



DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE THAT A CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL EDUCATION CAN MAKE ON YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE.

AT THE GENEVA SCHOOL WE ARE  
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

[GENEVASCHOOL.ORG](http://GENEVASCHOOL.ORG)

Once upon a time education had one end:  
to educate the whole person so that  
students could think and learn for themselves and  
live lives of seamless integrity. This was called  
Christian classical education.

All truth was understood to be God's truth so every  
realm of knowledge was open to exploration and analysis  
of its interconnectedness with all the rest—the spread  
of Christianity in the first century related to the lore  
of medieval Beowulf; amoebas related to Socrates; and  
Picasso related to  $E=mc^2$ . Most of all, it was an education  
in which students *experienced* learning.

**In the beginning  
God created...**

**We hold these truths  
to be self-evident...**

**In a hole in the ground  
there lived a Hobbit.**

**$E=mc^2$**





1993-2023

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**30**

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YEARS

# DISTINCTIVELY CHRISTIAN

Education is always about formation. It shapes the mind and affections of the student, teaching him or her what is worth thinking and loving. Not all educational models aspire to these same ends of faith and character development in addition to academic excellence. The model at The Geneva School is built on the bedrock of historic Christianity.

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* Philippians 4:8

Our teachers are Christian men and women who teach and interact with students relationally, serving as living examples and mentors of faithfulness. Our curriculum is governed by our theological commitments and is always flowing from or leading to the truths of Scripture.

Students need their minds renewed and their loves properly ordered so that they might live in the fullness of what they actually are—image bearers of God who were created to worship Him and participate in His Kingdom.

# DISTINCTLY CLASSICAL

A robust academic program is essential to a formative Christian education, and Geneva's creative application of the classical liberal arts and sciences provides the ideal environment for this shaping process to take place.

Perhaps the word “classical” conjures up in your mind images of robed men philosophizing in the marketplace in ancient Athens. Classical education, however, is not stuck in the past, much less the ancient past. It is a living tradition that continues to develop and grow even in our own time and place.

For students of The Geneva School a classical education is vibrant and life-affirming and fosters dialogue between and among students, teachers, and administrators. It cultivates a deep love for history, for the sciences, and for the arts, and trains the student to understand how each area of study relates to all others. Classical education is about engaging life and being equipped to do so wisely, faithfully, and graciously.





# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Painting a Renoir. Performing scenes from Julius Caesar. Re-enacting the Battle of Bunker Hill. Studying Pascal's *Pensées* in pre-calculus. Praying for world issues and for each other. This is a typical day for students at The Geneva School.

At the heart of classical education is the belief that students—from very young to college-age—learn best through experience. Yes, a student can learn by simply thinking about the arts and sciences, literature and philosophy. But how much better a student learns when he tastes math, touches music, and smells history. When you walk through our doors you encounter an environment where students engage in learning first-hand:

- ◆ Kindergarten students take the study of communities and economies to an experiential level by actually creating, organizing, and governing a town, complete with stores, banks, and a post office.
- ◆ What better way for second grade students to learn how the ancient Egyptians mummified their kings than to mummify their own chicken legs using preserving salts and sarcophagi?
- ◆ During their Trojan War play, third grade Greek soldiers climb inside a large wooden horse to re-enact scenes from Homer's *Illiad*.
- ◆ Fourth grade students engage in medieval banquets and games such as jousting and archery, as they learn chivalrous living and become knights and ladies.
- ◆ Sixth grade "immigrants" stand in long lines on Geneva's Ellis Island, facing faculty and parent immigration officers as they hope and pray for entrance to America, the land where dreams come true.
- ◆ Anatomy students become surgeons as they dissect and resection cats, and conclude the exercise by presenting a case study to professional physicians on the cause of their particular cat's demise.
- ◆ High school students choose and then memorize their favorite lines from such Shakespearean classics as *Macbeth*, *Richard II*, or *Hamlet*—lines that one student says, "seem to apply today even though they were written so long ago."

**I WISH I HAD HAD A  
GENEVA EDUCATION.**

— PARENT



# A CURRICULUM FOR LIFE

The Geneva School seeks to revitalize for our own day an approach to education that was common in the West from the time of Socrates to the 19th century, an approach firmly grounded in what became the tradition of liberal arts and sciences.

