

EX VERITATE

ISSUE NO. 17

GENEVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY



EX VERITATE

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Vision:

Geneva Classical Academy is an educational community that exists to assist families in fulfilling their Biblical obligation to educate their children by providing Christian and classical education that equips them to live purposefully in the service of God and man.

Mission:

Geneva Classical Academy seeks to cultivate wisdom and virtue in the souls of our students in order that they may love what is true, good, and beautiful through a growing academic community focused on Christ.



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We are growing! The beginning of the 2022-23 school year met us with the greatest influx of new families than ever before.

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GENEVA'S ACCREDITATION: THE THIRD TIME AROUND

BY RICHARD CALI

This is an important year for Geneva in that we are seeking accreditation renewal from the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS) for our third time. The first time we received the initial two year “temporary” accreditation, and the second time we received our five-year accreditation. It is time to pursue it again.

When choosing a school, parents sometimes ask a simple and important question of the institution they are considering: “Are you accredited?” Accreditation is a way of

communicating to inquirers that the school is accomplishing what it claims, and it is accountable to someone outside the organization. While authority to educate children comes from parents, not accrediting agencies, accreditation demonstrates a school has done the hard work of meeting the accrediting agencies’ standards. This can give some reassurance to parents for their choice of schools.

Many parents have been informed enough to ask this initial question, and it would behoove them to learn to follow up with, “By whom?” Geneva recognizes that the assumptions of the accrediting agencies matter: What does the agency believe about children? What do they believe about the educational process? What do they believe about truth and reality? What do they believe about God? Consequently, Geneva has chosen ACCS from which to seek our official recognition because their requirements are meant to observe how effectively the school truly educates classically and Christianly by nourishing students’ souls with Biblical truth and passing on our classical legacy. Our vision and mission align most closely with this agency.

“Geneva has chosen ACCS from which to seek our official recognition because their requirements are meant to observe how effectively the school truly educates classically and Christianly.”

MEET GENEVA



The Lord has brought to Geneva this year six outstanding new teachers who have already demonstrated their skill and expertise in teaching. Students and parents have grown to love them as teachers.

We are thrilled to introduce Amber Alderman, Sandy Austin, Gabriela Girau, Joy Marshall, Kacey Mewborn, and Aimee Holzer. Each of these gifted teachers have abundantly blessed our Geneva family.



Amber Alderman

Grammar Music, Upper Vocal Arts

Amber Alderman, though not a native of Lakeland, has lived, attended church, or worked in Lakeland for most of her life. She thinks Lakeland is small enough to provide a hometown feel and the ability to build community connections, but large enough to support a thriving fine arts community. With an undergraduate degree in music education from Florida Southern College, a master's degree in music education from Florida State University, this is her thirteenth-year teaching music in a K-12 classroom setting. She is currently working on completing a PhD in music at the University of South Florida. In addition to teaching music at Geneva, she also teaches private violin lessons.

She describes her teaching this way: "I view both teaching and mentoring as more than a job, it is my calling in life. The Lord has entrusted me, for just a short-time, to teach students music and about faith and life. With this trust comes great responsibility that I take seriously. It is my hope that my students will learn to love to sing and play God's praises and to be the people God has intended them to be."





Sandy Austin

Kindergarten



Sandy Austin joins GCA as one of our two new kindergarten teachers. She's a graduate from Point University with a B.S. in Biblical studies, missions, and Christian ministry. She served on a church staff as a small group and youth ministry assistant and has served in the mission field for 13 years.

She has raised her children in Tajikistan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Brunei. Sandy says, "The Lord gave me the gift of joy and passion for discipleship and teaching. I'm always learning from church, missions, marriage, and raising kids. I believe all these areas of service taught me lessons preparing me for this season of life." She likes living and working in Lakeland because of the community she's found at Geneva and at her church, and she's especially thankful to be living close to her children's grandparents after 13 years overseas.



Gabriela Girau

Kindergarten



Geneva welcomes Gabriela Girau as our third kindergarten teacher, and we are thrilled to have three sections! She was born in Puerto Rico, is bilingual, and studied K-3 elementary education at the University of Puerto Rico. Gabriella observes, “In God’s providence the jobs that He provided for me in this country have been as a Spanish teacher, until now. This year when I was hired as a kindergarten teacher here at Geneva, I am finally doing what I love, teaching little children.”

She says that the Lord has prepared her for teaching at GCA by being part of a very solid church, Covenant Presbyterian, for 15 years where she has listened to the Word of God preached and learned a wealth of knowledge about the reformed faith. This foundation has been key for teaching in Christian school settings. Also being a teacher for little children for seven years in her previous job was a great experience and helped her acquire strategies to teach lower levels. She has three sons who are her joy.





