



A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WELCOME to all the Families and Students of GHS—

January was a quiet month for the students of GHS. Finals treats, headed by Amy Belloli, were handed out the beginning of finals week by our wonderful volunteers. The Art Show was amazing! It's so great to see all the creative artwork from our GHS students. Thank you to all Music Boosters, Sports Boosters, and PTO volunteers and chair people for your hard work, time, and efforts. It always shows and is appreciated.

A special thank you goes to the Post Prom committee of Tiffany Hughes and Julie Ford, as the creative ideas are being hatched for this year! We need volunteers to join in the fun for co-chair positions! Please contact Tiffany Hughes at tiffany.hughes@ucf.edu

Again, we thank the on-going committees of Give, Viking Vendor, Volunteer, Baking, and the Newsletter. If you have interest in helping with the Newsletter, please contact Carolyn at vikingvessel@gmail.com.

We look forward to the National Technical Honors Society Reception, which will be occurring this spring semester.

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GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL VIKING VESSEL

FEBRUARY 2020



Geneva High School PTO Online



Geneva High School Online



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(Continued from page 1)

We want to thank Mr. Rogers and the Assistant Principals; Mr. Drexler and Mr. McPeak, and all the Deans; Ms. Shrader, Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Allison, for their constant help on an everyday basis. There is an open-door policy for every family to learn more with Geneva High School. Please feel free to speak to the Deans and the Principals regarding any situation and your student's health.

We want everyone to remember that it is never too late to sign up to help in PTO. The simplest way to sign up is to email Candy Bengson, and her email is pcbengson@gmail.com. Candy organizes the General Volunteer committee, which will send out signups for events, then you may choose if you have time to help with various activities. Please check out the volunteer opportunities by clicking on the drop down under PARENT on the GHS website. We welcome your involvement in GHS PTO. Thank you for your time and for helping your student enjoy GHS and the many opportunities which are available to your student.

Sincerely,

The PTO Board:

Martha Harrison, PTO President

Chrissy Swanson, Treasurer

Carolyn Potosnak, Secretary

Advisors: Candy Bengson, Deb Dickinson and Julie Gearhart

Follow us on social media:

Twitter

[@ghsptoinfo](https://twitter.com/ghsptoinfo)

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[Geneva High School PTO](#)

Instagram

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Viking Vendor

Stop by the Vendor and find these special occasion snacks!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

[Young Hearts for Life was a Great Success!](#)

Thank you very much to everyone who helped make our Young Hearts for Life heart testing such a great event on Thursday, February 6th. Thanks to the Larsen family and their Kristoffer Larsen Big Heart Foundation, more than 1350 students (almost 75% of our student body) received free EKG tests. The day would not have been possible without the cooperation of our students, and the help and generosity of our parents and community members.



Trophy (they've earned a state trophy 7 years in a row!) -The varsity dance team earned first place at the IHSA Sectional and then earned their seventh consecutive State Trophy with a 2nd place finish at the IHSA State Dance Finals held at Illinois State University on January 31st and February 1st, 2020. Congratulations to Head Coach, **Amy VanWagenen** and team members:

[Important PLC meetings on Thursday mornings](#)

Throughout the year we schedule several "mandatory" PLC's for each grade level. Which means they ARE NOT OPTIONAL. These meetings cover important topics that we can present to students in a large group setting without disrupting the school day and taking away valuable instructional time. Unfortunately, we see a decline in attendance at this time of year at these Thursday morning meetings. Please keep a close eye on the Thursday PLC calendar (on the GHS website) and the messages we send to remind each grade level of these meetings and help ensure your son or daughter is present at these meetings. In addition to periodic mandatory meetings for each grade level, every Thursday there are many resources available for students looking for help in a particular class.

[GHS Spring Musical](#)

Please mark your calendars - the Geneva High School Music Department presents, "**Legally Blonde**," **March 19-22**, in the auditorium.

