



GENEVASCHOOL

THE GENEVA SCHOOL OF MANHATTAN  
25 YEARS | 1996-2021



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25  
Since 1996





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## IMPACT REPORT



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Since 1996 The Geneva School of Manhattan has existed to provide a time-proven classical education within a biblical worldview. We inspire students to love learning, pursue excellence and become leaders in scholarship, virtue, and faith.

This report seeks to showcase its work over the past 25 years as it serves as the only classical Christian school in New York City.

Classical, Christian, and urban, these are the hallmarks of The Geneva School of Manhattan.







Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do...Your education is your life—guard it well.

—Proverbs 4:7, 13

## Part 1

### Classical Education: An Excellent Way



The classical model of education dates back hundreds of years and was the sole model of education until the twentieth century when progressive education was introduced into American public schools. Classical learning is grounded in a cumulative three-stage methodology, called the Trivium, which brilliantly befits the natural stages of a child's development. The classical approach trains the mind to think and ignites a passion to learn by demonstrating the interrelatedness of subjects and by calling on all exploratory senses in young learners. Students develop a mental agility necessary for adapting in an ever-changing world.

Discovering a reemergence of the classical pedagogy within the context of faith-based education intrigued the two would-be founders of Geneva School. It provided the missing piece between the excellent academics of many private schools and the welcoming gospel community of Christian schools. Rim Hinckley and Myrna Anderson, both educators, sensed God calling them to start a school that didn't yet exist in New York City—one with academic rigor and gospel centeredness. When classical Christian schools began emerging in the early 1990s, Ms. Hinckley envisioned this kind of school for Manhattan. Consulting with the leaders of The Geneva School in Orlando, Florida, proved definitive in more than one way. Both a model and a name grew out of these visits.

#### An Interview with Rim Hinckley



What led you, a single woman at the time, to start The Geneva School of Manhattan?

I moved to New York City in 1989, the same year that Redeemer Presbyterian Church started. I was immediately struck by some of the unique things being taught there. First and foremost, the beauty of grace and acceptance found in the gospel of Jesus. And second, that God loves cities, because God loves people!



My teaching background in both urban and suburban schools as well as private Manhattan schools revealed significant gaps in educational pedagogies, diversity, and opportunities. When I discovered the classical Christian pedagogy, I was eager to see a school like this in New York City.

#### **What was the influence of Redeemer on the founding of Geneva School?**

In the early 1990s most couples, after they had children, would move out of New York City for the suburbs. Tim Keller was challenging Christians to put down roots in

### **I knew that a school would play a significant role in keeping families in the city.**

the city, to desire its flourishing (Jeremiah 29:4-7). This was unconventional, and I couldn't help but consider what that meant for me and my single friends. I knew that a school would play a significant role in keeping families in the city.

#### **What does it take to lead a Christian school in our nation's most secular city?**

In a word, prayer! I know we are where we are today because of prayer. Through every year of this journey, we have had a cohort of praying parents meeting every

week to intercede for Geneva School (see [Part 4](#)). Because it's much harder here in the city in terms of real estate and operational costs, we developed a strong reliance on prayer.

Beyond prayer, it also takes a culture of generosity—people who share the vision and invest their time, resources, and talents to bring the vision to fruition. At the beginning, gifts from donors comprised 80 percent of operating budget; many of these donors were singles who would not themselves benefit from a Christian school, but who gave start-up capital and invaluable professional expertise to start the School.

#### **What do you want Geneva School to be known for?**

I want Geneva School to be known for inspiring lifelong learners and cultivating a community of thoughtful scholars. I want it to be known for its love for God, its joyous love of learning, and its discernible love of others in the city. In a polarized age where we tend to categorize others into political tribes or other labels, I want for us to be a community of Christians who cannot be categorized, who exhibit such a care for others that even though onlookers may not agree with our beliefs, they love that we are here in the city. They see our School as a blessing and hospitable community.





## Part 2

### Christian Faith: A Gospel Movement

In the last two decades, New York City has experienced identifiable growth in Christian ministry involvement and church attendance. One of the major catalysts of this gospel growth has been the work of church planting organizations and networks that work across denominations to train pastors and mobilize church growth.

