VIKING VOYAGE TO EXCELLENCE ENDOWMENT
Dear Friends of Geneva Academic Foundation,

The Geneva Academic Foundation (GAF) “Viking Voyage to Excellence” campaign is to raise $1,000,000 for the GAF Endowment Fund, which will provide GAF with a sustainable and consistent funding source for annual grant requests from Geneva schools and teachers.

GAF is asking you to consider supporting the “Viking Voyage to Excellence” endowment campaign.

We listen. We respond. We deliver.

By listening closely to the community and responding to front line educators, our donors enable us to play a critical role in helping young minds come alive and thrive.

Thank you for considering a donation to support the GAF endowment campaign!

Sincerely,
Geneva Academic Foundation
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The Geneva Academic Foundation (GAF) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization which raises money to fund grants which benefit the students in the Geneva School District 304.

Each year, GAF provides grants to pay for supplemental programs, equipment, and educational resources that enhance and enrich the educational experience of students at each school in Geneva. The programs are based upon requests by teachers. Some of the items funded in past years include:

Past Years Funded Items:

Since its inception, GAF has awarded over $1,300,000 in grants to the Geneva schools.

GAF has relied on the support of parents, friends, and businesses for funding, holding an annual membership drive and several fundraisers throughout the year. As school budgets become tighter, the role of the GAF becomes increasingly important in the education of Geneva students.
The Viking Voyage to Excellence Campaign

What is it?

The goal of the GAF Viking Voyage to Excellence campaign is to raise $1,000,000 for the GAF Endowment Fund. This will provide a stable source of funding and allow GAF to more reliably fund the grant requests in the future.

Geneva was named as the top small town in Illinois to raise kids by Bloomberg BusinessWeek magazine. One of the criteria used by Bloomberg BusinessWeek was the quality of the schools. Chicago magazine named Geneva High School as the top high school in Kane County and named three other Geneva schools (one elementary and both middle schools) as being the best in Kane County. Test scores by Geneva students are consistently high and the Geneva School District has received numerous Bright A+ Awards’ and Bright Red Apple Awards. In addition, Geneva High School has produced many National Merit finalists.

As the strain on school budgets continues, it is more important than ever for GAF to continue its mission of funding grants that enhance the education of Geneva students.

People move to Geneva for many reasons, but one of the primary reasons is for the schools. Please help support Geneva students by contributing to the Geneva Academic Foundation ‘Viking Voyage to Excellence’ campaign today.

“
Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource.
"

--John F. Kennedy
Student Performance Indicators (from District 304 website)

**ACT Scores**
- District 304 Average Composite ACT Score: 24.2
- State of Illinois Average Composite ACT Score: 20.8

**Bright A+ Award**

**Bright Red Apple Award**
Geneva School District has been awarded this distinction every year since 2005.
Your Donation

GAF is asking for a donation to the GAF Endowment Fund. Donations may be made as a one-time contribution (preferred) or given over a three year period. Donations of any amount are welcome, but donations above $300 will be honored on a 7’ x 10’ permanent Viking Ship display prominently placed at Geneva High School. The maple and walnut ship was designed by local artist and Geneva High School art teacher, Al Ochsner and built by local craftsman Tom Kohorst. Donors will be recognized with an emblem on the Viking Ship display engraved with their name and donation level. For donations at the Voyager, Explorer, and Freya levels, the emblem will be a 3” Viking helmet located in the walnut field surrounding the ship. For donations at the Valkyrie and Thor levels, the emblem will be a 4” Viking helmet. For donations at the Odin or Valhalla levels, the emblem will be a 4 1/2” shield located prominently on the side of the ship.

Donation Levels

GAF is asking for either a one-time donation (preferred) or a donation given over 3 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Donation</th>
<th>Donation Per Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valhalla</td>
<td>$15,000+</td>
<td>$5,000+</td>
<td>4.5” Shield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odin</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>4.5” Shield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thor</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>4” Helmet</td>
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<td>Valkyrie</td>
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<td>4” Helmet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voyager</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>3” Helmet</td>
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Charitable Giving

How to Give?

