



A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

November was a terrific month for GHS and the PTO. National Honor Society committee hosted a reception for the new inductees. A big thank you goes to the helpful and creative committee of NHS Receptions chaired by Cindy Anderson. Cindy and her committee have put in time and organizing efforts towards the NHS reception for our hard working GHS students and their families. Thank you for making these evenings so enjoyable and giving the families time to share in these academic celebrations.

November would not be nearly as fun if there was not the annual TURKEY TROT during the PE periods before Thanksgiving break. Once again the Turkey Trot was a big success, with students and parents enjoying the fun and hot chocolate. Our PTO committee chairs have been incredibly organized and have created some wonderful activities for GHS. Thank you parents, teachers, and administrators for your time during these busy days of the holidays. Thank you to our committee chairs Amy Ahern, Lisa Conrad and Marcia Smith. We know the kids loved the extra marshmallows this year!

(Continued on page 2)

**GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL
VIKING VESSEL**

DECEMBER 2019



Geneva High School PTO Online



Geneva High School Online



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(Continued from page 1)

We are heading into December on a high note after enjoying a collaborative meeting alongside several hard working members of the 304 School Board. PTO continues to enjoy connecting and collaborating with the many active groups which support GHS students and their families.

Winter Spirit Week and Winter Formal will be coming up next year. Look for announcements on all the fun activities that will be occurring that week. Everyone involved is excited to bring another event to GHS. Families, look for signups for parent volunteer support.

As the year is moving forward please start thinking ahead to committees that you want to be involved with, such as, Post Prom. PTO sponsor some truly memorable events for all the students of GHS and becoming involved makes GHS that much more enjoyable for your student/students.

Again, a very big thank you goes to the Fabulous Bakers of PTO. The baking committee is chaired by Jody Sexton and the bakers are so active and helpful for all of these many events. We all thank you for your time, creativity, and help throughout the year!

Have a wonderful winter break with family and friends. Happy Holidays and Have a Happy New Year!!!

Sincerely,

The PTO Board:

President - Martha Harrison

Secretary - Carolyn Potosnak

Treasurer - Chrissy Swanson

Advisors: Candy Bengson, Julie Gearhart and Deb Dickinson



Follow us on social media:

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Geneva High School PTO

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GHSPTO

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving holiday. We now begin a very busy few weeks before our winter break. Please be reminded that our first semester final assessments will take place before the holiday break on Wednesday, December 18th, Thursday, December 19th, and Friday, December 20th. These assessments are an extremely important part of the semester grade, so we encourage you to avoid making travel plans until after the 20th.

The GHS music department will present their annual holiday concerts beginning with the Choir on Wednesday, December 4th, followed by the Orchestra on Tuesday, December 10th, and the Band on Thursday, December 12th. Please come and enjoy the sounds of the season performed by our talented high school musicians. All concerts are free and begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Geneva High School Art Dept. will present a winter art show on Dec. 10th, prior to the evening's orchestra concert. Please see the GHS website for more details.

The Geneva High School Leo Club and our music department are again partnering with the Geneva Lions Club for their 8th annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 7th, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the high school cafeteria. Please see the GHS website for more details.

Our winter athletic season is in full swing and our teams are off to a great start. Please see the **GHS Athletic Department** website for a complete listing of the schedules for the 2019-2020 winter season.

Congratulations to the following students, teams or clubs on their recent accomplishments:

