



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

November 4, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Hawkins - 5th Grade ELA Teacher

Tell us one of your favorite memories from your time at GLA.

I love Lit Pit every Friday! It reminds me of being in school myself, and the Culture Team bring such a great community-oriented energy every time.

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of my proudest moments for sure has been being able to encourage my students and speak life into them whenever they feel that the ELA/Reading/Writing is daunting. Having been a young student of color, I understand how important it is to feel that your teacher genuinely believes in you for every aspect of who you are.

What made you want to become a teacher (or what made you want to work in a school)?

Coming from a family of educators (classroom teachers, learning behavior specialists, principals, and professors), I grew up with a real value for education and for teaching as a profession. When I was little, I used to model lessons for my little cousins because we always had flex charts laying around in the house! But for a while, I felt I wanted to do something different than everyone else in my family. After graduating college with degrees in English, History, and African and African Diaspora (Black) Studies, I realized that teaching is a career that I make my own and where I can focus many of the interests I care about and the ones I studied in college.

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

I grew up on the South Side of Chicago and my mom, grandparents, and little sister live 5 minutes from here, so I feel a real connection to the cause of pouring back into the community that poured so much into me. And I love our GLA community here! Every single day, I feel welcomed.

Where are you originally from? (If Chicago, tell us what neighborhood!) What do you love about that place?

I am a fifth generation Chicagoan! My family migrated from Biloxi, Mississippi during the Great Migration and I take a lot of pride in our history. I was raised in the South Side of Chicago (mainly Hyde Park and South Shore). My parents actually met at Whitney Young.

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

I love to swim in the lake (it's cold I know). I also love restaurants and am always trying to

find the next best one.

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

I can juggle!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

As we begin Quarter 2, I would like to share a few reminders to help students continue developing strong homework routines and academic success. Parents, please encourage your scholar to follow a consistent nightly routine. Structure helps students stay organized, focused, and engaged in learning.

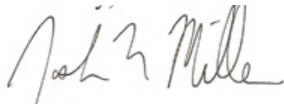
Homework reinforces classroom learning, strengthens the home–school connection, and helps students build good study habits. It should mostly be independent practice, with parents providing support only when needed. To help students focus, ensure homework is completed in a quiet, distraction-free space without TVs or other screens, unless required for an assignment.

K–2 Families:

Paloma Parent Tutoring is a text-based app that gives parents simple, personalized math and reading lessons based on school assessments. Each 15-minute activity includes guided and independent practice. We encourage families to complete these lessons at least three times per week.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our students thrive at home and at school!

With Gratitude,



Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLA Parent/Guardian Possip Survey

We want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete our Parent/Guardian Survey. Your feedback helps us make Great Lakes Academy even better for students and families. Click here to share your thoughts:

<https://www.weeklypossip.com/surveys/cxyg8x?position=1>

Helpful Community Resources: Food Pantries

We want to make sure families know about local food pantries available in our community. Here is a list of organizations, their locations, and hours of operation so you can easily access support when needed. If you need more options, please visit www.findhelp.org.

Food Pantry Resources



Trinity Ressurrection United
9046 S Mackinaw
773-768-9645
Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30 am
Service Area: Cook County

King of Glory Tabernacle
2253 E 83rd St
773-375-3537
Thursdays, 4-7pm
Fridays, 10am-1pm

Giving Others Dreams
8832 S Commercial Ave
Mondays, 4-6pm
Tuesdays, 11am-1pm
Service Area: 60617

Christ Life Church
8927 S Houston Ave
773-936-1348
Saturdays, 10am-12pm
Service Area: 60617, 60633

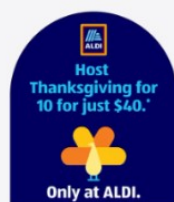
Pilsen Wellness Center, Inc
2938 E 89th Street
312-217-1831
Wednesdays, 3-6pm
Thursdays, 11-2pm
Service Area: 60617

Christ Bible Church of God
7877 S Coles
773-734-2933
Saturdays, 10am-2pm
Service Area: Cook County
Bring Photo ID!