There are many ways to support the GAF ‘Viking Voyage to Excellence’ campaign. These include:

**Direct Gifts:**
Direct monetary gifts are accepted in the form of checks, charges or money orders. Checks may be made out to ‘GAF Endowment Fund’.

**Matching Gifts:**
Many employers offer to match charitable gifts.

**Planned Gifts:**
There are various types of Planned Gifts that you can use to benefit the GAF including bequests and life insurance. Other options include Charitable Trusts and making GAF the beneficiary of an IRA or retirement plan.

**Stock Gifts:**
Donations of stocks or other assets may be donated.

**Memorial or Honorary Gifts:**
Donations may be made in honor or memory of a special individual or organization.
GAF Investments

All GAF Funds are secure and invested for the future with our partner Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley is a non-profit, tax-exempt, philanthropic organization that administers individual charitable funds from which grants and scholarships are distributed to benefit the citizens of the Greater Aurora Area, the TriCities and Kendall County, Illinois.

Founded in 1948, the Foundation provides a simple and powerful approach to charitable giving. Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations have the opportunity to custom design their own named funds that reflect their charitable goals and interests. Since its inception, the Community Foundation has grown to more than $80 million in assets and has awarded more than $63 million in grants and scholarships.

For more information on the Foundation, visit www.CommunityFoundationFRV.org.

Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley
127 South First Street, Suite 215
Geneva, IL 60134
Phone: (630) 896-7800

Geneva Academic Foundation Viking Voyage to Excellence Fund

To Donate:

Donation Form  Support the GAF ‘Viking Voyage to Excellence’ Campaign

Donor Information  (Please print clearly)

Name ____________________________________________________________

Name to be shown on donor emblem ______________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip _________________________________________________________________________

Email ___________________________  Phone ___________________________

Donation Type

☐ Check or Money Order enclosed  (made out to GAF Endowment Fund)

☐ Matching Gift

Company ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City/State/Zip ________________________________

☐ Planned Gift

Type ________________________________

Charge via Paypal at GAF website  (gafgeneva.org)

☐ Stocks

Type ________________________________

☐ Memorial or Honorary Gift

In honor of ________________________________

All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.
Please consult your tax advisor for tax implications.

Donation Levels  (Please check appropriate box)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>One Time Donation</th>
<th>Donation Per Year For 3 Years</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valhalla</td>
<td>$15,000+</td>
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Mail to: Geneva Academic Foundation
Post Office Box 44
Geneva, IL 60134
or online, GAFGeneva.org
Supporting Geneva Schools for over 30 Years

Aligned with a Tradition of Excellence
Geneva Academic Foundation

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is GAF?
GAF is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that funds grants requested by teachers or schools. The grants must enhance the educational experience of students in the Geneva Community School District #304.

2) When and why was GAF formed?
GAF was formed in 1987 by a group of parents and teachers in order to initially purchase computers for the schools. The school district did not have the money in their budget for computers, so the parents decided to raise the funds themselves. This was the start of the Geneva Academic Foundation. In the early years, the main focus was funding grants related to technology that would not have otherwise been available. Currently our focus is to fund any items or projects that enhance the education of the students.

3) Who can apply for GAF grants?
Any teacher, principal, or school in the Geneva Community School District #304 can apply for a GAF grant.

4) What are some examples of GAF grants?
GAF has awarded grants for a large variety of items. Initially, the grants were all technology based. Later, they were expanded to include any items that enhance the educational experience of the students. Grants have been given for computers, software, document cameras, Starlab, microscopes, skeletons, books, reading aids, and many other items. For a more complete list, see the list in this booklet or visit the GAF website at www.gafgeneva.org.