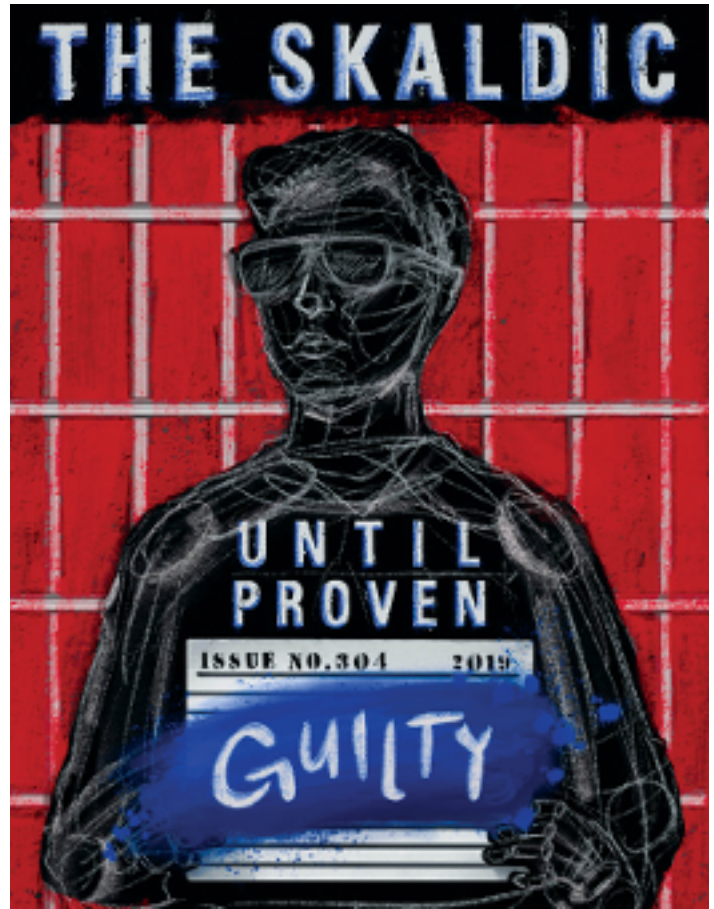
Congratulations to **Ben Calusinski**, who qualified for the IHSA Boys State Cross-Country meet in Peoria on November 9th.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Congratulations to the staff of the 2019 Literary Magazine, *The Skaldic: Until Proven Guilty* on achieving a 1st Place rating in the 2019 National Scholastic Press Association competition for Literary Magazines. This is the fifth time since 2010 the magazine has received a 1st Place rating. Staff members include:

Haley Williams-Editor-in-Chief
Veronica Ayers-Editor in Chief
Hannah Pell-Editor-in-Chief
Sophia Caruso-Graphic Designer
Natalie Rutledge- Graphic Designer
Emily Hanson- Graphic Designer
Josh Spencer-Graphic Designer
Caroline Lindwall-Graphic Designer
Sophie Lietz-Graphic Designer
Maddie Densmore-Copy Editor
Destiny Cole-Copy Editor
Noelle Martin-Staff Writer
Michael Fisher-Treasurer
Sophia Lobdell-Resident Artist
Sam Ayars-Music Editor
Zainab Mairaj
Kelby Randall
Aaron Dewey
Elle Plucinsky
Taylor Hayes



Please read the rest of this “Viking Vessel” for lots of important and helpful information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (630) 463-3805 or at trogers@geneva304.org.

Sincerely,

Tom Rogers, Principal

Geneva Community High School

GHS Personal Learning Choices (PLC) on Thursdays

First Semester: November thru December 2019

Every Thursday will begin with a PLC period, which stands for Personal Learning Choices. This period will begin at 7:40 and will last until 8:20. Buses will run on the same schedule as they normally do. First hour will then begin at 8:30 with slightly shortened periods for the remainder of the day. The school day will still conclude at 2:45.

During the PLC period, a variety of opportunities will exist for students to enrich their learning, collaborate with their peers, receive extra help on assignments in various tutoring centers, and participate in different activities. In addition to these choices, there will be some required sessions for specific groups and grade levels held during the PLC time. Attendance will be taken at these mandatory sessions and consequences will be issued for unexcused absences. The dates of these required sessions as well as additional information are included below.

Personal Learning Choices available each week:

Math Tutoring	EE134	Study Hall	Library
Writing Center	A101	Study Hall & Breakfast	Cafeteria
World Language Tutoring	A107	Silent Study Hall	A105
Science Tutoring	1E216	Open Gym Basketball (open to all)	Contest Gym
PLC Test Makeup Center	CC154	PE Makeups	Weight Room
Technology Help Desk	Library Office	Detention	EE193

Required and Optional PLC opportunities August – December 2019

WHEN?	WHO?	WHERE?	WHAT?
November 21 st , 2019	All Sophomores	Auditorium	Required: Course selection presentation for Junior Year (Please bring your charged computer)
December 5 th , 2019	All Freshmen	Auditorium	Required: Course selection overview for Sophomore Year (Please bring your charged computer)
	All Seniors who plan to Attend WCC	B126	Optional: For any senior who may be attending Waubesa Community College. There will be an informational meeting regarding WCC scholarships and the application process.
December 12 th , 2019	Enrich & Empower students	Auditorium	Required: Regular Meeting
	Freshmen & Sophomores	Counseling & Advising Office	Optional: Course selection Q&A (follow up from 11/21 and 12/5 PLCs). Stop by if you have questions or need more information.
December 19 th , 2019	NO PLC TODAY DUE TO END-OF-SEMESTER ASSESSMENTS. School begins at 7:40.		