According to researchers, Christian presence in Manhattan increased from less than 1 percent in 1989 to 5 percent in 2016 and 8 percent in 2019. Furthermore, it is projected that if a critical mass, around 15 percent, of New Yorkers affiliate with a gospel-centered church and express gospel values of mercy, friendship, justice and hope in the city, a “tipping point” in cultural renewal would be achieved.\*

This is the vision that propelled Geneva School’s mission from our founding and continues to sustain our work 25 years later.

The school occupies a place in the “gospel ecosystem” within New York City, an interrelated, dynamic, organic set of churches, ministries, and leaders that are seeking the renewal of the city through the hope of the gospel. As the only classical Christian school in all five boroughs and one of the only Christian schools, The Geneva School of Manhattan plays an important role. It provides a landing place for new pastors, church planters, and ministry leaders who move into the city. It provides an academic home for those already ministering here as their families expand. And it remains the primary educational space prioritizing children of ministry leaders.

Gospel momentum pulses through New York City in part because of Geneva School’s presence. Our founding mission, vision for the city, and sustaining commitment to ministry families fuel the decades-long gospel work.

\* Data from the New York Project. <https://www.newyorkproject.com/about-us>



Geneva School has been an enormous help and a crucial part of the current gospel movement in New York City. Without its unwavering commitment to ministry families and its generous financial aid, many of my staff and other ministry leaders would not have been able to make the transition to city ministry. I continue to be grateful for the vision, success, and ministry scholarships of Geneva School.

—Timothy Keller, Founding Pastor, Redeemer Presbyterian Church

# One Family's Ministry Move to New York City

Brandon and Jenn Petersen (P'17, P'19)  
Co-Pastors of Resurrection Life NYC



When we first sensed that God was calling us from our comfortable, settled life of ministry in Texas to plant a church in New York City, we had a lot of questions: What does ministry look like in New York City? How do you raise a family here? Where will our kids go to school?

At the time, our two children were beginning middle school grades, hardly an ideal time to move a family, let alone to such a big city and new environment. I remember calling Geneva School for more information and having a hour-long conversation with the director of admissions, who empathized with my hopes and fears and answered my barrage of questions. Through generous financial aid for our children, we were able to settle into a new city, new neighborhood, new ministry, and also meet new families.

I can honestly say that Geneva School has been an incredible blessing to our family in countless ways. Even though our children have graduated from the school, we continue to praise God daily for the education and relationships made in that season of life. Our children remain connected with several of their Geneva School classmates, and some of our closest family friends are still Geneva families.

Because of the gospel-minded mission of Geneva School, our family was able to transition smoothly and put down family and ministry roots in the city. We launched Resurrection Life NYC in 2017 and in spite of the pandemic, it remains committed to gospel ministry on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

We believe God is up to something here in New York City through a groundswell of church plants, and The Geneva School of Manhattan through its generous financial aid for ministry leaders, is playing a huge part in it.

We praise God for Geneva School!

# A Showcase of Multidimensional Diversity



## Displaying Ecumenical Diversity:

Within our current student body, 55 different churches are represented.



**Sustaining Gospel Ministry:** From our roster of 197 alumni, 29% represent families in full-time Christian ministry in New York City.



**Prioritizing Socioeconomic Diversity:** Half of our School families receive financial aid, a key factor contributing to the beautiful socioeconomic diversity in our student body. We estimate that more than \$20M has been given in financial aid since we opened in 1996.



**Providing Educational Opportunities:** Nearly one quarter of families qualify for NYC free student lunch.



**Serving Families From the Entire City:** Geneva School draws families from 4 boroughs and New Jersey, representing 59 distinct zip codes.





## Part 3

### Urban: We ♥ NYC



A much rosier report could have been written two years ago: Class of 2019 was our largest class of Eighth Grade graduates since the School's founding and were heading to their top choice high schools and boarding schools.\* Enrollment was projected to continue its upward march. We had just completed our first full year in our new school home on West 90th Street, adjacent to a soon-to-be renovated playground and tulip-laden community garden.