[The month of January finished with a flourish. Congratulations to the following GHS teams and individuals on their great accomplishments:](#)

Dance Team – IHSA Class 2A 2nd Place State

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brooke Baurer | Allison Chafee |
| Charlotte Davis | Alyssa DelGiudice |
| Avery Evans | Emma Fuller |
| Lauren Gies | Meena Gosain |
| Brenna Heth | Lilly Japlon |
| Lily Karlson | Kelli Kaufman |
| Mackenzie Miller | Emily Mundry |
| Maddy O'Rourke | Ashley Pender |
| Tori Preston | Ella Schamberger |
| Samantha Scolaro | Kyla Sheridan |
| Sydney Sheridan | Jillian Twitty |

ILMEA All-State Music Festival– The GHS Jazz Ensemble, "Blue Tones," was selected to perform at the ILMEA Music Festival on Friday, January 31st. Four other students represented Geneva High School at the annual All-State music festival in Peoria from January 30th– February 1st, 2020. One student earned a place in the All-State Honors Band, the highest-level group at the festival. One student was honored for his submission to the Composition component of the festival, while two students were selected to participate in the "Future Music Educators" workshop. Thank you to band directors, **Pat Frederick** and **Neal Shipton**, choral director, **Jessica Palmisano** and orchestra director, **Julie Lawrence**.

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Jazz Ensemble

Nicolas Amat

Kate Barr

Michael Capobianco

Alex Cappelli

Nathan Castagna

Cam Clausen

Kaia Ebel

Matt Ellis

Maddie Gartrell

Elizabeth Kliros

Steven Meyer –Composition – Honorable Mention

Lilly Nowak

Katharine O'Brien

Emily Olson

Gabriella Ost

Andrew Perez

Sam Sanchez

JJ Santiago

Sam Sennett

Alex Thomson

Natalie Ulaszek

Luke Vrba

Audrey Webb

Matt Styrna –All-State Honors Band

Hannah Bernhard –Participated in the ILMEA “Future Music Educators Seminar”

Hannah Thill –Participated in the ILMEA “Future Music Educators Seminar”

Congratulations to the staff of the 2019 **GHS Literary Magazine, *The Skaldic*** on achieving the **Superior** rating in the 2019 National Council of Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines (REALM).325 schools entered the program, and Geneva’s Magazine ranked in the top **ten** magazines in the state of Illinois. Thank you to Literary Magazine Sponsor, **Heather Peters** and congratulations to student editors, **Haley Williams, Hannah Pell and Veronica Ayars.**

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

Second Semester: January thru May 2020

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 8:25. 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 in this document.

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 January-May 2020

WHEN?	WHO?	WHERE?	WHAT?
January 9 th , 2020	All Juniors	Auditorium	Required: PSAT score interpretation and how to prepare for the April SAT. Please bring your charged computer.
January 16 th , 2020	All students	Community Room	Optional: Interested in test driving a career? Attend this session to learn more about the Job Shadowing Program offered through the GHS Career Center. This session will cover the details and how to get started!
	All students	Commons	Optional: Stop by the Commons for free hot chocolate and a chance to win an Amazon gift card at the "Chocolate is Hot, Bullying is Not" anti-bullying event sponsored by the DECA Club.
	Freshmen & Sophomores	Counseling Office	Optional: Drop in Questions & Answers about course selections for next year. Stop by and ask any questions that you have!
January 23 rd , 2020	All Freshmen	Auditorium	Required: Signs of Suicide, Part 1
	All Juniors	Community Room	Optional: Information session about the Senior Internship. All juniors are invited to learn about how this course can help them senior year in their career search and provide great opportunities for the future!
January 30 th , 2020	Enrich & Empower students	Auditorium	Required: Regular Meeting
	Freshmen & Sophomores	Counseling Office	Optional: Drop in Questions & Answers about course selections for next year. Stop by and ask any questions that you have!
February 6 th , 2020	NO PLC TODAY due to Young Hearts for Life Heart Screening. School begins at 7:40.		