5) Who is on the GAF Board?
The GAF Board is comprised of volunteers in the community who care passionately about Geneva schools. If a member of the community is interested in serving on the GAF Board, they only need to contact the GAF President, or attend one of the monthly Board meetings to get started. All meetings are open to the public.

6) Who decides what grants GAF will fund each year?
The GAF grant applications are voted on by the GAF Board each May.

7) Where does the GAF grant money come from?
The money GAF uses to fund the grant applications comes from donations by community members and fundraisers that GAF holds each year.

8) What criteria are used to award the GAF grants?
The grants are awarded based upon multiple criteria that include: the number of students that will benefit from the grant, is it a one-time purchase or will it need to be repeated annually, how long before the item will be obsolete, is it in alignment with the Geneva School District goals and mission, and are existing programs unable to meet the need. A more complete list of criteria is available on the Grant application.
9) How much money has GAF raised since 1987 and awarded as grants?
GAF has awarded over $1,300,000 in grants to the Geneva schools since its’ 1987 inception. The money that is raised from January 1st to December 31st of each year is given out as grants the following year. In addition, two college bound seniors from Geneva High School are awarded $1,000 scholarships each year.

10) What is the dollar goal of the Endowment campaign?
GAF’s goal is to raise $1,000,000 for the Endowment fund. The purpose of this is to provide a more stable source of funding for the grants.

11) How has the Geneva School District budget been affected in these tough economic times?
As the Geneva School District #304 budgets become increasingly tight, teachers will have a harder time finding the resources for supplemental materials for their classrooms. GAF helps to provide the supplemental materials that enhance our children’s education.

12) What is the difference between GAF and the PTO?
GAF funds items throughout the Geneva School District, not at just one particular school. GAF grants can be very large—there is a $500 minimum for each grant—whereas the PTO’s can fund much smaller items at each school. Some of the GAF grants are for items that will be used by several different schools, such as Starlab which can be used by all of the schools. GAF tries to fund grant items that will have a ‘long life’ and enhance the education of as many students as possible.
Innovation for the Classroom

Teachers find new classroom materials to help students learn
GAF provides an R&D Boost for new ideas in the classroom

Teacher inspired innovation

Math Coding and Robotics

Reading Buddies

Hydroponics growing equipment

Better Science
Creative and New
Recent GAF Grants
Recent GAF Grants

Heartland Elementary School

Computers
Various Software Programs
Innovated E-Learning Tool
Daily Five Reading Materials
Dance Dance Revolution software for PE
Elmo Cameras and Projectors
Healthy Hearts Program
Heart Monitors
Making the Grade with Audio Books
Fusion Writer Program
Enrichment Resources
Heart Adventure Course Equipment

Alpha Kids Literacy Tools
“Picturing Western Art and Architecture”
Teaching Material
Broadcast Equipment
Character Counts Books and Videos
Listening Centers
Geography Center in LMC
VersaTile Sets
Interactive Boards

Williamsburg Elementary School

Computers
Various Software Programs
School Is Cool Quilt
Listening Centers
Daily Five Reading Materials
Dance Dance Revolution software for PE
Elmo Cameras and Projectors
Healthy Hearts Program
Heart Monitors
Scholastic Bookflix Literacy Program
Enrichment Resources
Heart Adventure Course Equipment

Alpha Kids Literacy Tools
“Picturing Western Art and Architecture”
Teaching Material
Thousands of Dollars for New Library Books
Multicultural Music Presentations
Broadcast Equipment
Character Counts Books and Videos
Local Artist Visits
Orff Musical Instruments
Stereo Microscopes
VersaTile Sets
Interactive Boards

Mill Creek Elementary School

Computers
Various Software Programs
Daily Five Reading Materials
Dance Dance Revolution software for PE
Elmo Cameras and Projectors
Healthy Hearts Program
Heart Monitors
Kindergarten Rainbow Rugs
Large Format Color Printer
Fusion Writer Program
Enrichment Resources
Portable Presentation Cameras
Heart Adventure Course Equipment
Character Counts Books and Videos