Need more options? Visit: www.findhelp.org

Additionally, Aldi has created a promotion that provides dinner for 10 for \$40. See what is included below.



- Whole Turkey
- Chicken Broth
- Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Evaporated Milk
- Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
- Miniature Marshmallows
- Cut Green Beans (x2)
- 100% Pure Canned Pumpkin
- Shells & Cheese (x2)
- Brown Gravy Mix (x3)
- Poultry Spices & Herbs
- French Fried Onions
- Pie Crust
- Chicken or Cornbread Stuffing (x2)
- Whipped Dairy Topping
- Yellow Onions (3 lbs.)
- Baby Peeled Carrots
- Celery
- Cranberries
- Sweet Potatoes (3 lbs.)
- Russet Potatoes (10 lbs.)

Empower Your Voice at the INCS Parent Training

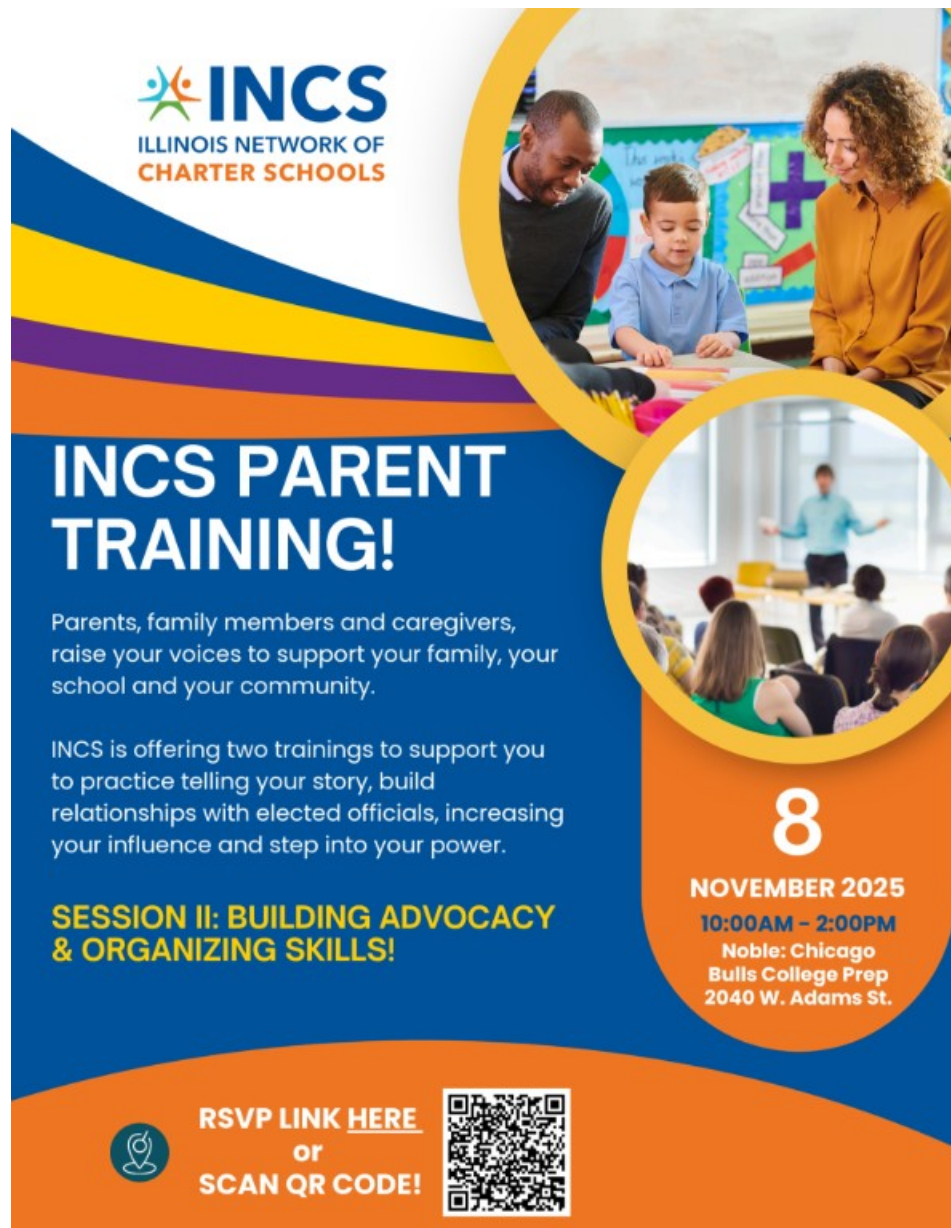
Parents, caregivers, and community members are invited to join INCS for an inspiring session focused on building advocacy and organizing skills. Learn how to tell your story, connect with elected officials, and strengthen your influence in education.