Please note that additional presentations and options may be added to this schedule; any such changes will be communicated to students and parents, and the most updated copy of this schedule will always appear on the GHS website. There are a few Thursdays, such as half days and final exam weeks that PLCs do not meet; these dates are noted on the PLC schedule. Additional information regarding PLCs at Geneva High School is available on the Geneva High School website.

Updated 11/15/19

**GHS End-of-Semester Assessments and Final Exams
FALL SEMESTER IN DECEMBER 2019
ALL GRADE LEVELS**

The purpose of end-of-semester assessments and final exams at Geneva High School is to enhance student learning by:

- *Prompting students to revisit, think critically about, discuss, and apply key concepts and skills;*
- *Fostering a "big picture" understanding of course concepts and content;*
- *Evaluating cumulative student learning; and*
- *Preparing students for similar assessments at the collegiate level*

All classes will meet during their final assessment period and students are required to be present in class according to the following schedule:

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Period 1..... 7:40 am – 9:10 am
Period 2..... 9:20 am – 10:50 am
Period 3..... 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Buses will depart GHS at 12:50 pm **

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Period 4-5, 4-6, 5-6..... 7:40 am – 9:10 am
Period 6-7, 6-8, 7-8..... 9:20 am – 10:50 am

Buses will depart GHS at 11:10 am**

Friday, December 20, 2019

Period 9..... 7:40 am – 9:10 am
Period 10..... 9:20 am – 10:50 am

Buses will depart GHS at 11:20 am**

- Students are expected to take their assessments during the time scheduled for each class. If a student is ill, it is their responsibility to contact the teacher regarding a make-up time (in addition to calling the attendance line).
- All students are expected to be on time for their assessments – please check the schedule carefully.
- Any students arriving after 7:40 a.m. each day must use the main entrance and will be expected to report to the cafeteria until the end of the assessment in progress.
- Bus transportation will follow the normal schedule for the morning pick-ups. Buses will depart GHS approximately 20 minutes after the last period to allow time for students to return their textbooks.

- Student attendance in non-credit Study Hall, Supported Study Hall, Study Seminar, and Study Skills is **optional** during this schedule. All study halls will be available each day; however, attendance will not be taken. Students are not required to sign in or out for study halls. Please be aware that if a student chooses not to attend a study hall at the beginning or end of each day, they must provide their own transportation. Likewise, if a student leaves campus during their 2nd hour study hall on Wednesday, they must also provide their own transportation.
- **Breakfast** will be available for purchase in the cafeteria each day of final assessments from 7:00 am to 7:40 am. In addition to breakfast, a **limited menu selection** will be available for 30 minutes after the last exam on each day.
- Fox Valley Career Center classes do not meet on these days. Students are required to be in attendance for GHS classes only.
- Please talk with your son or daughter about the most efficient and effective use of their time as they prepare for these assessments. Tips for preparing for end-of-semester assessments can be found on the GHS website at: <http://www.geneva304.org/Presentations.aspx>
- Although the Geneva High School report card link in Home Access Center will remain active, the grades displayed may not be accurate until all assessments have been entered and grades finalized.

****Please note that bus departures are delayed each day to allow time for students to return their textbooks from one-semester classes using the schedule below:**

Date	Time	Location
December 16	Lunch periods	Textbook Room (EE195)
December 17	Lunch periods	Textbook Room (EE195)
December 18	7:20 am – 1:00 pm	Textbook Room (EE195)
December 19	7:20 am – 1:00 pm	Textbook Room (EE195)
December 20	7:20 am – 11:30 am	Textbook Room (EE195)

Second semester begins the first day back from Winter Break on Monday, January 6, 2020. Please use **HOMEACCESS** to **verify** and **print** your 2nd semester schedule.

Notes From the Deans' Office

Students wishing to park in one of the school parking lots second semester must apply in the Deans' Office by December 9th. Students that had first semester parking must reapply for second semester. Payment will be due by December 20th and the new parking assignments will begin, Monday, January 6th.

All remaining lost and found items will be donated December 20th. If your child has lost an item of clothing, a water bottle, lunch bag, etc....please have them stop by the Deans' Office to check the lost and found.