Alpha Kids Literacy Tools
“Picturing Western Art and Architecture”
Teaching Material
Multicultural Music Presentations
Broadcast Equipment
Literacy Listening Center
Digital Movie Camera
DVD Burner
Exercise Balls in the Classroom
CD Listening Library
VersaTile Sets
Interactive Boards
Fabyan Elementary School

Computers
Various Software Programs
Daily Five Reading Materials
Dance Dance Revolution software for PE
Heart Monitors
Healthy Hearts Program
Enrichment Resources
Heart Adventure Course Equipment
Scholastic Bookflix Literacy Program
Alpha Kids Literacy Tools

Harrison Elementary School

Computers
Various Software Programs
Daily Five Reading Materials
Healthy Hearts Program
Heart Monitors
Tag Readers
Dance Dance Revolution software for PE
Remote Microphones
Elmo Cameras and Projectors
Making the Grade with Audio Books
Fusion Writer Program
Enrichment Resources
Heart Adventure Course Equipment
Alpha Kids Literacy Tools

Western Avenue Elementary School

Computers
Various Software Programs
Daily Five Reading Materials
Dance Dance Revolution Software for PE
Healthy Hearts Program
Heart Monitors
Elmo Cameras and Projectors
Scholastic Bookflix Literacy Program Material
Book Browsers for Classroom
Enrichment Resources
Visual Aid Upgrades
Heart Adventure Course Equipment
Alpha Kids Literacy Tools

“Picturing Western Art and Architecture”
Teaching Material
Portable Document Cameras
Fusion Writers
Kindergarten Listening Library
Color Poster Printer
Interactive Boards
VersaTile Sets

Kiln
Thousands of Dollars for New Library Books
Multicultural Music Presentations
Character Counts Books and Videos
LCD Projector
Broadcast Equipment
Character Counts Books and Videos
Listening Centers
Geography Center in LMC
VersaTile Sets
Interactive Boards
Geneva Middle School North

Computers
Multimedia Laptops
Various Software Programs
Stereo Microscopes
LCD Projector
Document Camera
Speaker System
Multi-Media Equipment
Graphing Calculators
Fit For the Future – Gym Equipment
Classroom Performance System Sets
Hanging Microphones

Geneva Middle School South

Computers
Multimedia Laptops
Various Software Programs
Fit For the Future – Gym Equipment
Graphing Calculator
Diversity of Life Specimens and Models
Computer Controller Engraving Machine
Kurzweil 3000 Assistive Reading System
Enrichment Resources
Thousands of Dollars for New Library Books
SIGMA Team

Geneva High School

Computers
Various Software Programs
Virtual Library Collection
E-Portfolios – “Giving Students an Edge” software
Social Studies Multimedia Enhancer
FACS Technology Update
Cardio Equipment for Fitness Center
Visual Learning Needs and Technology
Project Software Demonstration Classes
Student Monitoring Timers
Walk Geneva Pedometers
Enhancing Math Instruction
Enrichment Resources
Moliere Than Thou
Hip/Ab Machines in Fitness Center
Infant Manikins/CPR Certs
Graphic Design Computers
Culinary Dept. Cold Storage Machine
Baby Simulators – Child Development Curriculum
Media Composer
Interactive Boards

Enrichment Resources
Ken-A-Vision Network Memory Scope
Thousands of Dollars for New Library Books
SIGMA Team
Heart Monitors
Embroidery and Sewing Machines
Classroom Performance Sets
Elliptical Cross Trainer
Stair Climber
Performance by Randy Sabien, Jazz Violinist
VersaTile Sets
Interactive Boards

College Bound Software
GTV Studio – New Set
TV Production Equipment
Thousands of Dollars for New Library Books
JETS Team
Starlab
Heart Monitors
Multimedia Laptops
Chemistry Lab Probes
Adobe InDesign Software for Yearbook
Photography Equipment
Classroom Maps
Ceramics Equipment
High Resolution Projector
Electronic Books
Performance by Randy Sabien, Jazz Violinist
120 Headsets
Digital Cameras
Kindles and Kindle Downloads
Color Printers
35mm Cameras
Geneva High School
Viking Plaza