February 13 th , 2020	All Sophomores	Various – will be posted	Required: Career Panels – Listen to a panel of professionals as they speak about their careers and the advice they have for GHS students. An email will be sent to you in January asking which specific career sessions you would like to attend.
	Juniors & Seniors	Various – will be posted	Optional: Career Panels – Listen to a panel of professionals as they speak about their careers and the advice they have for GHS students. An email will be sent to you in January asking which specific career sessions you would like to attend.
February 20 th , 2020	All Sophomores	Various – will be posted	Required: Career Panels – Listen to a panel of professionals as they speak about their careers and the advice they have for GHS students. An email will be sent to you in January asking which specific career sessions you would like to attend.
	Juniors & Seniors	Various – will be posted	Optional: Career Panels – Listen to a panel of professionals as they speak about their careers and the advice they have for GHS students. An email will be sent to you in January asking which specific career sessions you would like to attend.
February 27 th , 2020	NO PLC TODAY due to half day Parent Conferences. School begins at 7:40.		
March 5 th , 2020	Regular PLC Choices		
March 12 th , 2020	Enrich & Empower students	Auditorium	Required: Regular Meeting
March 19 th , 2020	All Juniors	Various	Required: Signs of Suicide, Part 2
March 26 th , 2020	All Juniors	Community Room	Optional: Naviance Tools. Join us as we outline all of the career resources Naviance has to offer. Please bring your charged computer.
April 9 th , 2020	All Juniors	Auditorium	Required: Countdown to College/Post HS Planning
April 16 th , 2020	Enrich & Empower students	Auditorium	Required: Regular Meeting
April 23 rd , 2020	All Seniors	Auditorium	Required: Senior Class Meeting regarding Graduation
	Sophomore last names: A-Binetti Close-Downing Gervino-Hellstrom Sorensen-Liamanadi Migo-Pagonis Riani-Slagle Twiss-Youman	Band Room EK269 Choir Room Orchestra Room J245 B126 Community Rooms	Required: College & Career Research Orientation. How do I narrow down my choices for a college major and potential careers? Please bring your charged computer.
April 30 th , 2020	Sophomore last names: Blade-Clark Drexler-Gartrell Herdigon-Kelly Lohdell-Meyer Pantano-Randi Sofiak-Turnbull	EK269 Choir Room Orchestra Room J245 B126 Community Rooms	Required: College & Career Research Orientation. How do I narrow down my choices for a college major and potential careers? Please bring your charged computer.
May 7 th , 2020	All Juniors & Seniors	Centennial Gym	Required: Spring Safety Presentation
May 14 th , 2020	All Seniors	Cafeteria	Optional: Senior Celebration Pancake Breakfast. All seniors are welcome and are encouraged to wear their college or career-related attire.
May 21 st , 2020	All Freshmen, Sophomores, & Juniors	Various	Required: Locker Clean Out and Textbook Return (students may also return books after finals)
May 28 th , 2020	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.

9th Grade Dental Exam Requirement

A new Illinois Law now requires a dental exam in the 9th grade. If your child is in 9th grade this school year please submit a copy of a dental examination to the GHS nursing office by May 15, 2020. The examination must have taken place within the 18 months prior to May 15th of this school year (after February 15, 2019).

The dental form (or waiver form) may be found at your dentist's office or on our District's website: <https://www.geneva304.org/HealthServices.aspx>.

The form may be sent by FAX to the high school nursing office at (630) 463-3849.

Please call the Geneva High School Nurses office at 630-463-3845, if you have any questions.

GHS Students of the Month: January



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.

January students of the month are pictured left to right:

Bradley Anderson, Genel Jaffer, Ohm Vyas, Collin Witt, Claire Jennings, Tessa Wagner, Gabby Fanella and Sophia Weber

NOT PICTURED: J. T. Frieders & Pablo Zamora

A big thank you to Jay Markuson and his Woods classes for creating the beautiful student of the month display case in the A Hallway (the background in the attached picture).