Aimee Holzer

Third Grade



Aimee Holzer, our new 3rd grade teacher, graduated from UCF with a Master of Social Work. She was employed in that field for five years before starting her teaching career in public schools. Over the last 20 years, she has taught elementary education, ESE, SED, high school English, and adult ESOL before coming to Geneva. Her family and career have taught her how important it is to have Christ as the center of life, and she sees that serving at Geneva, she can combine her vocation with growing in faith.

She says, “I try to continuously relate what my students learn to life experiences and instill in them a lifelong passion for learning. In addition to embracing Classical Education curricula, I am currently pursuing a graduate Certificate in Theology and Ministry.”



Joy Marshall

Fourth Grade

Shortly before graduating with a B.A. in English from Southeastern University in 2011, Joy Marshall began teaching English as a Foreign Language online to students from around the world. In 2016, she had the privilege of becoming a middle school instructor at Roberts Academy at Florida Southern College, where she was trained in Orton-Gillingham, an approach to teaching reading specially designed for students with dyslexia. After three years at Roberts, she found herself burdened with the knowledge that flawed ideas about reading instruction pervade and persist in U.S. classrooms. With the goal of being able to better advocate within the system, she moved to teach upper elementary at Spessard L. Holland Elementary for three years. This is her first year at Geneva Classical Academy, which has brought her full circle in many regards.

She was compelled to join the Geneva family because it is a community where both the content of the curriculum and the methodologies of instruction are unified in the foundation of truth in Christ and His Word. Joy describes her journey this way: “The Lord decided to equip me with experiences to broaden my perspective on education, receive specialized training and awaken a passion for reading instruction, and create a thirst—no, a desperation—for an educational community where Truth is truly the cornerstone of both the content and method. One of the quips my students constantly hear me say is ‘You have no idea how blessed you are to be students at Geneva!’” Joy is married to Mr. Marshall, aka “The Captain,” and they are expecting a baby in February.





Kacey Mewborn

Upper Science



Kacey Mewborn is a first-year teacher who attended Southeastern University and received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry with an emphasis on research. She held several research positions, primarily working in the field of neuroscience. Most recently, she was part of the clinical research team at Lakeland Regional Health, which aims to support the doctors in their ideas to advance medicine. Throughout all of her opportunities, she always found the ones that involved teaching in some capacity to be the most fulfilling. She has made straight A's throughout her entire academic career!



Lakeland has been her lifelong home, and she feels blessed to have several long-term friendships that she continues to nurture while teaching upper school science at Geneva. She adds, "God has guided me with a patient and loving hand. More practically, I have been serving the youth at my church for years, which has prepared me well to speak into the lives of the students at Geneva and stirred my passion for discipleship."

Please join us in making these new faculty members feel welcome and a part of the Geneva family.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

To the many friends in our community who have donated so generously over the past few years in support of Geneva's vision for a beautiful, well-equipped place to compete, play, and grow:

WE THANK YOU

Physical education promotes habits of discipline and virtues of perseverance and fortitude. Team sports promote effective

cooperation and personal humility. Exercise reduces stress, increases focus, and gives students a solid foundation for the transformation of the mind. The Geneva Field House furthers our classical commitment to the education of the whole person.

We look forward to introducing you to our completed Field House in early 2023.



“
IN
EVERY WAY
AND
EVERYWHERE
WE ACCEPT
THIS WITH ALL
GRATITUDE.

A c t s 2 4 : 3

GALLERY

Field House Progress



Field House groundbreaking in May of 2022 with engineer Jason Alligood, board member Jessica Weeks, chairman of the board Caleb McDow, and headmaster Rich Cali.

During summer break, anticipation accelerated as the "Coming Soon" sign was installed and construction officially began.



GALLERY

Field House Progress



In the fall of 2022, the foundation was poured, and the skeleton of the Field House was completed.

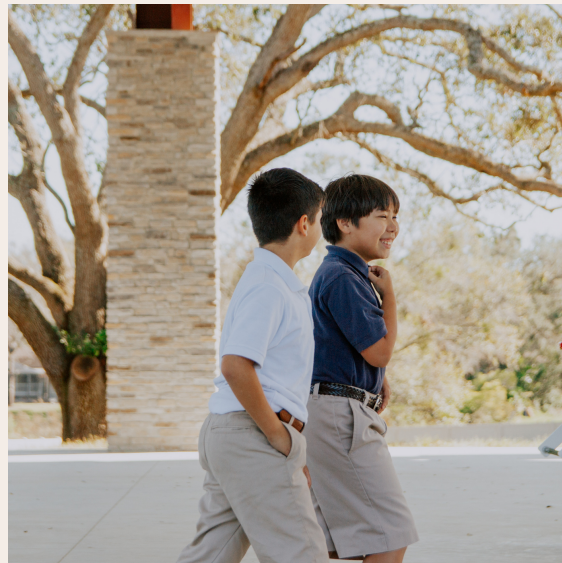


GALLERY

Field House Progress



January of 2023, the Field House is complete
and ready to host students!