GAF Honor Bricks - Buy a Brick Fundraising Program
GAF Strategic Plan

Vision

GAF: Providing a Bridge to our Future by Enriching the Classroom

We are enriching the educational experience of our children by providing a bridge to meet the common objectives between the District 304 Administrators, Educational Staff, Teachers, Students, Parents, Community, and the Businesses of Geneva through our dedication to service, leadership, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Mission

Geneva Academic Foundation (GAF) strives to provide students new educational experiences, ideas, and opportunities by funding grants for technology, services, programs and equipment for teachers, schools and classrooms throughout Geneva Community school District 304, grades K through 12.

Overview

The grants are based upon teacher requests for their classrooms. These innovative and supplemental educational resources provide benefits to students at each school in Geneva.

The Geneva Academic Foundation is an independent, 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization led by an all - volunteer board. We seek sources of private funding to support this mission. We raise money with a variety of fundraisers throughout the year for items beyond the scope of taxpayer funding including annual grants, scholarships and an endowment fund.

We are dedicated to enriching the educational experience of our children through the advancement of relationships, partnerships, membership and stewardship.

To reach our Mission, We Value:

- Relationships … with the Parents, Community, Businesses, District Administration, Educational Staff, School Board, Alumni, Teachers, Students
- Partnerships … with Geneva District304 and other organizations
- Membership … individuals donating time, talent, or resources to our mission
- Stewardship … ownership of our mission
Since 1987, the role of the GAF in Geneva has been to provide an ongoing bridge to academic enrichment for all students across all schools in the district. We provide larger funding to projects aligned with all District 304 schools and not funded by tax dollars, as compared to the PTOs and Booster clubs which are aligned with individual schools.

The common Vision of all members of Geneva School District 304 is to assist every student to become:

- **Self-directed, lifelong learners** who enjoy the challenge of learning; are self-confident and goal-oriented; and demonstrate physical, emotional, and intellectual well-being.
- **Effective communicators** who assess, interpret, and respond to information by reading, listening, and questioning; convey meaning in writing, verbally, visually, numerically, and artistically; and use appropriate technology.
- **Complex, creative, and adaptive thinkers** who apply academic knowledge, skills, and strategies to gather and interpret information to solve problems; create intellectual, artistic, and practical products that reflect quality and originality; and analyze the effectiveness of their decisions and solutions.
- **Collaborative workers/citizens** who recognize the advantages of diversity and cooperation; show concern, tolerance, and respect; demonstrate leadership and/or group skills; demonstrate actions that mutually benefit self and others; and assume responsibility for their actions, locally and globally.
The GAF also supports 5 of the primary goals of the District 304 Board of Education

Learning and Teaching

- Continuously improve the caliber, content, and assessment of instruction through the regular review of student learning and instructional methods.

Financial Resources

- Develop strategies to ensure sufficient resources are available and effectively managed.

Parents and Community

- Improve communication and interaction with the community to foster shared goals, values, trust, and support.

Student Health and Well-Being

- Provide a safe and secure educational environment for students.

Technology Integration

- Maximize learning and teaching through the integration of technology.

We will create additional opportunities for the community to partner with GAF over the next 5 years through our 5 year plan, Foundation 2020.

- We would like organizations, groups and individuals to enjoy working toward common goals with their interests and strengths close at heart and aligned to our GAF Mission.

- Our Focus areas will be driven by new strategies aligned with the best practices of educational foundations nationwide and the District 304 Vision.

The GAF Goals will be supported by our strategies which align with the best practices of educational foundations nationwide.

