

GENEVA ACADEMY

KNIGHTLY NEWS

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HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD GET STRAIGHT A'S

by Leslie Collins

Parents in our generation tend to desire a more affluent life style than we experienced as children. We are the wealthiest generation after all, and we go to great lengths to give our children experiences we never had. This is true for our views on education as well. For many of us, the idea of a Christ-centered education is not only too wonderful for us to believe, it's something we want to make the most of for our children. In many ways we are living vicariously through our children. We revel in their successes with them. We feel the pain of their disappointments. This is also seen in our perspective of our children's grades. We might have been average students ourselves, but we want more for our children. Certainly all of the effort involved in their education should produce honor roll students, right? Classical Christian schools are, like the mythical Lake Wobegone, the schools where all of the children are above average, no?

John Calvin observed that every man has a kingdom in his breast. We were created to be kingdom builders. At any time during the day, we are working steadily to build a kingdom. But which kingdom? The kingdom of this world? The kingdom in our breast? Or the kingdom of God? Any kingdom which is not His kingdom will crumble and fall. Are our thoughts, words, and deeds building our personal kingdom of success? Are we teaching our children that their sole purpose in life is to build God's kingdom and that any other quest is meaningless? Are we using every opportunity to show them that they are to pursue His glorious Kingdom, and not our own? We have a King who has left a treasure for us, an inheritance called knowledge, truth, and understanding. "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever..." (Deut. 29:29). We are often so eager to understand the secret things—the purpose of the tsunami, whether we are in the end times, the significance of a horrible dream—that we lose sight of the treasure our King has bestowed upon us; the things revealed. These revealed things are theology, language, math, science, history, literature, music, art, physical education, etc. Each of



Fall
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NOTICES & REMINDERS

◆ Columbus Day

October 10th Closed

◆ Teacher's In Service

October 14th Closed

◆ Pastor's Breakfast

October 27th

◆ Reformation

Celebration

October 31st

- ◆ You can keep up to date on your child's progress at **Engrade.com**



Geneva Academy
is a member of the
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"TO BRING ALL AVAILABLE LEARNING INTO THE SERVICE OF CHRIST"

these bodies of knowledge has been revealed to us by the Master Teacher. Each of these reflects the intelligence, order, creativity, and beauty of God. Not only are these things revealed to us, they belong to us. And not only us, but our children and their children own them as well. What a powerful motivation for studying, to know and enjoy Him more fully. This should be our focus in educating our children. They should know and understand that everything they will ever learn has been graciously given to teach them more about the Lord. Every cell, every atom of this universe proclaims His glory and they have the privilege of finding out how. Such a higher call is this than the GPA-obsessed focus of our culture. So greater is this focus than pressuring our children to achieve for the glory of an academic award.

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Deut. 29:29

Academic awards and grades are a practical way of telling children how they are doing. But, occasionally, we may view our children's grades as a measure of how we're doing. Would it be okay for our child to not make the honor roll? Have grades become a building block in our personal kingdom or theirs? This is not the purpose of education, nor the purpose of academic honors. Academic honors are simply a means of praising what is good and excellent as well as a means to encourage us to try a little harder. We need accountability and we need to honor that which is good.

God gives different gifts to every student. Some students do well with little effort. Some struggle to maintain a passing grade. The student who seeks God's glory will receive an eternal reward, regardless of his GPA. The student whose reward is the grade or recognition received will experience little true satisfaction ultimately. The Brazilian runner in the 2004 Olympic marathon understood this principle. His narrow lead in the marathon ended abruptly when a madman from the crowded streets of Athens pushed him to the ground while the other runners continued the race. The Brazilian quickly got to his feet and amazingly finished in third place. His elation upon entering the arena and earning a bronze medal was unsurpassed. He immediately praised God, kissed the ground, and blessed the crowd with his gratitude. Did he shake his fists at God for allowing the madman to attack him? Did he curse the other runners for passing him? His joy in receiving his country's first medal in the Olympics was not tarnished by the difficult circumstances of the race. Perhaps this should be our attitude as we consider our children's education. They have gifts, experiences, trials, and blessings that allow them to perform at their level of success. Are we communicating to them that we are not pleased when their best isn't what we dreamed it would be? Are we shaking our fists at God because He, in His wisdom and providence has given us a child who struggles academically, emotionally, or physically?