In-depth explorations, experiences, and studies of language, literature, math, science, history, philosophy, art, music, and drama characterize this sort of learning—as do hearty concerns for the development of character and integrity in the lives of students and teachers alike. This sort of education aims for nothing less than wisdom and virtue. Thus, it is a curriculum for life.

## LEARNING AT GENEVA IS HANDS-ON...

*It involves all the senses. And it helps us look at the world from all different angles. It gives me the confidence to sift and weigh what I see and hear and not just be influenced by the things around me.*

—TENTH GRADER





# PEDAGOGY

*(ped-uh-goh-jee) n. the art or science of teaching*

At The Geneva School we employ a particular teaching method, or pedagogy, in teaching across subject areas. This method makes use of the natural learning propensities of a child at various age levels.

**Grammar:** The grammar stage at Geneva (K4 through 6th grades) makes use of a student's innate curiosity, inquisitiveness, and ability to absorb the basic material of a subject. It is the acquisition stage of learning where questions of who, what, and when are explored. It is used to build a solid foundation of knowledge so that students can later think dialectically and express themselves rhetorically about that knowledge. In this first stage, students master such fundamentals as arithmetic tables, scientific formulas, biblical narratives, Latin paradigms, and cultural histories from Mesopotamia through to our own time.

**Dialectic:** From the solid foundation in grammar, students can then transition to the dialectic stage (grades 7th-8th), which utilizes a student's natural inclination to question and analyze. In this investigative stage of learning, where questions of why and how are examined closely, students acquire the tools of logic and critical thought to address such questions as:

- ◆ Is war ever justified or prudent, and if so, ought a Christian engage in it?
- ◆ Should mankind pursue human cloning or even the genetic engineering upon which it is based?
- ◆ Are there such things as absolute and objective Goodness, Truth, and Beauty, or are all things "relative"?

**Rhetoric:** This stage (grades 9th through 12th) serves as the polishing phase of the learning process and is the capstone of learning. Students are taught how to communicate the grammar and dialectic of disciplines in an effective, persuasive, and winsome manner. In short, their confidence in how to think for themselves, as well as how to live a life pleasing to God, is built up by developing a capacity to present their views through speech, through writing, and, indeed, through their very lives.



# ATHLETICS

Men and women are by nature spiritual, intellectual, creative, and physical beings, and to be fully human requires that we cultivate the whole person in all of these areas. At The Geneva School, athletics is seen as co-curricular and part of a well-rounded education. Over 90% of our upper school student body participates in at least one sport each year.

The Geneva School boasts 19 varsity sports that routinely contend for district, regional and state championships. The list of TGS student athletes playing their sport in college is ever-growing. Student athletes have gone on to play at the college level in volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, baseball, cross country and tennis.

As a 2A member of the Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSAA), The Geneva School has consistently ranked in the top 5 (among 100 2A schools state-wide) in the FHSAA Sunshine Cup Standings. Notably, Geneva was recently recognized for outstanding sportsmanship among players, coaches, and spectators by the FHSAA.

The Geneva School athletic campus includes: a state-of-the-art track, soccer field, softball and baseball fields, tennis courts, beach volleyball courts, weight room, physical therapy room, two gymnasiums, and practice fields. Our athletic campus is a beautiful location to host matches, meets, and games, and highlights our philosophy that athletics are more than an extracurricular at Geneva; they are an opportunity to strive for excellence.







## ARTS

All true education begins in wonder and depends upon the imagination to flourish. This is why the arts are part of the core curriculum from K4–12th grade. All grammar and dialectic students study choral and instrumental music, studio art, and drama through eighth grade, while electives in the rhetoric school are designed to allow students to engage more deeply in one of these areas of the fine and performing arts.

The fourth grade, for example, studies medieval literature and history, so in art these students make mosaic tile creations and study gothic architecture in area cathedral churches; in drama they perform Robin Hood; and in music they learn to sing Gregorian chants. The arts, then, provide a place for students to take an active role, learning and enjoying the skills of creativity and expression. The material learned in the traditional core courses of language, arts, history, and the sciences are further discovered and explored through the arts curriculum.

