

# Geneva Area City Schools

Eric M. Kujala, Superintendent  
Geneva, Ohio 44041  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**Board of Education**  
135 South Eagle Street  
(440) 466-4831, Ext. 1154

**High School**  
1301 South Ridge East  
(440) 466-4831, Ext. 4001

**Middle School**  
839 Sherman Street  
(440) 466-4831, Ext. 2001

**Austinburg Elementary**  
3030 Route 307 - Austinburg  
(440) 466-4831, Ext. 6001

**Cork Elementary**  
341 State Route 534  
(440) 466-4831, Ext. 5001

**Geneva Platt R. Spencer  
Elementary**  
755 Austin Rd.  
(440) 466-4831, Ext. 3001

Dear Geneva Students, Parents and Community,

As some of you may be aware, there have been some recent discussions on the policy and requirements for purchasing a Geneva letterman's jacket. I provided a variety of ways for interested school and community members to share their thoughts and opinions. There were strong opinions on both sides of the issue. I listened and I could understand the feelings from both groups.

After reviewing all of the information, I realized one of the major issues was how different the style of jackets looked for our students that lettered. Geneva is different from many schools because we offer school letters for athletics, cheerleading, band, choir, drama and a lamp for academics. Many schools do not offer school letters for all of those activities. As an alumni and now as the Superintendent, I want to see our students be proud of their accomplishments and show their "Geneva Pride"! In addition, I understand some of the traditions of our past and realize that athletics have been a proud part of Geneva's past. Over the years, we have found some way to recognize our athletes due to the outside time, tremendous effort and strict requirements necessary to receive your athletic letter. This in no way minimizes the amount of time and effort that is required for many of our other students and activities. I know all of our students work hard and have pride in what their school groups and activities accomplish.

Trying to find a solution for this issue was difficult but I believe I have a solution that creates a more uniformed look, more school pride and still maintains a sense of our traditions. I have contacted Sports n' Sports and as of this date, the Geneva Schools will have two official jackets available to our students. I have listed the information and requirements below for purchasing the school jackets.

- School Athletic Jacket: This is our current athletic / letterman's jacket (see photo).



Students will still need a Varsity Athletic Letter or Cheerleading Letter to purchase this jacket.

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- School Letter Jacket (photo is not available at this time): This would be the exact same jacket and trim. **The only difference would be the jacket sleeves would be solid red (the two leather stripes – gray and white – would be eliminated and only part of the athletic jacket)**. Students will need a letter in academics (lamp) band, choir or drama.

The coaches, directors, support groups and administrators will continue to meet this year to discuss the criteria for each of the letters that are presented to our students. If changes are made to any of the current criteria, we will provide an update at the high school and on our website.

As mentioned, I believe this policy will provide the Geneva students who receive a letter in any activity a more unified appearance. It is not a perfect solution but I feel at this time, it's the right decision for the Geneva Schools. As the Superintendent, I am proud of all of our students. In this short period of time, I have witnessed the impact that all of our groups have on our schools and our community. It brings me great pride to see our athletes compete, our cheerleaders promote school spirit, our band, choirs, G.I.'s and theatre students share their special skills and perform for appreciative audiences and our students recognized for their outstanding academic performance – this is what makes Geneva great! I thank all of our students and parents for their time, commitment and efforts in making all of our groups and activities a positive part of the Geneva School District.

With Pride and Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric M. Kujala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Eric M. Kujala  
Superintendent