SPORTS

HIGHLIGHT

2022-23

Girl's Varsity Volleyball Team



Congratulations to our Varsity girl's volleyball team! Led by their coaches, Ashlyn and David Green, the girls completed their season undefeated in their league and went on to win first place at the Central Florida Athletic Conference volleyball tournament.

The players: Ellie Grady, Paige Alford, Kate Scott, Nicole Walston, Rebekah Stayskal, Lydia Stayskal, Natalie McMicken, Audrey Godwin, Bethany Ostrom, Chloe Suits, Sarah Beth Miller, Sophie Dalen, and Lauren Grady



SPORTS HIGHLIGHT

2022-23 CROSS COUNTRY



Geneva's Cross Country Team competed in the Central Florida Athletic Conference championship this fall. The boys won for the fifth year in a row and the girls brought home their inaugural victory.

Carolina Austin completed the race in fifth place, Sophie Yates finished in third, and Ella Feder was the runner up.

The boys swept the top five-- Oliver Dempsey in fifth, Tyler McDow in fourth, Will Yates in third, Michael McDow was the runner up, and Ben Hill was the individual champion.



STUDENT ART FEATURE



Eliana Alday

Christmas in the Congo

This piece, presented at the Fine Arts Festival in 2022, depicts what Christmas looks like for children in The Congo. They receive presents through the blessing of missionary work; gifts they would not receive otherwise. Eliana's inspiration for this piece was grounded in her recent studies of *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad and learning about the democracy The Congo is today. She found joy in portraying the beauty of sharing Christ and his grace with those most in need. The world needs to see the spirit-borne smiles of the Congolese.

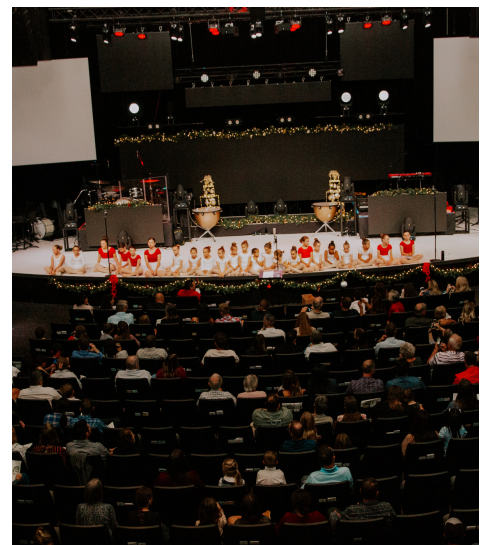
FINE ARTS FESTIVAL



The Fine Arts Festival is a collaborative holiday event presented by our fine arts teachers. The vocal, theater, and ballet classes perform musical and dance numbers while the visual arts classes curate pieces to be displayed in a gallery.

The performance is the culmination of the students' attentive practice throughout the first semester. Thank you to those who supported our Fine Arts Department this year!

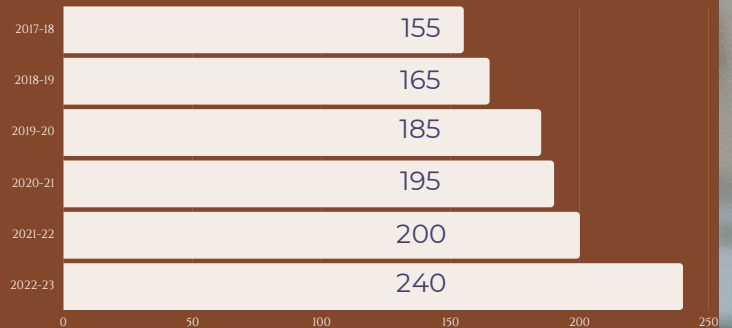




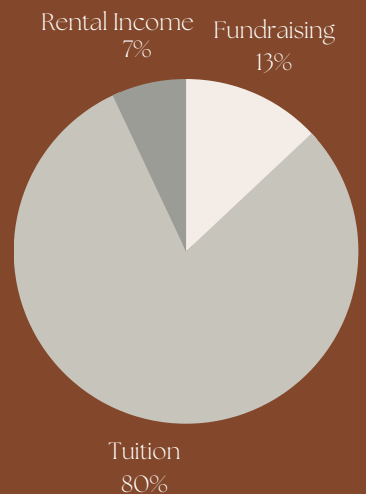
STATE OF THE SCHOOL



A LOOK AT OUR ENROLLMENT:



TOTAL INCOME:
\$2,090,500



Operating
5.8%

Misc.
9.9%

Administration
22.6%

Facilities
10.9%

TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$1,847,194

Instructional
50.8%

GENEVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY'S
THEATER ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

A Universal Truth

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
6:30 IN THE EVENING

SATURDAY, APRIL 1
2:00 IN THE AFTERNOON

1736 New Jersey Road, Lakeland, FL 33803