Two years later, we still marvel at the magic of spring tulips and the joys of our renovated playground. Our graduates remain impressive rising high school freshmen, who for the first time have the option of continuing their education at Geneva School as part of our inaugural Ninth Grade class ("a dream come true," according to one Upper School parent).

But our beloved city has been shaken by the pandemic. It bears the scars of suffering the hardest, initial impact of the pandemic last spring. Empty storefronts abound. Tourism lags. Many citizens remain haunted by ambulance sirens.

Nevertheless, as we have demonstrated this year, we are committed to the flourishing of the city. Because of prayerful dependence on the eternal God, we proceeded with reopening last August. We were the first and one of the few schools in New York City to reopen with a full, five-day, in-person academic program. "It's not lost on me that we were the first school to reopen its doors and the only classical Christian school in New York City. These two things are not unrelated; it is only because of our faith that we had courage to take this step," attests Rim Hinckley.

\* For a full list of high school admissions, see [www.genevaschool.net/alumni](http://www.genevaschool.net/alumni).

We recount God's faithful acts this year: committed and creative faculty, timely advice from the medical professionals in our parent community, and generous donors to our COVID campaign (see [Geneva Fund giving chart](#)). We remember God's attentiveness for those in cities (Jonah 4:11). And we know that city-ward migration throughout the world will continue. Today, more than 50 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas today, and it's estimated that in 25 years the world's urban population will increase one and a half times to 6 billion people.<sup>1</sup>

While we cannot predict the foreseeable future of cities, we anticipate a rehabilitated Manhattan, one that may look a little different from before but perhaps more livable. According to the [World Economic Forum](#): *Cities will see even greater emphasis placed on creating the best possible human experience, with more focus on supporting learning and development, creativity and collaboration - the real reasons people and businesses want to work together.*

Our confidence remains fixed in God who began a good work here at The Geneva School of Manhattan. We trust him to bring to completion our high school, commencing with Ninth Grade this fall and adding a grade each year to our first senior graduates in 2025.

**H**istorically, classical Christian schools are not planted in urban settings. In fact, [we] have struggled to find models of classical Christian schools in city centers. "The Geneva School [Manhattan's only classical Christian school] is the only one we could find."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank; <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview>.

<sup>2</sup> Christy Tennant, "Classical Christian Education Goes to the City," *Christianity Today*, Nov. 7, 2011





**1996**

Opened our doors to 22 students in 3 grades Pre-K through First Grade at Trinity Baptist Church, E 61st Street

**1999**

Surpassed 60 students and added a second location at Third Church of Christ Scientist, 583 Park Avenue

**2004**

More than 100 enrolled. First graduating class of Eighth Grade students

**2006**

Moved to Calvary Baptist Church, 123 West 57th Street

**2011**

Added a third space: Central Presbyterian Church, 593 Park Avenue. Ms. Hinckley returns as Head of School

**2014**

Surpassed 200 in enrollment. Receive 100% Geneva Fund participation from parents, a trend that continues to 2021