Geneva Girls Basketball

State Farm Player of the Week



The Player of the Week award recognizes Geneva players who have made an outstanding contribution to that week's girls' basketball games and demonstrated the ideals of the Viking Girls Basketball program. The State Farm Player of the Week award is made possible by the donation from Agent Bill Nelson of commemorative basketballs custom-printed for the Vikings' 2019-2020 season. Nelson, a resident of Geneva, has been an agent in St. Charles since 1997. To learn more, visit www.billnelsonagency.com.

Week 4 (Dec 27)

RASMUSSEN BOOSTS VIKINGS TO DEFEAT BATAVIA AND IS NAMED FOURTH STATE FARM PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Geneva guard Carly Rasmussen came off the bench in last Saturday's game against Batavia to provide her team a much needed lift. With all three starting guards in early foul trouble, Rasmussen brought stability and provided eight huge points to help Geneva defeat rival Batavia.

Rasmussen, who is a senior and wears #42, helped Geneva varsity girls' basketball obtain their ninth straight season win. As a result, she was chosen as the fourth regular-season State Farm Player of the Week for Geneva Girls Basketball by the girls' varsity basketball coaches.

"Carly is a great kid," Geneva Head Coach Sarah Meadows stated. "She is a gamer -- a tough kid. We have confidence in her ability to step in and not lose a beat. Proud of her!" Meadows presented Rasmussen with a custom 2019-2020 Player of the Week basketball.



Week 5 (Jan 8)

LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY MONTGOMERY STRENGTHENS VIKINGS AND EARNS HER FIFTH STATE FARM PLAYER OF THE WEEK

While most people look at top scorers and most rebounds, Geneva Girls Basketball understands the importance of having a true floor leader in senior guard Katie Montgomery. Montgomery played at her best during four tough nights at the Montini Christmas Tournament and was chosen as the fifth regular-season State Farm Player of the Week for Geneva Girls Basketball by the girls' varsity basketball coaches.

"Katie is a competitor," Geneva Head Coach Sarah Meadows stated. "We are at our best when she is running the show. If we need a stop, Katie will get it for us. If we need to run a set play, Katie will execute it." Meadows presented Montgomery with a custom 2019-2020 Player of the Week basketball.



Geneva Girls Basketball State Farm Player of the Week

Week 6 (Jan 11)

FRESHMAN ARNI PROVES TO BE A FORCEFUL FORWARD AND EARNS SIXTH STATE FARM PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Geneva freshman Cassidy Arni is establishing herself as a player-to-watch for Geneva Girls Basketball. She had her best game so far this season on Saturday, January 4 at the Chicagoland Invite at Benet High School. She pulled down six rebounds, blocked four of the opponent's shots and had a season high of 14 points. Arni, who is 5'9", held her own in a tough matchup defending one of Illinois' best in 6'4" Angela Dugalic from Maine West High School. The talented forward who wears #15 was chosen as the sixth regular-season State Farm Player of the Week for Geneva Girls Basketball by the girls' varsity basketball coaches.

"Cassidy is a stud. There's no other way to put it," said Geneva Head Coach Sarah Meadows. "Cass has so much potential and is so coachable. Another great kid for us. She will continue to progress and it will be fun to watch!" Meadows presented Arni with a custom 2019-2020 Player of the Week basketball.



Week 7 (Jan 13)

McCLOUGHAN'S HARD-HITTING PLAY NETS HER SEVENTH STATE FARM PLAYER OF THE WEEK HONOR

There may not be a kid in the area tougher than Geneva Junior Kelly McCloughan. McCloughan, an under-sized forward for Geneva Girls Basketball at 5'7", continues to go nose-to-nose with the competition. On January 7, McCloughan scored a season-high 12 points against rival St. Charles East. She added another 5 points in Geneva's win over West Aurora and 8 points during a huge conference win at Wheaton North. McCloughan was chosen as the seventh regular-season State Farm Player of the Week for Geneva Girls Basketball by the girls' varsity basketball coaches.