Saturday, November 8, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Noble: Chicago Bulls College Prep, 2040 W. Adams St.

RSVP today to secure your spot



The flyer features a blue and orange color scheme with wavy lines. At the top left is the INCS logo: a stylized figure with arms raised in blue, green, and orange, followed by the text "INCS" in large blue letters and "ILLINOIS NETWORK OF CHARTER SCHOOLS" in smaller orange letters below it. To the right of the logo is a circular inset showing a man, a young boy, and a woman sitting at a table, looking at a book. Below this is another circular inset showing a person standing at the front of a classroom, addressing a group of students. The main text "INCS PARENT TRAINING!" is in large white letters on a blue background. Below it, in smaller white text, is the sentence: "Parents, family members and caregivers, raise your voices to support your family, your school and your community." Further down, in white text, is: "INCS is offering two trainings to support you to practice telling your story, build relationships with elected officials, increasing your influence and step into your power." Below this, in yellow text, is "SESSION II: BUILDING ADVOCACY & ORGANIZING SKILLS!". To the right of this text, in a large white font, is the number "8". Below the number, in white text, is "NOVEMBER 2025". Below that, in smaller white text, is "10:00AM - 2:00PM". Below that, in even smaller white text, is "Noble: Chicago Bulls College Prep 2040 W. Adams St.". At the bottom left, there is a small icon of a person with a speech bubble, followed by the text "RSVP LINK HERE or SCAN QR CODE!". To the right of this text is a QR code.

INCS
ILLINOIS NETWORK OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS

INCS PARENT TRAINING!

Parents, family members and caregivers, raise your voices to support your family, your school and your community.

INCS is offering two trainings to support you to practice telling your story, build relationships with elected officials, increasing your influence and step into your power.

SESSION II: BUILDING ADVOCACY & ORGANIZING SKILLS!

8
NOVEMBER 2025
10:00AM - 2:00PM
Noble: Chicago Bulls College Prep
2040 W. Adams St.

RSVP LINK HERE or SCAN QR CODE!

The Great Lakes Academy Holiday Season Sale starts this week!

We're launching brand-new designs and fresh garments that make perfect gifts for your families this holiday season. Below you'll find everything you need to easily get the word out!

Holiday Sale Details:

- Sale Dates: November 3rd – December 10th
- Guaranteed Delivery by December 23rd
- 20% Off Sitewide
- Friday Flash Sales

Holiday Sale General Promotion Materials:

Store Link: <https://1stplace.sale/115856>

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

Holiday Sale

Spirit Wear **Gifts**

20% OFF

SITEWIDE

**DELIVERY BY
GUARANTEED
DEC. 23RD** **SHOP NOW**

1ST PLACE Spiritwear

SHOP AT: [1STPLACE.SALE/115856](https://1stplace.sale/115856)

FREE SHIPPING
ORDERS OVER
\$75

**Get The BEST DEALS
From Your Official Store**

- T-shirts
- Hoodies
- Polos
- Headwear
- Backpacks
- Drinkware
- And More...

SCAN HERE TO ORDER

After-Care

Running late and need aftercare? Please use the link below or QR code to pay for your scholar's. Be sure to include your scholar's name and the date before checking out.