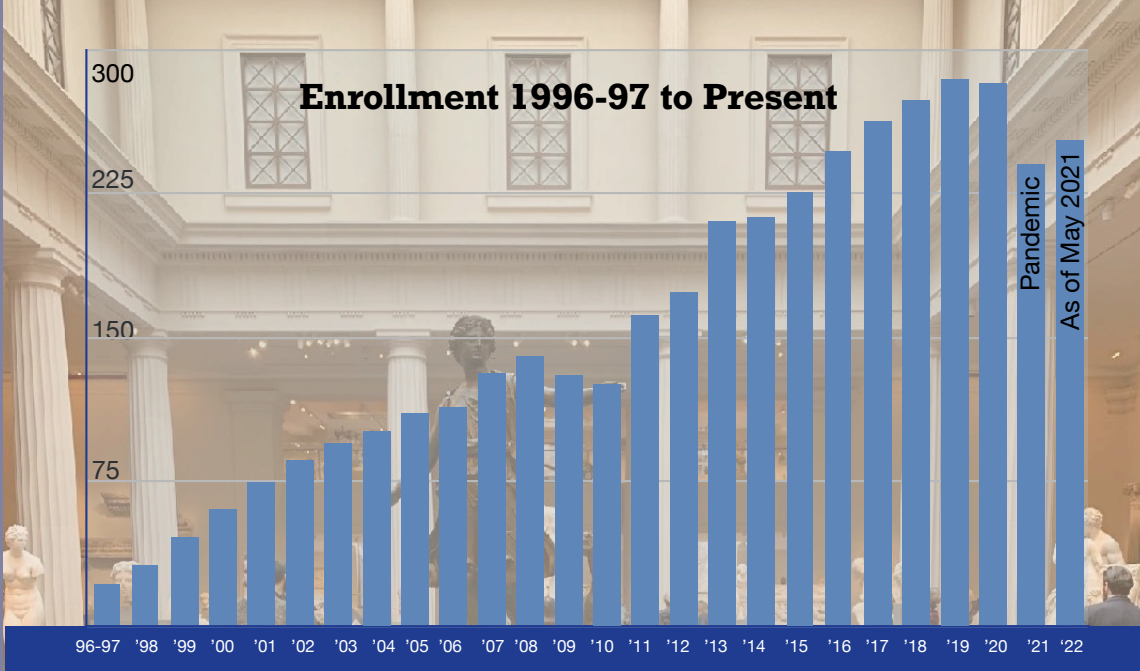
**2017-18**

Capital campaign and move into 138 W 90th Street

**2021**

Launch of high school with addition of Ninth Grade





## Part 4

### Prayer: Our Most Important Tradition



Mysterious is the work of prayer, beginning with its very premise. It's shocking that the Almighty Sovereign God would "work on behalf of those who wait for him" (Isaiah 64:4). Yet this character trait, an eagerness to act in response to prayer, is how God defines himself.

Starting a Christian school in the heart of Manhattan forced a deep dependence on prayer. A commitment to prayer has remained the single constancy throughout the School's many facility moves and transitions. Prayer is introduced as one of the key ways we invite parent participation, and parent class prayer groups have been a part of our School's fabric from the start.

Listen to the legacy of prayer from these current and former parents.

**Lisa Parson (P'05, P'07)**



My affiliation with Geneva School began before it even opened its doors. Our oldest child was in Geneva School's first Kindergarten class in 1996, and I joined the Parent Council, which had as one of its primary goals ongoing prayer for the school, the students, and the city.

It was always important to me that I cover my kids in prayer and that remains true today, even when they are no longer "kids" but young adults. Life can be tough. Our enemy the devil "prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8), and unfortunately I have seen the aftermath of that. But I live in great hope that "he who began a good work" in all of these students will carry it on to completion (Philippians 1:6). They all had an opportunity to hear the message that God loves them and sent his only son Jesus to save them for eternity. What an impact! I am deeply appreciative of my ongoing connection with Geneva School, and I commit to continuing in my daily prayer for the School and its mission.



**Christine DeRose**  
Parent Council President 2009-2013



The heart of Geneva School is revealed through its parent community prayers, a parent body that obeys the admonition to “keep on praying for all the Lord’s people” (Ephesians 6:18). We prayed fervently as a parent body, never giving up, even when it seemed impossible. We prayed over our children, our teachers, and staff, and most importantly, we prayed for the Lord’s direction and his will for the provisions and growth of Geneva School. It is incredible to see God honor those prayers today after 25 years of faithful parent prayer.

**Robert Quintyne (P’26, P’29)**  
Founder, Fathers Prayer



In 2016 when Geneva School was located on West 83rd Street, it was impressed upon me by the Lord that he wished to hear from his sons praying collectively on behalf of our children, the community, and the leadership. A small group of fathers gathered on the first Monday of every month to pray for the School and for ourselves. Out of these times, relationships were formed, and men began to open up in conversation as they prayed together. We’ve had the joy of praying over our graduates and leading Community Worship for the entire parent body. We’ve witnessed God’s faithfulness in answered prayers. God honors prayers of faith, dependency, and humility, as men have sought him in prayer to see his kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

**Michelle Perez (P’20, P’28)**  
Parent Council President 2015-2018



A decade ago when I was looking for a Kindergarten seat for my child, I could tell Geneva School was a special place. Still, I did not know just how special it was until I experienced a parents prayer group. Witnessing this regular commitment to one of the most basic callings of the Christian life transformed me and my faith.

