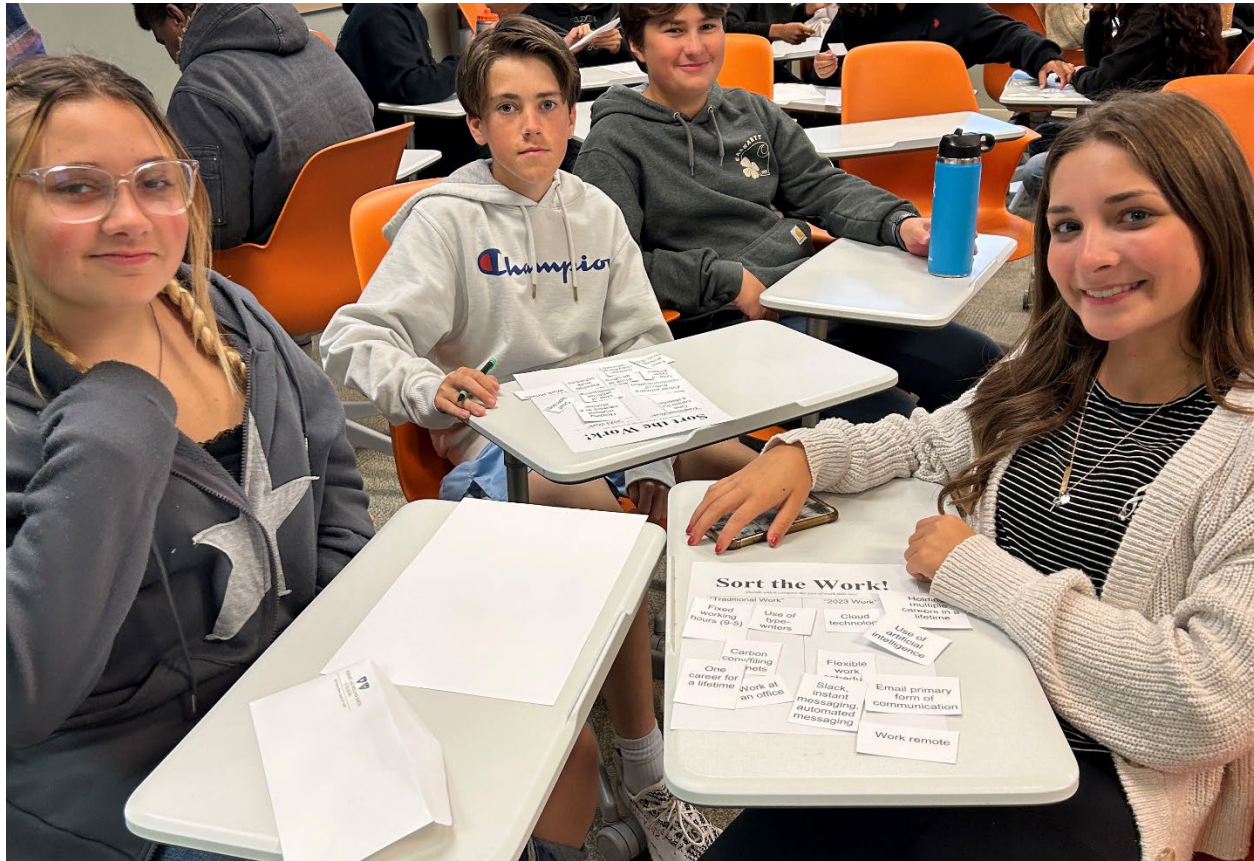


## Geneva High Schoolers get a taste of college life during annual 9th-grade visit to HWS Colleges



More than 100 9<sup>th</sup>-grade Geneva students spent a day on campus learning, exploring, and gaining valuable exposure to a college experience, sponsored annually by Geneva 2030 and the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning.

HWS President Mark Gearan welcomed the members of the GHS class of 2027 and noted that the community of Geneva is a place where there are many people who collaborate to help ensure students are successful.

Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning Assistant Director, Peter Budmen, launched the theme of the day of “college and career readiness” and reminded them of many inventions from 2008 and 2009... their birth year. Bitcoin, the H1N1 vaccine, among others. What classes, leadership opportunities, and job shadowing opportunities prepped these inventors to launch such innovative ideas?

HWS recent graduates, serving a year with [AmeriCorps VISTA in partnership with BluePrint Geneva, Geneva 2030, and Finger Lakes Community College](#), introduced their new career

readiness space at GHS and encouraged students to visit anytime to meet with them or the school counselor, Trent Barry.

The students heard from Dr. Sim Covington and Dr. Bill Woodson, leaders from FLCC and HWS in the field of diversity, equity, and inclusion. They responded with their preference for ice cream flavors, pets, sports teams, activities (paintball or white-water rafting), iPhone or Android... where the diversity of experience and preferences are discussed without leading to anger or fighting.

Dr. Covington shared how he addressed implicit bias in his own life, when as a University of Albany first-year student his roommates “didn’t look like me, and that gave me the opportunity to grow personally and professionally” by learning how to get along with people who didn’t initially have many things in common.

Dr. Woodson encouraged the students to think about “fit” (when it comes to higher education), assuring them that they will have many options if they take advantage of the opportunities provided, and whatever they’re doing now should be in connection with where you want to go, “find something you want to do, and then go get paid to do it” which was a great lead into sessions which included a focus on “the year of the eclipse,” a student leader panel and a college and career escape room.

GHS students also learned from HWS student perspectives about the best aspects of college, including navigating free time and playing a college sport, and benefiting from being a part of a cohort of athletes, as well as the worst, including stress over academics and struggling to manage studying with additional obligations. HWS students also shared how they prepared for the college search process, and the advice they would give to their ‘high school selves.’

In the “evolution of work” session, the 9<sup>th</sup> graders were encouraged to reflect on what the future of work might look like, how have work environments changed over the past few years, and then present to their peers about their findings. Many rose to the challenge of public speaking despite initial hesitation!

Another session was a “What Can I Do Today” Jeopardy game, with categories including skills, planning ahead, and scholarships, and questions including “What GHS clubs would allow me to earn community service hours?” and “What departments can I obtain my working papers?” and “the name of a document created and used by a person to represent their skills and accomplishments.” Jennifer Nace and Gabrielle LaBare, HWS librarians, facilitated a workshop that encouraged students to imagine where they might be in five years, and in ten years.

“I am so excited for our 9th-grade students taking a tour of the HWS campus,” said James Nunez, new Assistant Principal at GHS. “As a new administrator at Geneva High School, working with HWS sets our students and community up for experiences and opportunities not available in many communities. Our students are welcomed with an agenda focused on being college and career-ready, a slice of student life, and the benefits of collaboration in the workforce.”

GHS students shared career aspirations including “cyber security or software engineer,” Malcolm Rohn, a “barber” Joseph Sanabria, and Joksan Perez, who is interested in becoming a car mechanic. :Resources from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and occupational outlook by industries: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Geneva 2030 is a collective impact initiative working with resources from the entire Geneva community, including nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individuals, to support the education of Geneva’s children from cradle to career. Since its founding in 2011, Hobart and William Smith have served as its anchor institution.

To learn more about Geneva 2030 and its commitment to the Geneva youth, reach out to [geneva2030@hws.edu](mailto:geneva2030@hws.edu).