Aftercare Hours:

3:30-5:00 Monday - Thursday

2:00-4:00 Friday

<https://glachicago.revtrak.net/r1#/v/after-care->

AFTER-CARE

Scan to Pay



INCLUDE SCHOLAR NAME &
DATE OF ATTENDANCE

Race to 10 is On!

A huge congratulations to Illinois for racing to 10 and winning Heat 2! They will be going on a free field trip of their choice. Also, congratulations to the two parents who won our gas raffle. Race 2 started 10/20. Let's keep up the momentum and continue working together to make everyday count! Attendance matters.



Spread the Word: GLA Fall Open House

Families, help us share the news! Great Lakes Academy will host our **Fall Open House on Saturday, November 8th, from 12:00–2:00 PM**. This is a chance for prospective families to tour our campus, meet our staff, and see why GLA is one of the top schools in Illinois.



The poster for Great Lakes Academy's Open House features a central image of a woman in a classroom. The top left corner has the Great Lakes Academy Charter School logo, and the top right corner has a 'BEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS USNews RANKINGS' badge. The main text reads 'GREAT LAKES ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM'. Below this, a yellow box titled 'What We Offer' lists five benefits: free admission, free drop-off and meals, full-day kindergarten, state-of-the-art campus, and full athletic facility. A QR code labeled 'APPLY HERE' is also present. At the bottom, a photo of two children is next to the text 'The Best in Your Backyard! 40% of the Class of 2024 was accepted to CPS Selective Enrollment'. The footer includes the website, address, phone number, and a note that it is paid for by public funds.

Empower children today to change the world tomorrow!
APPLY ONLINE!

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

What We Offer

- ✓ Free and Open Admission to ALL
- ✓ Free 7AM Drop-off and Daily Meals Provided
- ✓ Full-Day Kindergarten (4-Year-Old Early Entry Available)
- ✓ State-of-the-art campus featuring an Enrichment Center
- ✓ Full Athletic Facility and Turf Field

APPLY HERE

The Best in Your Backyard!
40% of the Class of 2024 was accepted to CPS Selective Enrollment

<https://glachicago.org> 8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL (773) 530-3040

PAID FOR BY PUBLIC FUNDS

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wave Two Enrichment Sign Ups: **NOW OPEN**

Wave Two Sign-Ups are now open! [CLICK HERE!](#)

Wave Two

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

MONDAY/WEDNESDAY

K-3rd, Puppeteering	with Ms. Serini-T
K-4th, Dance	with Ms. Gaines
2nd-5th, Homework Help	with Ms. Hartman
4th-8th, Goddess Mentoring	with Ms. Scott
4th-8th, HAWKS Mentoring	with Mr. Fain
6th-8th, Homework Help	with Ms. Littleton
6th-8th, Advanced Art: iPad Creators	with Ms. Paull

TUESDAY/THURSDAY

K-2nd, Homework Help	with Mrs. Montgomery
K-2nd, Science Explorers	with Ms. Gaines
3rd-4th, Math Mansion	with Ms. Murphy
3rd-5th, Creative Me!	with Ms. Watson
4th-8th, Writing Club	with Mrs. Ford
4th-8th, Intro to Music Arts	with Mr. Contreras
6th-8th, Speed Conditioning	with Coach Ali

SIGN UP BY 11/11

GLA will offer after-school enrichment programming that is instructor led by teachers, staff, and community partners. If you are interested in enrolling your scholar, [click here!](#)

Programs meet twice weekly on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday only. If you want your scholar enrolled Monday-Thursday, you will have to sign them up for two programs on the respective days. If you want two days, you will need to sign them up for only one.

Programs will only run in one wave, unless renewed and new programs will be offered each wave where you will have to re-sign up. The waves are as follows:

- Wave One: Monday, August 25th - Thursday, November 13th
- **Wave Two: Monday, November 17th - Thursday, February 26th**
- Wave Three: Monday, March 2nd - Thursday, May 28th

Sign ups will close on Tuesday, November 11th for Wave Two. You will be notified if you get into the program by Wednesday, November 12th via letter and email.