1. Share our story, 5-Year Plan and Endowment Plan
2. Grow funding
3. Grow Partnerships
GAF Foundation 2020 - GAF’s 5 Year Plan

1. Classroom

Our Core Mission of funding Teacher Grants and Classroom grants that Enrich the Student Experience. The common Vision of all members of Geneva School District 304 is to assist every student to become:

- **Self-directed, lifelong learners**
- **Effective communicators**
- **Complex, creative, and adaptive thinkers**
- **Collaborative workers/citizens**

Grants across all classroom studies including: Language Arts, Reading, Writing, Speaking, World Language, Math, Science, Technology, Engineering, Social Studies, History, Business in addition to others.

Examples: Stand Up Desks, multiple classroom Smartboards, computers, software, more detailed examples on Website at gafgeneva.org - Grants

2. College

and Career Readiness, Prepare for a life after high school whether the choice is to attend college, enter the workforce or obtain career technical training.

- Annual Scholarships to graduating GHS Seniors
- Next Gen Technical Training, Vocational school, Fox Valley Career Center

Examples: Annual scholarships are given to two graduating Geneva High School seniors ($1000 ea. Scholarship), funding for much of the equipment in GTV television studio –for students pursuing careers in broadcasting.

3. Cultural Arts

Support the Next Generation of students in Visual and Performing Arts.

- Art, Music, Theater, Clubs

Examples: DECA iPads for tradeshows, SmartPens and MAC computers for GHS art classes, funding for French Language singer/performer for the students taking taking French classes.

4. Community

Support a strong stable family, support for all students in school.

- Student services, early education intervention, counselors, family engagement
- Focused through mentoring, tutoring, tracking, guidance and support services
- Student health, Physical Education
- Aligned to District 304 Purpose ...desire to learn...needs of the individual.

Examples: Multiple grants for various PE classes including heart rate monitors and a physical challenge game for Geneva’s Middle Schools and Elementary Schools.
Strategy 1: An Education Foundation must be treated as a business

- Reaffirm Vision/Mission/Values and create 5 year Goals/Strategies document
- Redesigned Website, total cost $300 through Charity Advantage
- Updated By-Laws
- Gain a Gold level GuideStar rating, #1 nonprofit rating service GuideStar

Strategy 2: Know the funding priorities of your district

- Interview and gain Input from District Geneva 304 Board, Principals, Teachers
- Align foundation funding priorities with the districts strategic plan, allow flexibility
  - A) Priority 1. Learning and Teaching - Continuously improve the caliber, content, and assessment of instruction
  - B) Priority 2. Parents and Community - Improve communication and interaction with the community to foster shared goals, values, trust, and support.

Strategy 3: Build a strong and educated Board

- Goal of 15 Board members for a full Board.
- Goal of Top 25 in National Dashboard Stepping UP division 4 (Geneva is Div 4)
- Joined the NSFA, National School Foundation Association

Strategy 5: Operate with a Five-Year Plan

- Vision/Mission/Values/Goals named: Foundation 2020
- Build $1mm endowment, strengthen partnership with business

Strategy 6: Create and Compare foundation to Peers

- Use comparison report 2015 from Stepping UP
- Goal of Top 25 in National Dashboard Stepping UP division 4 (where Geneva is)

Strategy 7: Develop all opportunities of Fundraising

- Annual fund goals $25,000 and growing
- Endowment fund goal $1,000,000 by 2020
- Membership drive in School registration packet...
- Honor Bricks Buy a Brick program - revenue neutral to the District.
- Hold a Gala in 2017 for GAF 30th anniversary in 2017
- Create fundraisers that bring parents and supporters together for fun

Strategy 8: Develop Committees - drive speed, effectiveness and efficiency

- Establish committees to drive workflow and manage time for all board members
- Establish structure of the organization and how roles and responsibilities of each committee and Officer
- Communications Committee, Endowment Committee, Finance Committee, Fundraising Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Volunteer/Membership Committee, Scholarships and Grants

The GAF Strategies will support the next generation of the foundation:
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!