Please remind your child to always sign in and out of the Dean's Office if they arrive late or need to leave early.



GHS Students of the Month: November

A GHS Student of the Month award is earned by a student who stands apart, succeeds despite circumstances, or contributes in some special way to our school.

November students of the month are pictured left to right:

Marcella Monroy, Adrianna Gonnella, Annika Eichstaedt, Mary Beall, Brandon Cowhey, Ricardo Morales, Nolan Smith, Maddie Yehling, Maryam Abidi

NOT PICTURED: Casey Spratt

Holiday Giving **List for Christmas 2019**

The GHS Social Studies Honors Society is asking for donations of the items listed below. Each year our society assembles approximately 25 Christmas Dinners for Geneva families in need.

Last year we supplied 13 families from the High School and 25 families from the Elementary and Middle Schools with a full Christmas dinner.

You can send in the items with your children or drop off the items in the GHS main office by Friday, December 13th.

Stuffing

Boxed Corn Muffins or Roll Mix

Canned Corn

Canned Green Beans

French Onions

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Disposable Aluminum Roaster Pan

Laundry Basket (to package food)

Christmas Candy

Canned Yams

Canned Cranberries

Macaroni and Cheese

Marshmallows

Boxed Dessert-Pie, Cheesecake

Set of Disposable Tupperware

Gift Card to a grocery store for turkey or ham



SUPPORTING THE GEVENA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES

We provide equipment, apparel, and other opportunities that are not provided by district funding. Things like Logo Chairs for Contest Gym, Gymnastics Vault Runway, Baseball L-Screens & Dugout Jackets, Volleyball Target Trainer, Wrestling Warmups & Pants, Lacrosse Equipment Bags, and much more.



DONATE

Membership Update

To date, we have **210 MEMBERS** against our participation goal of 500. If you are not yet a Sports Boosters Member, [join today via the Webstore.](#)



Mark Your Calendars

Full schedules for all sports can be [found on 8to18.](#)

Save the Date - TRIVIA NIGHT will be held Saturday, March 7th.



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for the following...

Event Chairperson(s): Shamrock 3v3 Basketball Tournament

If interested, please e-mail genevasportsboosters@gmail.com



Need Spirit Wear?

Visit Geneva Ace Hardware on State St.
100% of proceeds benefit GHS Athletes!

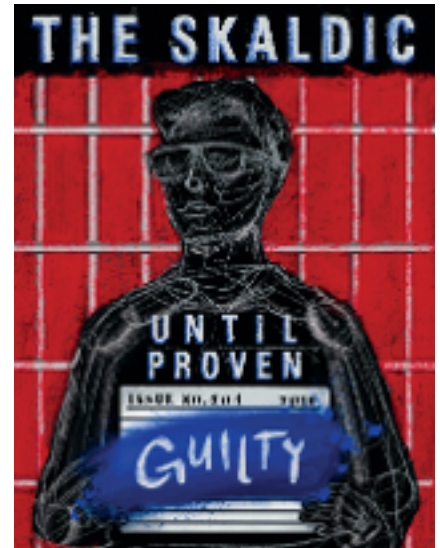
genevasportsboosters.com

Students Literary Work Recognized

Senior Elle Plucinsky and 2019 graduate Abby Rieck have been selected for *DePaul's Blue Book: Best of Illinois High School Writing 2018-2019*:

DePaul Professor ChRris Green and his graduate students in the Masters in Writing & Publishing program received over 70 literary magazines from high schools across Illinois and read hundreds of literary selections.

Elle's poem *Broken Puzzle Pieces* and Abby's Personal Essay, *Coffee House* will be published in a digital anthology on DePaul's English Department website in December 2019; students will also be invited to a reading and reception at DePaul University in January 2020.



Baking & Pastry Students Receive Sweet Lessons from Local Experts

Chef Mallory and Molly (GHS Grad) from Graham's Chocolates in Geneva came in to speak to Sara Consdorf's Baking and Pastry class. Chef Mallory shared her experiences working in the culinary field and her specific pathway to becoming a pastry chef. She also shared her passion for working at

Graham's Chocolates and creating custom cakes and pastries. She taught the class how to level a cake, add a crumb coat, frost and then decorate a beautiful (and yummy!) cake. This was an excellent introduction and demonstration from a trained chef to start off the classes' cake unit.