Additionally, Geneva offers many opportunities beyond the classroom to exercise a student's artistic interests—dramatic plays performed throughout the year by the Merely Players acting troupe, debate, musical ensembles, orchestras, numerous chalk art events and the yearly photography field trip to New York City—just to name a few.



# PREPARING FOR LIFE

Whether in the science lab or the art studio, in English class or on the soccer field, students at The Geneva School are establishing lasting patterns for their lives. As English writer Dorothy Sayers said in her now classic essay, “The Lost Tools of Learning:”

*The sole end of education is simply this: to teach students how to learn for themselves; and whatever instruction fails to do this is effort spent in vain.*

## LEARNING

In recovering the lost tools of learning, Geneva School students:

- ◆ Discover and interact in a creative learning environment
- ◆ Learn through each of the five senses
- ◆ Integrate subject matter across the curriculum
- ◆ Develop biblical character traits of faith, hope, and love
- ◆ Strive to portray the virtues of Goodness, Truth, and Beauty in every aspect of life.

## LEARNING HERE IS A PROCESS OF DISCOVERY.

*Students discover, for example, that history has consequences; that the actions of one person can greatly influence what happens later on. Students learn that what they do now will impact their lives later. I try to point students in the right direction by asking questions. Our students are the ones who must think through the answers.*

—TEACHER, FOURTH GRADE





# TEACHING

In our effort to recover the lost art of teaching, teachers at The Geneva School:

- ◆ Display training in content as well as method
- ◆ Strive to mentor students through personal relationships
- ◆ Challenge students to engage with the great conversation of the Western historical narrative
- ◆ Strive to portray accurately all perspectives on controversial issues
- ◆ Impart a lifelong love of learning that is informed by truth, wisdom, and the moral imagination
- ◆ Encourage students in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source and foundation of all truth and learning

**IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO STAND  
IN FRONT OF A CLASSROOM  
AND PONTIFICATE.**

*You must also help students to build a bridge, so later on in life, when they come to a chasm, they can say, "I've seen this before. I've been here before. I can build a bridge."*

—GENEVA ADMINISTRATOR



# SERVICE

At Geneva, service is the incarnation of all that we teach. It is putting into action our faith, our ethics, our virtues, our loves. Whether it expresses itself through class or grade projects, club or school-wide events, or in the community, service to others promotes humility, compassion, kindness, and purposeful living.

SALT—Serving and Learning Together—is an annual expression of what we highly value at Geneva, the development of Christian character through service and giving. SALT mobilizes over 1000 students, teachers, and parent volunteers who in a single day donate approximately 4,000 service hours to the community at over a dozen non-profit organizations throughout Central Florida.

## THE GENEVA SCHOOL STORY CONTINUES

Stories that begin with “Once upon a time...” usually end with “...ever after. The End.” However, at The Geneva School, our story continues. We remain committed to cultivating minds that think wisely, hearts that love rightly, and hands that serve gladly.

Become part of our story—a story that begins with educating for life.





# AT THE GENEVA SCHOOL WE ARE EDUCATING FOR LIFE.

The Geneva School perennially outranks the aggregate measurements of academic success among other school groups, including independent private schools, religious private schools, public schools, and all schools nationally.\*

Over the past twenty years, for example, Geneva has produced over four times the national average of Commended students in the National Merit program. But these successes fall short of portraying the full picture of what a Geneva education seeks to accomplish.

At The Geneva School we strive for far more than simply academic success. We desire our students to grow in wisdom and discernment, to develop godly dispositions of love, compassion, and humility, and to serve their fellow man through the use of their various gifts and callings. We seek, by God's grace, to educate the whole person.



*\*Please check The Geneva School website for the latest academic metrics.*



*Discover the difference that a  
Christian classical education  
can make on your child's future.*





**“AFTER DARKNESS, LIGHT”**

*This motto of the 16th century Swiss Reformation captures our desire to illumine the hearts and minds of our students.*

**THE GENEVA SCHOOL**

*Educating for Life*

*The Geneva School welcomes qualified students of any race, color,  
and national or ethnic origin.*