All programs will run 3:15-5:00 pm. Cost: *\$175/each program/per wave.

Programs hired externally and that will be coming into GLA (i.e.; Goddess, HAWKS, etc.), will be marked accordingly* as they are \$200.

Please reach out to Caitlin O'Leary, coleary@glachicago.org with any questions!

Free Homework Help through the University of Chicago

The University of Chicago is offering free Homework Help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6pm. This program is designed to support K-12th grade students with their schoolwork in a welcoming, collaborative environment. Tutoring is provided by UChicago students and covers all core subjects areas. The sessions are in person with few virtual sessions available. If interested, sign up for a 30-minute time slot via the QR code below.

NSP NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS PROGRAM
The University of Chicago

STUDENTS K-12
MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL

HOMEWORK HELP

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 4PM-6PM

HOW TO JOIN:
Students will need to register using QR Code to secure their time & tutor.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
Tutoring is provided by UChicago students, covering all core subject areas

STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN MATERIALS

SIGN UP HERE

APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GOD
6320 SOUTH DORCHESTER AVE CHICAGO, IL 60637

UNIVERSITY CHURCH
5655 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60637

LIMITED VIRTUAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE

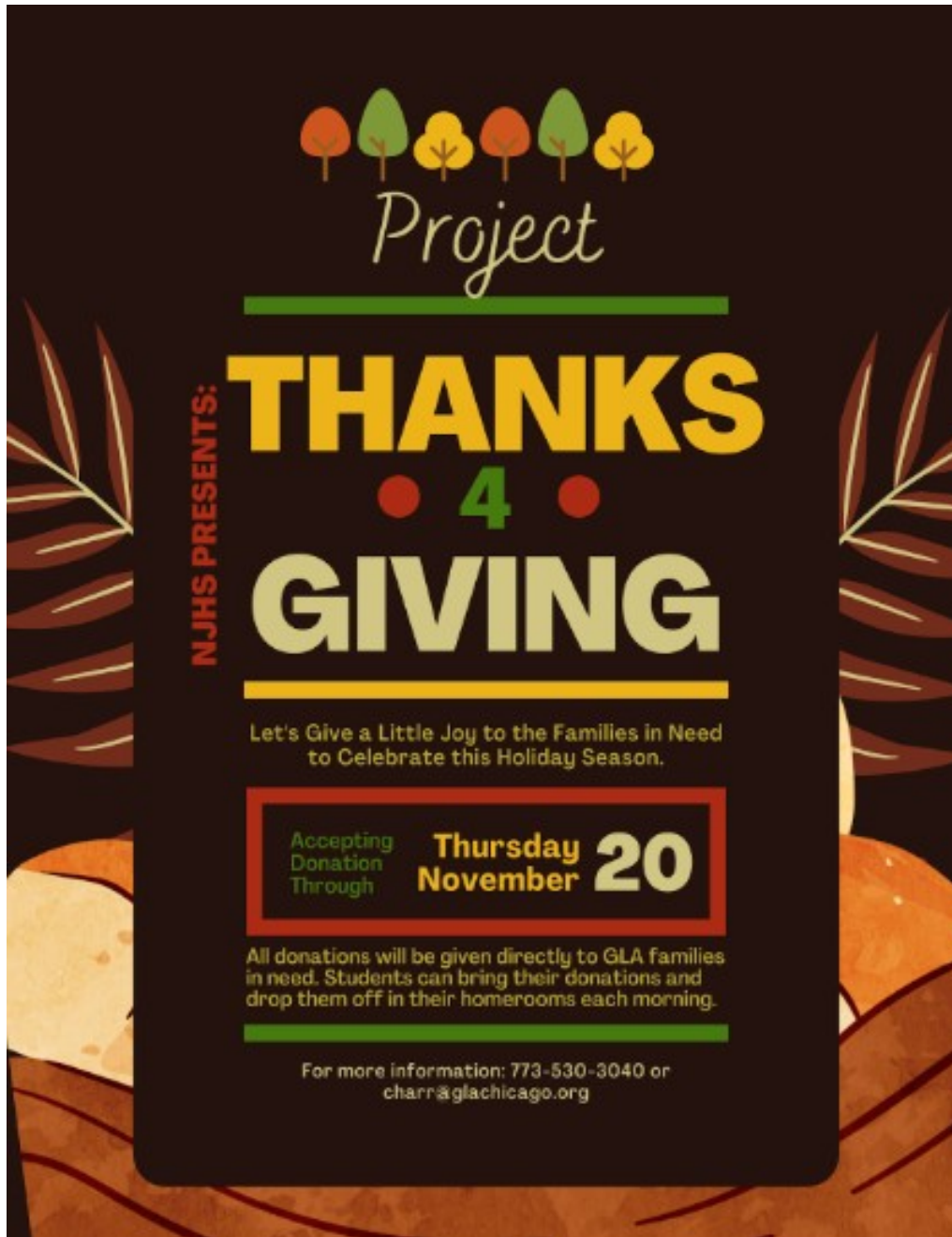
Thanks for Giving

Our Great Lakes Academy National Junior Honor Society is excited to kick off Project *Thanks for Giving* — a schoolwide food and necessity drive running from November 3rd to November 20th!

Students are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items and other essentials such as diapers, wipes, baby formula, hygiene products, and cleaning products to their homerooms. All donations will go directly to GLA families in need, helping us share the spirit of gratitude and community this Thanksgiving season.

As a fun incentive, the top three homerooms with the most donations will earn a Pajama & Movie Day — complete with snacks!

Let's come together to make a difference and show what it means to give thanks by giving back!



NJHS Presents: Project Thanks for Giving