I have enjoyed a front-row seat in watching the school thrive in response to prayers. Over my ten years at Geneva School, I have seen parents, faculty, staff, and students fervently pray for a building that would house our entire student body. That prayer

was answered in 2018. There has also been steadfast prayer that one day Geneva School would add a high school. That prayer is being answered this fall with the expansion to Ninth Grade. More recently, prayers for protection over our facility and community have resulted in onsite, in-person learning since late August of this year, one of the only schools in New York City to reopen amid the pandemic with full in-person, non-hybrid classes.

Prayer is what makes Geneva School a special place.

**More things are wrought by prayer than this  
world dreams of.**

– Alfred Lord Tennyson, Morte d’Arthur





# Part 5

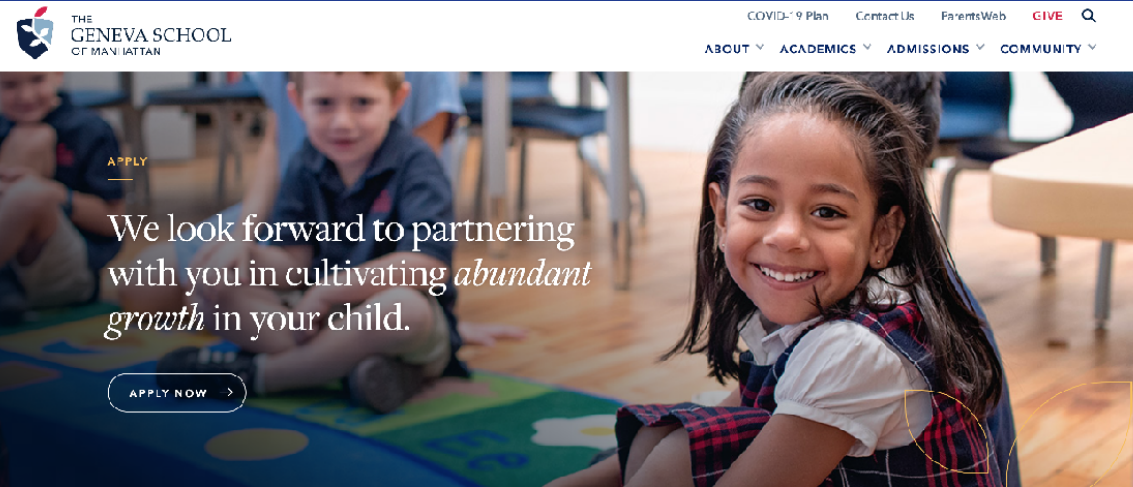
## Faculty: An Enduring Legacy

Our new website, unveiled this year, features beautiful imagery depicting the academic and spiritual growth taking place within our school every day. The “gardeners” in our learning greenhouse are a team of highly qualified, extremely talented, and solidly committed teachers who cultivate lifelong learning in their students and who exhibit a similar quest for knowledge in their own lives. In the classical model of education, we often say that the teachers are themselves the curriculum, for much of what is taught has less to do with the lesson plan than with the teacher’s character, intent, demeanor, and attention.

There's something quite precious about seeing a former student now teaching, and doing so with such passion.



—Jeanette Fung (Latin Teacher 2001-2007, 2020-present)  
taught Gabriela Remache, current Third Grade Teacher



This year like no other showcases the noble character of our teachers. In spite of much uncertainty of reopening amid the pandemic, our teachers created lively classrooms and critical continuity for their students. They displayed remarkable poise, patience, and flexibility in adapting to an altered schedule that accommodated distance learners and multiple learning pods. This year’s cohort of teachers join a remarkable faculty roster whose legacies are remembered in all corners of the globe.