Chef Roby and his wife, Esther from All Chocolate Kitchen also came in to visit the Baking and Pastry class. He shared his passion and love of working with sugar art and creating life-sized sculptures. They shared many stories about their path to becoming local business owners and his experiences in national competitions. He taught the class about the importance of resiliency, finding their passion and always being willing to work hard. He also created beautiful sugar art sculptures in front of the class.

Geneva Lions Club Hosts Breakfast with Santa



The Geneva Lions Club eight annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, December 7, 2019, 7:30 - 11:00am at Geneva High School Cafeteria, 416 McKinley, Geneva, IL.

In addition to free photos with Santa, the event features live holiday music and a free crafts section. Customize your pancake with a variety of fun toppings at our Pancake Creation Station! The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and Arcadium Coffee.

Tickets \$7. Children three and under are free. Purchase your tickets from a Geneva Lions member or online at genevalionclub.org. \$5,000 raffle drawing at 11:00am. Raffle tickets are \$25 each. For ticket information info@genevalions.org.

The Geneva Lions Club works within the communities of Geneva and St. Charles to raise money primarily for the benefit of persons with sight or hearing disabilities. A large percentage of funds is also donated to local community organizations. Visit genevalionsclub.org to learn more about the Geneva Lions Club, our service activities, and the organizations we support.

Senior Breakfast

Although Senior Breakfast is 6 months away, planning for the event has begun. Seniors may purchase their ticket for just \$5 on the GHS Webstore in April/May. Donations for the event are needed as well.

To keep the cost of the breakfast affordable for our students, we are asking for donations from our families. The event location, cost of food, A/V equipment rental, and other costs add up quickly. The students are charged just \$5.00 per ticket with the remaining charges offset by donations from our families and the PTO.

If you would like to make a donation, now thru May, please go to the GHS Webstore, go to Geneva High School, select PTO, then Senior Breakfast Donations (or click [here...https://store.geneva304.org/?5CEFXTNATP=R4PFFEXXR7&CCPXNCY5KN=TFE4Y77X4C#!/products/T54XPPFANK](https://store.geneva304.org/?5CEFXTNATP=R4PFFEXXR7&CCPXNCY5KN=TFE4Y77X4C#!/products/T54XPPFANK)) or checks can be turned in to the GHS main office in an envelope marked "Senior Breakfast Donation."

Ticket sales will occur in May during lunch periods or can be purchased in April/May online through the GHS Webstore.

GHS PTO

GENERAL VOLUNTEERS



Turkey Trot was a hit with the students and we had wonderful weather for it too. Turkey Trot volunteers handed out hot chocolate to the students during their PE hour.

The holiday season is a quiet one for PTO volunteer opportunities, which works well, for we know all of you are busy with your own holiday preparations. We would just like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your time and commitment to the PTO, GHS, and our students! Have a wonderful Holiday Break with family and friends.

Turkey Trot

The Physical Education Department hosted its annual Turkey Trot on Wednesday November 20, 2019. Students from all periods and all PE classes took part in this time honored classic. Community members volunteered their time by providing hot chocolate to the students and high school district employees who came out and ran with the kids on their off period. Thank you to all who made this event a special experience for our physical education students.



G.I.V.E.

(Geneva Is Volunteering Everywhere)

Have you signed up to volunteer and spread some good cheer this **holiday season**? December is a great month to find meaningful opportunities to provide service to those in need.

WHERE TO VOLUNTEER?

You can volunteer just about anywhere! Check with your church, the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Delnor Hospital, animal shelters, food banks, homeless shelters, etc.! Consider registering to be a Salvation Army bell ringer at www.registertoring.com.

Pick up a GIVE record form from the GHS Main Office or print one at home and start tracking your hours.

For more detailed information about the program and forms please follow us on Twitter [@GIVE304](https://twitter.com/GIVE304) or visit www.geneva304.org/ghs and click on "Students" button. Links to some current local events looking for volunteers can also be found [@GIVE304](https://twitter.com/GIVE304).

GIVE Record Forms can be turned into the main office at any time during the school year up until April, 2020 but please be sure to take a copy for your records.

If you are wondering how many hours you have or want to make sure you're on track to reaching the Gold Level, send an email to me and I can let you know your totals.

If you are looking for GHS student volunteers, please let me know and I will get the information out to students.