"Kelly is just tough. She takes an elbow to the face, gets up and leaps over everyone to pull down rebounds, and dives all over the court," Geneva Head Coach Sarah Meadows commented. "Her athleticism and defense awareness are just fun to watch." Meadows presented McCloughan with a custom 2019-2020 Player of the Week basketball.



Geneva Girls Basketball

State Farm Player of the Week

Week 8 (Jan 20)

KORNAK'S VERSATILITY FOR THE VIKINGS EARNS EIGHTH STATE FARM PLAYER OF THE WEEK HONOR

Senior forward/center Emma Kornak put together back-to-back season high games, pacing the Geneva Vikings' junior varsity team to two big conference wins over Wheaton North and Lake Park. On Saturday, January 10, Kornak led all scorers with 16 points. She stepped into the varsity game against Wheaton North and knocked down two 3-pointers to seal the varsity team's victory over a feisty Wheaton team. She followed up this performance with an even more impressive 19 points in the junior varsity team's win over Lake Park on Friday, January 17. Kornak was chosen as the eighth regular-season State Farm Player of the Week for Geneva Girls Basketball by the girls' varsity basketball coaches.



"Emma's shot looks so good right now. It's fun to watch her do her thing!" stated Geneva Head Coach Sarah Meadows. "Emma is just a great kid." Meadows presented Kornak with a custom 2019-2020 Player of the Week basketball.

Week 9 (Jan 27)

HINCHMAN CONTRIBUTES TO SOLID VIKING DEFENSE, NAMED NINTH STATE FARM PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Senior guard Grace Hinchman continues to show that she is a solid all-around player for Geneva Vikings Girls Basketball. After contributing six points to the Viking victory over Glenbard North on January 23, Hinchman scored five points, four steals, and three assists in Geneva's win against Wheaton Warrenville South on Saturday, January 25. Hinchman, who wears the number 11 jersey, also continues to lead the guards in rebounding. She was chosen as the ninth regular-season State Farm Player of the Week for Geneva Girls Basketball by the girls' varsity basketball coaches.



"Grace has such quick hands and defensively she is just tough," Geneva Head Coach Sarah Meadows commented. "She is a big part of what makes it so fun to watch the team play!" Meadows presented Hinchman with a custom 2019-2020 Player of the Week basketball.

GHS Students Received Awards at Scholastics Art Competition

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this year at the Scholastics Art Competition. This year our Suburban Chicago Art Region received 2188 entries, including 57 senior portfolios. These entries came from over 40 different schools, and were submitted by 1038 students, working with 135 educators. 638 works received awards and will be displayed in our Regional Exhibition. This competition is extremely competitive and these students should feel so proud for their accomplishments!

Here are the winners:

Gold Keys:

Gus Larson "Wave" Ceramics & Glass

Faith Stellick "Omega" Photography

Ricky Worthington "Red Room" Photography

Silver Keys:

Aaron Dewey "Funny Face" Painting

Scout Fortun "Excoriate" Ceramics & Glass

Lauren Freitag "Better Men" Mixed Media

Kassidy Keenehan "Moonshadow" Photography

Zoe Steele "Twisted" Mixed Media

Honorable Mention:

Colton Dixon "Ceramic Tile" Ceramics & Glass

Colton Dixon "Agent Blue" Drawing

Olivia Julian "The King" Ceramics & Glass

Sophie Lietz "Pose" Photography

Nathan Pedersen "Sunset Pines" Ceramics & Glass

Brianna Tabor "Twilight" Ceramics & Glass



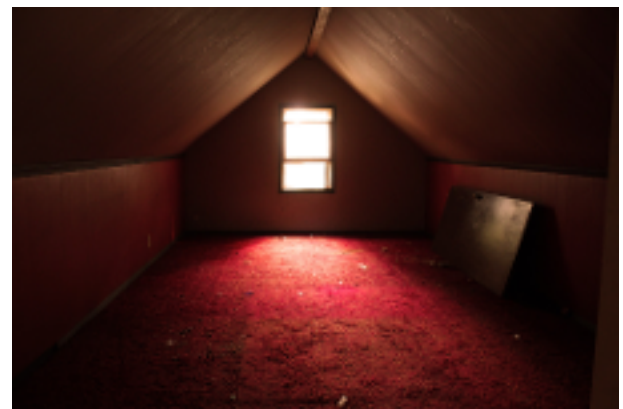
Scholastic Art & Writing Awards



"Wave"



"Omega"



"Red Room"



The **Senior Breakfast** is three months away! Although the event is sponsored by the PTO, the venue, catering, A/V equipment rental and other costs add up quickly. To keep the breakfast affordable for our students at just \$5.00 per ticket, we are asking for donations from our families to offset some of the cost.

If you would like to make a donation through the Webstore, [click here](#), or go to geneva304.org, select Webstore, and search for Senior Breakfast Donations. If you prefer to donate by check, please send your donation to the GHS Main Office in an envelope marked "Senior Breakfast Donation."

Ticket sales will begin online in April and sold during lunch periods in May. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Senior Breakfast Committee Members. Thank you for supporting the Senior Class of 2020!

Jennifer Main: jenmain@sbcglobal.net

Jennifer Smith: jenniferlsmith321@gmail.com

Amy Fuller: amyfuller75@gmail.com

Maria O'Keeffe: maria.okeeffe@edelman.com

Candy Bengson: pcbengson@gmail.com

GENEVA ALL SPORTS BOOSTERS

SUPPORTING GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS



Membership Update

To date, we have 210 MEMBERS, 44% against our participation goal of 75%. 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 Bto18](#).

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

Volunteers Needed

Event Chairperson(s) Needed: Shamrock 3v3 Basketball Tournament on March 14th. If interested, please e-mail genevasportsboosters@gmail.com

Need Spirit Wear?

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

Scholarship Opportunities

We have two \$1,000 scholarship opportunities for Seniors! Go to genevasportsboosters.com for details!

G.I.V.E.

(Geneva Is Volunteering Everywhere)

Do you believe there is less than three months left to gain your 2019/2020 G.I.V.E hours? The deadline is April 24, 2020 so if you haven't already, start logging those volunteer hours!

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.

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](#) or visit www.geneva304.org/ghs and click on "Students" button.

GIVE Record Forms can be turned into the main office at any time during the school year up until April 24, 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

Viking Vendor

Don't forget that the Viking Vendor is a great place to stop by and pick up school related items you might need in a moment's notice.

Forgot that poster board you needed for your English project, or can't find a #2 pencil for a test?

We have it all in the Vendor! Kleenex, chapstick, we even have deodorant for those who may want to freshen up after P.E. class!

Speaking of P.E., feeling a little thirsty after class? The Viking Vendor offers cold bottled water for just 50 cents. We have lots of great snacks to get you through the day, cold drinks and a variety of school supplies.

The Viking Vendor is open from the beginning of 4th hour until the start of 9th hour. We are located in the Commons, just down from the computer lab.

See you soon!



Geneva High School PTO

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GHS Viking Vendor
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Fridays for our Future at Geneva High School Celebrates its 5th Month of Action at GHS!

You may have seen some of our postings on social media, or noticed posters around the GHS hallways, and wondered, “What is this ‘Fridays for our Future’ thing all about?”