Here’s what our alumni and parents say about our faculty:



GENEVA SCHOOL  
2020-2021  
THIRD GRADE



**Ceilo Overa ('04)**, Strategic Analyst, Department of Education, New York, New York  
*My Geneva School teachers went above and beyond their duty as teachers. And they loved teaching; If a teacher loves his or her job that comes through to students.*



**Nathan Popa ('05)**, Creative Director, Popa Films, Tallinn, Estonia  
*Mr. Hudson's logic classes have stayed with me... A good start for the rest of my life.*

**Connor Bartholomew ('06)**, researcher, organizational psychologist, Washington, DC  
*My Geneva School teachers had high expectations of us but came alongside to help us meet those expectations.*

**Caroline Lin ('13)**, student at Columbia University of the City of New York  
*I always enjoyed my teachers' creative and intriguing approach to math and science. I was fascinated by the way that Geneva School teachers could seamlessly mix learning and enjoyment.*

**Brandon Inkles ('05)**, Area Director at Young Life, New York, NY  
*My Sixth Grade teacher Ms. Moya helped instill a love of writing. ...How unique it is to*

*have grown up in New York City but to be known by Geneva School teachers and enjoy a rhythm while living in such a big city.*



**Josh Wong and Esther Hou (P'33)**, Lower School parents  
*Our family has been mightily blessed at Geneva School this year! Our son LOVES his Kindergarten teacher and is very excited to go to school every day!*

**Matthew and Kimberly Hoskinson (P'17, P'19, P'20, P'29, P'30)**, Current parents  
*Every single teacher brings enthusiasm for their discipline to the classroom, sparking imagination, wonder, and appreciation in students for even their least favorite subjects. The faculty regularly opens dialogue and investigation that has led our children down surprising pathways and new discoveries.*

**Lauren Marino (P'19)**, Alumni parent  
*One of his teachers even stayed with him after school to teach him how to track his assignments and discern what books he needed to bring home to study; she basically taught him study skills that he will now have for the rest of his life.*





Part 6

Donors: A Culture of Generosity



From the very beginning, Geneva School has been blessed by a culture of generosity. The cycle of generosity began in 1990s when Manhattan singles gave to the founding of the School, even though they would not themselves benefit from it. When the School first opened its doors, 80 percent of the budget was met by charitable giving from our donors. As the years have passed and the School has grown as an institution, our budget is sustained by tuition, foundations, and Geneva Fund giving.

One of our most significant accomplishments as a growing institution is the annual giving participation rate. Geneva School embodies a culture of generosity, in which parents, faculty, and staff support the Geneva Fund with 100 percent participation. We also recognize the varied forms of generosity present within our School community: generosity of prayer, volunteering, and parent involvement.

The work described in this impact report is attributable to our faithful, generous donors of 25 years.

We are thankful for Geneva School's presence in New York City and the work of forming young minds with a biblical worldview and a love for Jesus. —Foundation donor

In 2015 the School's Board of Trustees created "Vision 2020" and began working toward its fulfillment. They identified the overarching goal of securing Geneva School's place as the first choice school among the Christian families in New York City. The following three goals were identified:

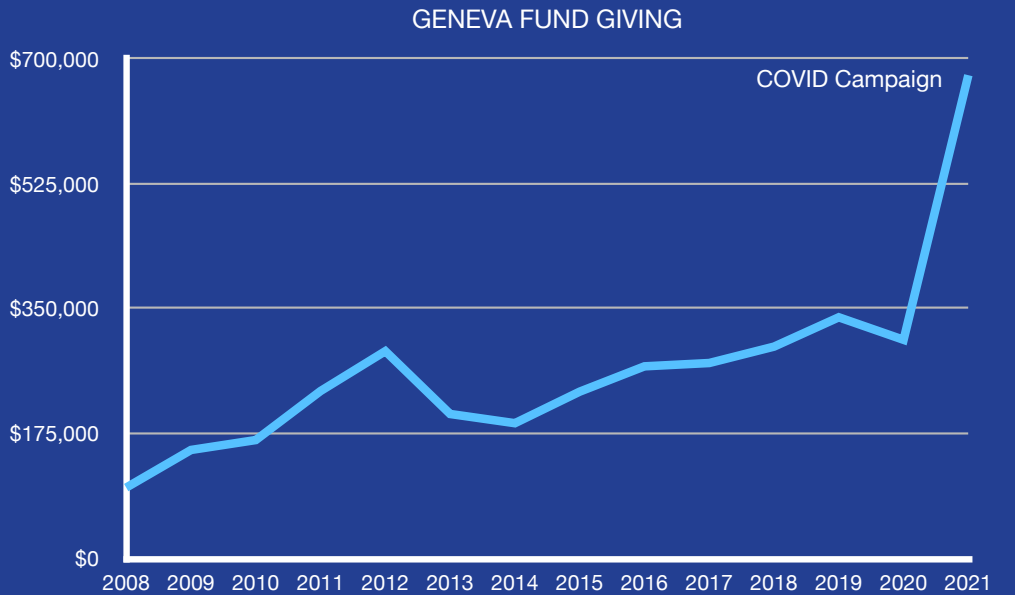
**GOAL 1 FACILITY.** We seek to establish one permanent campus where our oldest and youngest students learn alongside one another in community.