Nicole Close - nclose747@gmail.com
GIVE Chairperson

Entrepreneurship Class

A team called Double Cutters is selling cutting boards for their Entrepreneurship Class. They have designed a cutting board and are looking for customers! This project is teaching them many different skills. They've learned how to listen to and research the needs of their consumers, as well as essential skills for selling products, such as advertising and pricing.

If you'd like to purchase a cutting board information on how to do so is attached. All profits will go back to the Geneva Woods program as well as Lazarus house.

Why Maple



Maple wood has been used since Native American times to create furniture. The wood has a smooth, natural look, which is a perfect compliment to our design.

On a more functional level, Maple is approved by the National Sanitation Foundation for use in cutting boards because the wood has is not porous, therefore inhibiting bacteria growth. According to their website "Once bacteria is trapped inside the wood's cells it suffocates, cut-off from the oxygen it needs to survive."

According to expert Dean O. Cliver, PhD from University of California, who conducted research on the wooden cutting boards and found that they contained less salmonella bacteria than plastic. On plastic boards, however, bacteria got caught in knife grooves that were near impossible to clean out.

Finally, Maple wood is one of the hardest woods, therefor ensuring our product won't be knicked as you chop your food.

Our Product

Product information >>>

Our Cutting Board is 9" by 14" and 1" thick, the perfect size for your cooking needs. We used maple wood because it is known for its strength and will not be damaged as you cut foods. The wood is finished with a dark maple stain, making it an elegant accent to both light and dark counters.



Features >>>

-Food safe stain: Using food safe stain ensures that our cutting board is functional.

-Knife slot: Keep your kitchen safe by inserting the knives into the knife slot if you need to step away from your work.

Pricing: \$19.99 per cutting board.

HOLIDAY DEAL: Buy 2 for \$36.

Additional cost for engravments: (see engravment section).

Engravement Option

For only a small extra fee, you can add an engravment to your cutting board. Customize you board to say whatever you would like!

Pricing Information:

Single Word: \$ +5

Phrase: \$ +8

**Can be printed vertically or horizontally across cutting board.*

Suggestions:

- Your last name
- “One day, I’m going to make the onions cry.”
- “Chop it like it’s hot.”
- “Home is where the Heart is.”
- “With Love...” or “To...”
- “Cooking with Love provides food for the Soul.”
- “Kitchens are made to bring families together.”
- “han·gry:adjective
Bad-tempered or irritable as a result of hunger.”

Perfect for...

- ❖ Don't wait until the last minute to go holiday shopping! This is the perfect gift for any homeowners and chefs.
- ❖ Have a party coming up? Add cheese, crackers, and grapes to your cuttingboard for an elegant appetizer.
- ❖ Wanting to create healthy meals at home? Start chopping veggies and freezing ahead of time for easy meal prep.
- ❖ Beautiful accent piece for any kitchen.



"We were especially impressed with the time and thought these kids put into this product . It's hard to believe they are only in high school ."

Elizabeth, Geneva Resident

Our profits support the Geneva Woods Class, as well as Lazurus House.



If you are interested in our product, please contact us for more information, or to place your order.

Contact us

GenevaDoubleCutters@gmail.com

and visit our website at

<https://2108049.wixsite.com/website>



A Geneva High School Woods Product

Artisian Maple Cutting Board

Team



"We want to create the best product available for our customers"



Baking & Pastry Class Creating Custom Cakes



Geneva High School PTO

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GHS Viking Vendor
twitter
@GHSVikingVendor



CHILD DEVELOPMENT & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CLASSES

LEARN FROM TWO AUTHORS

Sherri Rinker, #1 New York Times Best Selling Author from St. Charles spoke to Child Development and Early Childhood Education classes at GHS this fall. She taught 3 classes about the importance of finding their passion and her journey to becoming a children's book author. She also gave great tips for reading to young children - which was very helpful to these Little Vikings Preschool teachers as they all read to children throughout the semester. She also read her new book to us, *Three Cheers for Kid McGear!*

Tess Kossow, children's book author from Geneva, spoke to Child Development and Early Childhood Education classes at GHS, as well. She talked about her experiences with infertility, IVF, pregnancy, miscarriage, entrepreneurship and being an author. She read her book, *I'm Very Ferris*, to all 3 classes and hopes to continue to normalize tough topics like infertility. We are very appreciative to both children's book authors for visiting our classes!



Geneva High School

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Send photos, announcements, and news
to the Viking Vessel
Email vikingvessel@gmail.com
by the 15th of each month.