Join us this Thanksgiving season as we come together to support our GLA families in need! We're collecting ****non-perishable food items and essential supplies**** to help our community. Every item counts—and your generosity makes all the difference!

Non-Perishable Food Items

Canned vegetables and fruits • Canned meats and soups • Pasta and rice • Peanut butter and jelly • Cereal and oatmeal • Granola bars • Shelf-stable milk • Crackers • Juice boxes • Baby food • Other shelf stable food items

Baby & Infant Essentials

Diapers (all sizes) • Baby wipes • Infant formula (unopened) • Baby lotion • Shampoo • Pacifiers (new in package)

Personal Hygiene & Household Essentials

Soap • Toothpaste and toothbrushes • Shampoo and conditioner • Feminine hygiene products • Laundry detergent • Paper towels • Toilet paper • Cleaning wipes and spray cleaners

The top 3 homerooms with the most donations will win a pajama & movie day with snacks provided! Let's show what the GLA community can do when we give thanks by giving back!
Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

-NJHS

New Payment Option Now Available

We are excited to announce that our school now offers a new, convenient way to pay student fees online through **RevTrak**, available directly in the **PowerSchool Parent Portal**.

With RevTrak, you can securely pay for fees such as enrichment, technology, and other school-related costs using a credit or debit card—all from your existing PowerSchool account.

How to Access RevTrak:

- Log in to your **PowerSchool Parent Portal**.
- Click on the **Balance** tab.
- Select the applicable fee(s) and complete your payment.

To make payments more convenient, PayPal will no longer be available for online transactions. All balances and payments will now be accessible in one place through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. In addition, in-person payments will continue to be accepted at the Front Office.

Please note: Outstanding balances not secured by a payment plan will result in ineligibility to enroll in future programs.

If you had a balance due, a statement was included in the Parent/Teacher Conference folder you received on Friday 10/24. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact our front office.



Great Lakes
Academy

Attention Families!



RevTrak

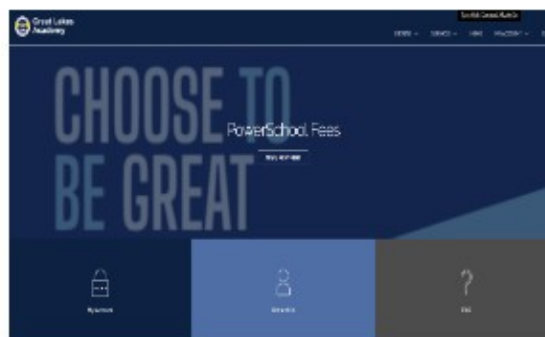
Great Lakes Academy is now taking payments online!