**GOAL 2 FACULTY.** We seek to retain and recruit faculty with passion for classical teaching and to be living witnesses of Christian faith to our community.

GENEVA SCHOOL IN 2015	GENEVA SCHOOL IN 2020
Short-term rentals in 2 locations separating Upper and Lower Schools	1 long-term campus housing all students
Separate short-term music, fine arts, and athletic rental sites	On/near campus facilities for music, fine arts, and athletics
No high school	College preparatory high school announced, beginning Fall 2021

**GOAL 3 FULFILLMENT.** We seek to serve a larger student population by developing a unique high school with a program that will incorporate the rich academic, cultural and spiritual resources of New York City.

Through the generosity of our community, we raised \$1.2M in the capital campaign (2017-2019) and were able to meet the pandemic-related budget deficit this year.





**We have chosen to support the School financially because we value what it means to the city as a whole.**

## The Perspective of a Donor

Long-Time NYC Resident, School Parent, and Scholarship Fund Donor

**A**fter more than a decade in New York City, of ever-shifting careers, churches and communities, my husband and I can truly say that Geneva School has become one of the most integral parts of our life here. It's given us a place where we know our children's minds and spirits are nurtured. It's provided a community where we've met other families of faith. And, in a season of great uncertainty, it's been a blessing and a source of consistency and connection for our kids.

Our kids are too young yet to be internalizing the lessons of classical education and critical thinking, but they are already reaping the benefits of incredible teachers who are laying a solid foundation for lifelong learning. (And they sound super cute singing songs about chess, French and the Bible!)

But we have also chosen to support the School financially because we value what it means to the city as a whole. Geneva School's mission and scholarship programs have created a really special community, one that is diverse ethnically, socioeconomically and even denominationally. It's a vivid, beautiful picture of the kingdom of God.

**In a season of great uncertainty,  
Geneva School has been a blessing,  
a source of consistency and  
connection  
for our kids.**

Selfishly, that's the kind of environment we want for our children in, the variety of peoples we want them to know and to interact with daily. It attracts some families of great influence, in ways both visible and invisible. The School's specific mission also makes possible the work of many families, not just pastors, who live out lives of service in the city— and enables the gospel to spread throughout New York City.

Like many families, this past year has caused us to pause, to reevaluate so many facets of our lives. We have been— and continue to be—immeasurably grateful to be a part of the Geneva School community.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alex Ray (P'29, '31, '34), Chair  
Carol Chen Chou (P'25), Vice Chair  
Daniel Matheson (P'26, '30), Secretary  
Michael Koh (P'27), Treasurer  
Camille Kampouris (GP'13, '16, '26)  
Edward Morgan (GP'16, '18, '25)  
David Park (P'27, '29, '30)  
Carolyn Parlato  
Rim Hinckley (P'14, '16), ex officio



## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Rim Hinckley, Founder and Head of School  
John Lee, Head of Upper School  
Tessa Tiemann, Head of Preschool and Lower School  
Sandy Kallen, Director of Admissions  
Joanne Lu, Director of Communications  
Gail Prescod-Aridou, Chief Finance Manager  
Renee Reynolds, Director of Development

[www.GenevaSchool.net/25](http://www.GenevaSchool.net/25)

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