You’d have to be living under a rock to not know about the concerns about climate change and the future of our planet. Initially, I was inspired by climate activist Greta Thunberg and her ‘climate strikes’ and walkouts to bring national and eventually international attention to our planet’s challenges. But instead of organizing a ‘walk out’ I preferred to organize an action campaign, so that we can ‘act out’ and try to make a difference. (Of course, I don’t think Tom Rogers would have appreciated a teacher-led walkout, either) Our ‘Fridays for our Future’ movement is NOT political, by the way.



My French students were immediately onboard and excited about the project. One of them, Arthur Maiorella, started an Instagram account for us, and my students helped me to create our hashtag, #Vikings4ourFuture! Other students have already been involved in our school’s Environmental Club projects, from invasive species control to river cleanups and enhanced recycling efforts, advised by Science teacher Emma Cole. Our Student Advisory Board, in its 2nd year, is also tackling recycling and environmental awareness, advised by English teacher Chris Arnett and Guidance Counselor



Michelle Vargas-Herbst.

After creating a list of 20 reasonable actions students and staff could take to make a difference, we asked people to sign a pledge to add an additional action to help the planet. These actions included carpooling to school, work and activities; reusable water bottles and coffee mugs, reusable shopping bags for ALL shopping trips, shortened showers, going meatless one day per week, doing laundry in cold water, just to name a few actions. In addition, we started collecting plastic bags from staff members who weren’t already recycling them, and Spanish teacher Lynn Fors drops off several GIANT bags of plastic per week, we collect Styrofoam (both food containers and packing materials) which Special Education teacher Janet Meeks and her On the Job training students help me to load in my car each week for delivery to Dart Recycling, in North Aurora. So far, we have taken SIX minivan loads of Styrofoam for recycling!



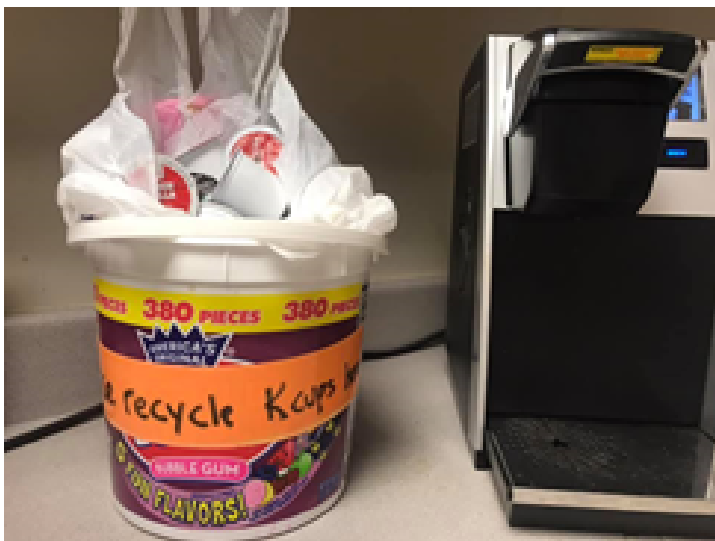
Fridays for our Future at Geneva High School Celebrates its 5th Month of Action at GHS!

(Continued from page 17)

Business teacher Kristine Ulbrich collects, disassembles, recycles (and composts the coffee grounds) over 150 Keurig coffee pods per week! In addition to the staff members I have already mentioned, we have many staff members, including Bryan Ketter (Social Studies), Julie Lawrence (Orchestra), Ame Kazmer (Special Education) and Kevin Gannon, Jason Lesatz, and Tom Anderson (Science), who make environmental responsibility a part of their daily lives, whether it's eliminating plastic products from their kitchens, or leading Fox River cleanups.

We plan to continue to expand the momentum for Fridays for our Future and encourage more student and staff interest AND action, so that our GHS Vikings can make a difference for the future. If YOU and your families make extra efforts for the environment, I would love to hear about your activities.
#Vikings4ourFuture#Fridays4ourfuture

Martha Behlow, GHS French teacher
mbehow@geneva304.org



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

Geneva High School
416 McKinley Ave.
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(630) 463-3800