Pay when it's most convenient for you with a computer or mobile device at
<https://gla.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

This district web store is now fully integrated with PowerSchool! Save time and be confident that your payment makes it where it needs to go.

You can pay any assigned student fee or payment online with eCheck, debit, or credit cards.

Use the QR code or click the link to get started! For payment setup instructions, see p. 2 of this document.



Visit <https://glachicago.revtrak.net/> to pay fees online.

Make Online Payments Straight from PowerSchool



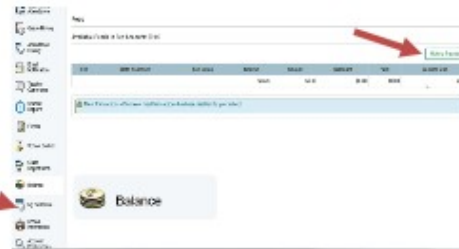
RevTrak & PowerSchool:
A Powerful Partnership

You can now pay PowerSchool fees online via our new district web store.

- 1 Log into PowerSchool via internet browser (not the app).
<https://glapowerschool.com/public/home.html>



- 2 Click **"Balance"** from the menu on the left-hand side of the screen.



- 3 Click the green **"Make a Payment"** button on the right-hand side of that screen.

- 4 You will then be taken straight to your district's web store. You will need to confirm your email address, and an account will automatically be created for you.

You have successfully signed in with PowerSchool. Please enter the email address you would like to use for

- 5 Review your students' fees, click add to card and check out. You will have the option to change between an e-check or a Credit/Debit card. Order history can be viewed under 'My Account.'



Beacon Dash Pass - October Requirements

Keep Warm in Style – Get Your GLA Crewneck Sweater Today!

GLA Crewneck Sweaters are here—perfect for cooler weather and approved as part of the GLA uniform!

Why grab yours now?

- Stay warm and comfortable during chilly mornings.
- Show your GLA pride in style.
- Available at the low price of just \$20 each!

How to purchase:

- Order online through the [GLA Uniform Store](#)
- Or purchase directly at the GLA Front Office
- Monday–Thursday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Don't wait—these sweaters are sure to go quickly!

CPS Family Income Information Form

We are strongly encouraging all families to complete the CPS Family Income Information Form for the 2025–2026 school year. This form is required annually and helps determine school funding, which supports important programs at GLA, including our free lunch program.

- ✓ Only one form per household is needed
- ✓ Takes just 2–3 minutes to complete

Forms were sent home last week. If you did not receive one, please contact the front office to have a form emailed to you, sent home with your scholar, or stop by the office to complete one today.

Completed forms may be:

- Sent back with your scholar, or
- Emailed to sthunherst@glachicago.org

Thank you for your prompt attention and continued support of GLA!

2025-26 School Calendar

The 2025-26 school calendar has been posted to GLA's website. Please [view it here](#).

School Year Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 7:30-4:30 pm

Friday, 7:30-2:00 pm

GLA Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper Menus

Click [here](#) to access (these are also linked on our website's [Parent and Student Resource Page](#))

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

November 3 - November 28, 2025

3	4	5	6	7
		Fire Evacuation Drill #2	JV/V Girls Volleyball HOME vs. Shabazz, 5:00 pm	2026-27 Application Launch
10	11	12	13	14
	Veteran's Day- No School	Girls Volleyball vs. Parent Game, 4:00 pm	Picture Retake Day!	GoCPS Application Closes
17	18	19	20	21
Girls Volleyball vs. Parents Game, 4:30 pm		Lockdown #2 Parent Advocacy Meeting, 5:00 pm	Fall Sports Celebration, 4:30 pm	
24	25	26	27	28
Fall Break, No School	Fall Break, No School	Fall Break, No School	Fall Break, No School	Fall Break, No School

Follow Us on Social Media!



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email



Try email marketing for free today!