



# THE GENEVA SCHOOL

## Head of School



# About the School



*Geneva seeks to instill in students a desire to love beauty, think deeply, and pursue Christ's calling.*

Founded in 1993, Geneva is a co-educational, Christian classical school that is committed to historic Reformational Christianity, though not associated with any particular church or denomination.

A major goal of The Geneva School is to reinvigorate the liberal arts and thereby promote the lifelong flourishing of its students. Every member of the faculty understands that there is a great kingdom calling on each student's life and takes seriously the opportunity to shape a child according to his or her calling. The Geneva School not only aims to equip students for college, but also to instill in them a lifetime love of learning and a delight in God's truth that will allow them to flourish both in life and in their chosen vocation.

## Mission Statement

The Geneva School seeks to provide students in grades K4–12 an extraordinary education, by means of an integrated curriculum, pedagogy and culture, both distinctly classical and distinctively Christian, that pursues goodness, truth, and beauty in all spheres of life, while viewing these spheres as elements of a divinely ordered whole. Further, Geneva seeks to instill in students a desire to love beauty, think deeply, and pursue Christ's calling.

## Vision Statement

The Geneva School seeks to become an educational institution of scholastic and cultural gravitas, of extraordinary and exemplary virtuous scholars, a formidable force in the expansion and enrichment of Christ's kingdom, in the life both of the individual and of the world.

## Values Statement

The Geneva School seeks to instill in the educational community it cultivates an enduring love of learning, a commitment to serve others, and a dedication to the pursuit of religious truth, moral goodness, and aesthetic beauty, forged from historical models of orthodox Christianity.

Click [here](#) to view Geneva's Statement of Faith

## History

In May of 1993, a group of close friends met for dinner to discuss how adults and children are best educated. As the conversation continued late into the night, the group discussed a form of education that was gaining traction in pockets around the country called Christian classical education. Although new to many in the group, it was an educational model whose roots run deep into the soil and bedrock of Western Civilization. From that discussion, the group felt compelled to constitute themselves as the board of what was named The Geneva School. The school officially opened in August of 1993 with thirty-four students and five faculty members.

One year later, Geneva grew to 105 students, requiring the board to find a new campus. An educational building of a local church was secured as the new home and remained so until the school moved into its own property in 2003, which now continues to serve as the lower school campus. However, within three years the school had outgrown this facility, resulting in a second campus being purchased for its early childhood grades (K4–1) just a few miles away. Today, The Geneva School boasts a student body of 535 and a faculty and staff well over one hundred strong. In 2008, the school purchased a 42-acre parcel of land in Casselberry (thirteen miles northeast of downtown Orlando) and, in addition to a world-class athletic complex, will open a brand new 55,000 square foot upper school for grades 7–12 in the fall of 2019. Click [here](#) for details.



535



students are enrolled

K4-12th grade

\$28M



Upper School Campus

Opening fall 2019

#6



in the FHSAA Sunshine State

Cup 2A Private  
Schools

## Academics

Within an overarching goal of renewing minds and re-ordering affections, the education at Geneva aims to move the student toward wisdom, maturity, and eloquence. By encouraging and modeling a proper love and respect for God and neighbor, by cultivating wonder, by training according to developmentally-adapted modes of learning, and by teaching in an integrated cross-disciplinary fashion, the classrooms of The Geneva School are ideally suited for students to become mature, responsible, and faithful. Knowledge must result in understanding, whose ultimate end is biblical wisdom. When wisdom prevails, pride's power is transformed into humble service to the good of others and the advancement of Christ's Church.



## Grammar School (K4 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

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During the Geneva grammar school years, the school seeks to fan the flickers of those early yearnings to learn, discover, and love. K4 through sixth grade is called the grammar stage. Just as the study of grammar provides the foundation for understanding language, these early childhood years develop the essential building blocks necessary for more multifaceted, complex, and analytical learning that will occur later during their school years and throughout life. The Geneva School is committed to a classical curriculum that is intricately woven and integrated across all subject areas. The grammar school years at The Geneva School provide educational experiences full of wonder and growth. Students perform in the Three Piggy Opera, sail across the sea as Pilgrims, plant and harvest Peter Rabbit's garden, live as Egyptians in the land of the Pharaoh, emerge as Greek warriors from the Trojan horse, live as squires, knights, and ladies in waiting, embark on a field trip to Colonial Williamsburg, and immigrate to the United States through Ellis Island.



## Dialectic School (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

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The liberal art of dialectic is the skill of reasoning, questioning, and arguing in a way that intentionally recognizes grammatical and logical rules, and honestly seeks what is true. In the dialectic school one of the chief aims is to nourish students' minds by training them to identify compelling arguments and distinguish those that are sound from those that are not. One way of accomplishing this is to provide formal training in Logic, teaching them how to discern fallacies and how to construct valid arguments. Beyond simply asking "Why?" Geneva wants its students to frame and sequence questions that concern more particular categories like definition, comparison, cause, and purpose.



