



GENEVA
COLLEGE

PROVOST

February 1, 2024

Dear Geneva Parents:

Commencement weekend is rapidly approaching. While we will give this information to the students at Grad Finale (Wednesday, April 3rd at 11 am-2 pm and 4 pm-7 pm in the Benedum room), we realize this kind of communication does not always find its way home. Thus, we are sending this directly to you.

The information contained in this letter is also available on <https://www.geneva.edu/commencement>. This includes all enclosures also. We will be posting late breaking information at this webpage. Please check it periodically and certainly before you come to campus in May.

Commencement Eve Dinner

Prior to Baccalaureate on Friday, May 3rd you and your family are invited to a commencement eve dinner held on campus in the dining hall from 5:00-6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$24 per adult, \$10 per child ages 5-10 years, and graduates will eat for free. See enclosed flyer for more information including the menu. Seating is limited so please RSVP and purchase tickets online on the commencement website at <https://www.geneva.edu/commencement> by April 19th or until capacity is reached.

Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate will be held on Friday, May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in Metheny Fieldhouse. Graduating seniors should assemble for the procession in Merriman Gym by 6:30 p.m. dressed in their cap and gown. The program is a worship service and an appropriate way to thank God for His provisions to our students and to commit them to His care for all their future endeavors. We encourage you to come for this special worship celebration.

Commencement

This year, we are planning to hold commencement outside in Reeves Stadium. It is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 4th, and lasts for approximately 2 hours. Gates will open at 8:00 am. If the weather does not cooperate, the ceremony will be moved into Metheny Fieldhouse where each graduate **may invite up to 10 family members / guests**. You can check the commencement website for location updates.

- Students who are graduating must be in Old Main – John H. White Chapel – by 8:45 a.m. to receive instructions. Please help them be on time!
- The ceremony will be live streamed. Family and guests not attending the ceremony may watch the ceremony live at <https://www.geneva.edu/commencement>.
- The bleachers in the stadium are hard and do not have seat backs. You are welcome to bring a stadium cushion or stadium seat with a back.
- Everyone is invited to a light refreshment reception immediately following the ceremony at various sites around campus.
- Students should order their caps and gowns online (see link on <https://www.geneva.edu/commencement>) **by February 21, 2024** and can pick them up and pay for them at Grad Finale on April 3rd, or in the Campus Store beginning on April 4th. The regalia package includes a gown, cap and tassel for \$44. The website includes the option to have their regalia shipped to their home if needed. **IMPORTANT: Deadline to order regalia is February 21, 2024.** Please contact Sarah Detrow with all questions at sdetrow@slingshotedu.com or 724-847-6596.

3200 College Avenue
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

EST 1848

Pro Christo et Patria

724.847.6605
[geneva.edu](https://www.geneva.edu)

- **Parking and traffic flow** are always a special challenge at Commencement. If your family is able to walk, please park on the street or in one of the peripheral campus parking lots. Please be courteous to our neighbors and do not block private driveways or park in the lots of the local business establishments. Traffic is always heavy on Commencement morning, and it is advisable to give yourself an extra 20-30 minutes so that you arrive on time.
- Information for persons with **disabilities or limited mobility**:
 - **Parking**: There are limited spaces available for individuals with physical disabilities and special needs. If you require wheelchair or limited mobility accessible parking, **even if you have a license plate or placard**, please complete the enclosed *Special Accommodations Form*. Those with a Geneva Commencement parking pass displayed on their dashboard will be directed to the drop off location where staff will be present to assist you in parking and unloading.
 - **Seating**: Special seating is available for those unable to climb bleachers. Limited space for wheelchairs is also available. Since space is limited, we ask that **only one** family member sit with this person during the ceremony. Please arrive early to secure seating accessibility. A special seating pass does not guarantee a seat for those arriving late. Remember, bleacher seating is without a backrest (including the special seating), so some sort of stadium seat with a back may be helpful.
 - Overall, it is very helpful if you can inform us in advance (no later than April 5th) if you have special needs so that we can provide the proper support. All special requests listed above, may be requested on the *Special Accommodations Form* which is enclosed with this letter. If you prefer, you may go to the website and complete the *Special Accommodations Form* online.
- If your graduate is unable to attend Commencement, please notify the Registrar's Office at 724-847-5566 as soon as possible. This information is critical for accurate planning.
- A **professional photographer** will take a picture of each graduate with the President. The proofs are sent to the graduate a short time after graduation; however, you are under no obligation to make a purchase. Use of a photographer has worked well as it reduces congestion around the podium and makes a better experience for all concerned. In order to be respectful to all graduates and their family and friends, no one is permitted to approach the podium to take pictures. You are welcome to take photographs from your seat.
- There are several other events taking place for graduates and/or graduates and their families:
 - Grad Finale – April 3, 2024 @ 11 am-2 pm and 4 pm-7 pm
 - Senior Send Off Dinner – May 2, 2024 @ 6 pm
 - Legacy Pinning Ceremony (for Legacy families) – May 3, 2024 @ 4 pm
 - Legacy Photos – May 4, 2024 @ 12 noon-1 pmMore information about these events is posted on the website.

We look forward to seeing you on Commencement weekend. If you have special needs which are not addressed in this communication, please contact Cathy Schlachter at cschlach@geneva.edu or by calling 724-847-6605 as soon as possible so that we can be of service to you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melinda R. Stephens
Provost

P.S. Please save this letter for reference when May 3 and 4 arrive!