen technology for our students and seek to teach them how to learn and use their developing brains instead. Time is provided to contemplate and to foster a sense of wonder while utilizing the thinking routine of See, Think, Wonder.



### GRAMMAR SCHOOL CORE CURRICULUM

GRADE	BIBLE	LANGUAGE ARTS	HISTORY	MATH	SCIENCE	LATIN
K-Prep	OT/NT Overview	Centers, Unit Studies and Play-Based Learning				N/A
K	NT Overview	Phonics, Writing, Literature	Local History	Math in Focus	Unit Studies	N/A
1	OT Overview	Phonics, Grammar, Writing, Literature	United States	Math in Focus	Unit Studies	N/A
2	Genesis-Joshua	Phonics, Grammar, Writing, Literature	Ancient Egypt	Math in Focus	Unit Studies	N/A
3	Judges-Kings	Literature, Grammar, Writing	Ancient Greece and Rome	Math in Focus	Unit Studies	Beginner (twice weekly)
4	Chronicles-Malachi	Literature, Grammar, Writing	Middle Ages	Math in Focus	Unit Studies	Intermediate (4 times weekly)
5	The Gospels	Literature, Grammar, Writing	Early Modern Times and Texas History	Math in Focus	Unit Studies	Cambridge (4 times weekly)

In addition to the Core Curriculum in Grammar School, students are given many opportunities to learn and grow in these various ways:

**P.E.** – Each grade level visits twice a week.

**Motor Lab** – K-Prep through second grade visit the Motor Lab to increase their fine and gross motor skills.

**Art** – Each grade level attends once a week.

**Music** – Each grade level attends twice a week.

**Library** – Each grade level visits once a week.

**Docents** – Each grade learns about the great artists and composers of Western Civilization from parent volunteers.

**Field Trips** – All grades learn outside the classroom by taking field trips. In fourth grade, students experience an overnight trip to Sea World and fifth graders travel to NASA.