This skill of asking and following questions is prevalent in all of the courses in the dialectic school. In every class, the student is exposed to teachers who model Socratic instruction and to assignments that are intentional in requiring that they find and follow the most significant questions of the discipline. The skills of dialectic are therefore a major source for integration across the curriculum in these grades.

## Rhetoric School (9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

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Ninth through twelfth grade at The Geneva School is referred to as the rhetoric school, because during these years the liberal art of persuasive speech is highly emphasized among the other verbal arts. As the fundamental skill of speaking and writing, it is taught, practiced, and refined within and throughout every subject and class. Students in the rhetoric school are old enough to begin to understand that life is not simplistic. It is filled with complexity, nuance, and variation. They are ready to engage in deeper thinking and want to express their thoughts with more accurate analysis and more interesting style. Even when pursuing the highest levels of achievement in mathematics and science, these dialectic and rhetoric skills are incorporated into both curriculum and pedagogy.





## Student Life

As a community of faith and learning, the faculty and staff recognize that their mission is to invest in the lives of students—they are not an “institution” so much as a community. Each student brings his or her unique personality into their class. Every individual young man and young lady contributes in a vital way to the ethos and composition of the class. Student Life at TGS includes [Student Support](#), [Spiritual Development](#), [The Geneva School House System](#), [Fine and Performing Arts](#), [Clubs and Organizations](#), and [Community Service](#). Leadership opportunities for students are being steadily and progressively enhanced. Significant expectations of leadership are presented to students under the mentorship of the faculty and senior administration. Virtuous habits are cultivated in conforming to godly Christian character.



## Athletics

At The Geneva School, all students—K4 through 12th grade—have the opportunity to participate in sports. Geneva athletes are challenged to practice and play with purpose (to honor God in effort and attitude), with delight (to excel with their God-given abilities), and with respect (towards opponents, teammates, coaches, and officials). The goal is to manifest Christ-likeness, even in the midst of intense competition, as representatives of Geneva, the church, and family. The Geneva School’s athletic programs achieve at a disproportionally high rate of success. Geneva consistently ranks in the top 15 (among 120 2A schools state-wide) in the FHSAA’s Sunshine Cup standings—top 10 four times (#4 overall in 2016/2017). Click [here](#) to read more about Athletics at Geneva.







# The Opportunity



The Geneva School of Orlando seeks a theologically mature Christian leader committed to the classical liberal arts to be its next Head of School. As the top executive leader, the Head of School casts a vision, builds and directs a leadership team and faculty to accomplish key priorities, stewards the school's operations, and catalyzes advancement of the school's mission.

Since the school's founding in 1993, The Geneva School has grown to become one of the largest and most influential Christian classical schools in the country, with 535 students and a new upper school building opening this fall that will accommodate growth to 750 students. The Head of School will build upon the strong fiscal, academic, co-curricular, and community foundations that The Geneva School currently enjoys. The new Head of School is called to create a dynamic organization that perpetuates Geneva's core values, equips faculty and administration to develop professionally, and advances the school's impact in Orlando and beyond.



Geneva's Head of School will have the opportunity to build upon the school's strong foundation by:

- Attracting and developing talented faculty and best practices in the classroom to capitalize on the school's earned reputation as a strong, supportive community committed to the pursuit of excellence in Christian classical education.
- Cultivating stakeholder interaction (board, administration, faculty, parents, community) to fully support the school's mission and continued growth.
- Advancing Geneva's mission through a high-performing team that achieves key priorities and goals, including:
  - Developing a clear, all-encompassing vision focused on the portrait of a Geneva graduate.
  - Building out the campus with the facilities necessary to support growth and continuously improve student learning experiences.
  - Carrying the banner of the Geneva community and raising awareness of the excellence of its offerings to the Orlando community and beyond.
  - Fundraising to continue to develop the school's first-class facilities and faculty, enhance the educational experience, and make Geneva available to as many as possible who share its educational philosophy.
  - Investing in appropriate technologies to support the classroom model and preparing students for their education and life after their time at Geneva.
  - Furthering the spiritual maturity of students, faculty, and administration.
  - Strengthening the athletic and co-curricular programs, while preserving academic rigor, and balancing these elements in educating the whole person.

With full respect for the school's history and a deep commitment to its mission and values, the Board of Governors seeks a Head of School who will accomplish the following objectives:

**Advance the School:** From its inception, Geneva has intentionally embraced the classical method of education, believing the best pedagogy is time-tested, agreeable to the student, and instills in students a desire to love beauty, think deeply, and pursue Christ's calling. With this background, the selected Head of School will:

- Continue Geneva's commitment to classical education that prepares students for life-long learning, walking righteously within a fallen world.
- Exhibit a rich, growing personal faith in Jesus Christ, and affirm and abide by the Reformational theological commitments in Geneva's statement of faith.
- Provide an example of servant-leadership that will inspire students, faculty, and administrators.

