



GENEVA
COLLEGE

PROVOST

January 5, 2026

Dear Geneva Parents:

Commencement weekend is rapidly approaching. While we will give this information to the students at Grad Finale (Wednesday, April 8th 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> or



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 8th 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. For more information including the menu, scan the QR below. Seating is limited so please RSVP and purchase tickets online on the commencement website by April 24th or until capacity is reached.



Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate will be held on Friday, May 8th 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 9th, and will include graduates receiving their associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees. The ceremony will last for approximately 2.5 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 8 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 on the website.
- The bleachers in the stadium (and the Fieldhouse too) 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 and pay for their regalia online. The regalia package includes a gown, cap and tassel. Regalia can be ordered by clicking on the Josten's link on the website or by scanning the QR code below. **Graduates who plan to pick up their regalia at Grad Finale on April 8th must place their order no later than February 26, 2026. Graduates who plan to have their regalia shipped to their home must place their order no later than March 26, 2026.**



Please contact Sarah Detrow with all questions related to regalia at sdetrow@slingshotedu.com or 724-847-6596.

- **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 ***Special Accommodations Form*** located on the website or scan the QR code below. 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 17th) 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 located online at <https://www.geneva.edu/commencement> or



- 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 8, 2026 @ 11 am-2 pm and 4 pm-7 pm in the Benedum Room
 - Senior Send Off Dinner – May 7, 2026 @ 6-8 pm at Connoquenessing Country Club
 - Legacy Pinning Ceremony (for Legacy families) – May 8, 2026 @ 4 pm
 - Legacy Photos – May 9, 2026 @ 12 noon-1 pm
 More 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 email us at commencement@geneva.edu 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 8 and 9 arrive!