So, if straight A's on our children's report cards isn't what we should be focused on, what are the A's under consideration? The A's we should be striving to help our children achieve are these: Approval, Affection, Appreciation, and Acceptance. This is the model of love that God has for us. He approves us through the work of Jesus Christ. He shows us great love and affection in His sacrifice and daily provision for all that we need. He tells us that He is pleased with us in Christ, and He affirms that no matter what we do, we are accepted in His sight when Jesus is our Savior. This is the kind of love we should give our children. Approval of them whatever their grades are. Approval of their accomplishments no matter how small. Affection to remind them of our constant love even though they may have bombed their Latin test. Appreciation of their extra studying and thankfulness for steps in taking greater responsibility for their work. Acceptance of them, though their work may need improvement. When we set this model before our children, they will be motivated to work hard in the calling God has for them as students. God's glory is reflected when our love for our children motivates them to learn more about the things He has revealed. And this is a far better motivation, a far better reward, and a more worthy pursuit.



HONORS & AWARDS

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘mine!’”

--Abraham Kuyper

Geneva Academy maintains a system of formal honors and awards for several reasons:

1. The recognition of good work is endorsed in the scriptures, from the writings of Solomon (Proverbs), to those of Paul (Romans, Ephesians, I Timothy, etc.). Therefore, we seek to publicly recognize those students accomplishing the necessary prerequisites to receive the applicable award/honor.
2. We hope to encourage the motivation to good work among all the students by demonstrating to them that such work is not overlooked or taken for granted, but rather it is noticed and commended.
3. We want to draw public attention to the high quality of work being done by our students, to the glory of God and encouragement to their parents.

QUARTERLY AWARD CATEGORIES

There are two levels of academic honors for students on a quarterly basis:

Honor Roll A ---- (All A's)

Honor Roll AB -----(A's and no more than half B's)

END OF YEAR AWARD CATEGORIES

At our end of year Award's Banquet, students may be awarded

Character Awards

Grades 1-12 The Faculty/Administration determines this based upon the student's consistency with following:

Nehemiah Award	Who is hardworking - consistently works with determination, doesn't complain, is obedient
Micah Award	Who is active in the ministries of mercy and compassion
Barnabus Award	Who honors others - looks out for the interest of others, encourages them to excel, and rejoices with those who do

Academic Awards

History	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage, Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Math	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage, Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Science	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage, Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Spelling	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage
Latin	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage, Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Grammar	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage, Logic Stage
Writing	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage, Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Art	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage, Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Bible	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage
Reading Circle	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage
Memorization	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage
Music	Excellence & Most Improved	Grammar Stage, Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Literature	Excellence & Most Improved	Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Theology	Excellence & Most Improved	Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Logic	Excellence & Most Improved	Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Application of Knowledge	Excellence	Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Excellence Overall		Grammar Stage, Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage
Most Improvement Overall		Grammar Stage, Logic Stage, Rhetoric Stage

Excellence Awards are based on a combination of class participation, love and enthusiasm of subject, as well as grade average.



GENEVA KNIGHTS

F•R•O•M T•H•E

"What is your favorite subject so far?"

"My favorite subject is Latin. It is fun!" 2ND GRADE KNIGHT

"I like Science class because we might dissect a crawfish." 4TH GRADE KNIGHT

"My favorite class is all- because you get to learn a bunch of awesome stuff!
My best is Math because you uncover puzzles." 4TH GRADE KNIGHT

"My two favorite subjects are Logic and Literature. I like Literature because I love to read. The books we are going to read I am excited about. That does not happen often to me (believe me). I like how we have to analyze the books and that makes them easy to understand. I like Logic because it is a little challenging. It takes simple things and analyzes them in ways nobody would think about them.
Both of these challenge me, and I like that." 7TH GRADE KNIGHT

"My favorite class is Science because I love doing the experiments and learning about the earth and even the tiniest things in it like atoms and molecules. I think it is amazing how God made everything to work together so perfectly. Also, I really like Mrs. Tracy as a teacher and she makes learning a lot of fun."
8TH GRADE KNIGHT

"My favorite classes are Literature and Theology. The teacher is very nice and he really knows what he talking about. He makes sense and he knows how to teach well. He is not afraid to show you your mistakes. I especially like Greek Lit. As for theology, well it is AWESOME. Especially because it is so based on Scripture."
8TH GRADE KNIGHT

The staff and students at Geneva Academy ask you to remember us in your time of prayer. We desire to humble ourselves before God and give Him honor and praise for all that is accomplished daily at and through Geneva Academy. We want to implore His protection and guidance as we step into the future. Please pray for us!