**Cast a Compelling Vision:** The Head of School will operate as the school's chief executive officer and, as such, must be able to cast a vision, chart a course to attain it, and invite and involve other stakeholders in the pursuit of increasing institutional influence and positive outcomes for students. Specifically, the Head of School should:

- Naturally articulate a philosophy of classical education that encompasses a balanced and rigorous program of strong academic, athletic, artistic, and spiritual disciplines.
- Continue campus planning for facilities to support Geneva's growth and continuously improve learning opportunities.
- Lead the school's continued growth and effectively manage the change therein while maintaining the core principles and culture.



**Lead People:** Exceptional leadership is a skill undoubtedly required for the Head of School, a position that must balance and serve several constituencies and guide the school to think and execute toward key priorities. This leadership will be exhibited by how the Head of School:

**Leads the Administration:** Ensures that organizational structure is developed and aligned for successful administration of the school, and then staffed, developed, and resourced in a manner that will enable operational excellence. Continuously assesses roles with the intent of maximizing utilization, eliminating redundancies, and meeting changing campus needs. Establishes and communicates appropriate working budgets, management protocols, and cultural ideals that uphold Geneva's signature traditions and Christian practices.

**Leads the Faculty:** Helps develop an academic organization that best aligns faculty expertise and passion with areas of responsibility. Recruits and trains outstanding faculty members and establishes professional development programs and resources that assure retention and continuous improvement, while encouraging mastery of the art and science of teaching.

**Leads the Students:** The Head of School must have a love for students and understand the importance of knowing the students who make up the Geneva community and the academic, social, emotional, and spiritual challenges they face. Additionally, student experiences and environments should be strategically established to help them develop a vibrant, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Partners with Parents:** Geneva was founded for parents who desire a Christ-centered, classical education for their children. Geneva thrives to the degree it continues to honor the trust parents put in the school's ability to fulfill its educational mission and foster a community of like-minded families that pray for, encourage, and support each other. The Head of School ensures that Geneva provides opportunities for parents and families to be involved, communicates clearly and effectively about the learning environment, and maintains a culture in which students love to learn.

**Serves the Board:** Works with the Board of Governors to maintain a model of governance that allows the board to focus on overall policy and achievement of the mission, and delegates the daily pursuit and execution of the mission to the Head of School as chief executive. The Head of School also equips the board to understand best practices and implementation of Christian classical education, and to consider ways to incorporate innovation. The Head of School also has opportunity to educate the board on the intersection of reformed faith and culture.





# Qualifications and Attributes

The next Head of School will be:

- A humble, thoughtful Christian leader who understands the uniqueness of Christian classical pedagogy, can effectively manage academic affairs, and promote and deliver on the school's distinctives.
- A proven and respected educator who loves God and loves children, who is fully dedicated to cultivating and mentoring an outstanding faculty to do the same in all areas of school life.
- A mature Christian evidenced by a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, an ability to exercise spiritual disciplines, active involvement in a local church, and who personally embraces Geneva's Reformed theological commitments and its Statement of Faith.
- Adept at engaging the Board of Governors to be an effective ally.
- A winsome, relational leader able to communicate mission, vision, values, and distinctives in a manner that encourages students, faculty, staff, and parents.
- An administrator with a proven base of best practices, policy, procedure, and principles to help further advance the skill and expertise of the administration and faculty.
- Skilled in change management, communication, and possess the financial acumen to guide the school as it continues to prosper.
- Capable of initiating or expanding fundraising for identified priorities.
- Able to mobilize various stakeholders to achieve challenging goals.
- A strategic leader who can guide the school to think and execute both in the day-to-day and towards key long-term priorities.
- One with a biblical understanding of children and teenagers; who understands the threats and opportunities posed by a rapidly changing culture, and is prepared to safeguard Geneva's mission and values.
- Adept at operational execution.
  - Efficient: Moves people and priorities quickly to conclusion.
  - Follow-through: Gets it done right, on time, with no excuses.
  - Attention to detail: Ensures professionalism and excellence at every level.
- Someone who possesses a master's degree at minimum. Some candidates may also possess a PhD.







## Contact



Although applications will be accepted until the time that a new Head of School is appointed, candidates should submit a letter of interest and CV/Resume by August 5, 2019, for most favorable consideration. Nominations, expressions of interest, and application materials should be submitted to [TGSHeadofSchool@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:TGSHeadofSchool@carterbaldwin.com). Confidential inquiries and questions concerning this search may be directed to:



Chris Hornsby  
Associate Partner  
678.448.0003  
[chornsby@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:chornsby@carterbaldwin.com)

Scott Tanksley  
Consultant  
678.448.0008  
[stanksley@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:stanksley@carterbaldwin.com)

Shannon Prather  
Research  
[sprather@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:sprather@carterbaldwin.com)

Jodi Delikat  
Search Coordinator  
678.448.0016  
[jdelikat@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:jdelikat@carterbaldwin.com)