



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

September 23, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



JJ Angulo - Learning Behavior Specialist

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

One of my favorite memories at GLA was one of the end of the year assemblies where I got to watch both middle and lower school grades compete with their chants. It is always special to see all of the students in the gym together because most of our time we are in our separate classrooms. The community at GLA is truly such a special thing.

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of my proudest teacher moments is whenever a student corrects me on my math. I have to be in multiple subjects within a day and when they can show

me where I have made mistakes it makes me really proud to see them confident enough in their skills to tell me that I made a mistake. It makes me especially proud when they can explain where I went wrong and the correct way to do it.

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

The students and the overall community. There is no other school like it that I have been to where we celebrate the kids and the staff alike on a weekly if not daily place.

What's your favorite memory from elementary/middle school?

Whenever we got to volunteer with the nursery at our school. We got to hold babies and play with the little kids.

We all know teaching can be a stressful job! What's your favorite way to unwind?

The gym before work is my current favorite way to unwind. I feel that it sets my day up for success and the stress of the day is mitigated by me taking care of myself before I even step in the building

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

I can speak in over 8 different accents

What's your dream vacation?

To go to Lebanon.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Fall athletics is off to an exciting start here at GLA! Our flag football team has come out strong, demonstrating focus, grit, and determination as they work toward an undefeated season and championship run. Our volleyball team kicked off their season as well. After their first couple weeks of the season, they are 2-1 and continue to show improvement with each game! Our cheerleading team has been working hard on their routines and cheered at their first athletic contest Saturday. We are excited about our athletes' success on the field and on the court. However, we are even prouder of how our athletes continue to represent GLA with pride and purpose.

I was able to attend our flag football game at Leo High School this past Saturday. I was proud to watch our young people enter the playing field arm-in-arm, focused on carrying out what they had practiced and doing it as a team. Our cheerleaders entered the field not long afterward in uniform. I could not help but overhear a couple parents of opposing teams make remarks about how impressive our student athletes were when they entered the playing field. They were also impressed with the amount of support we had from families and staff at the game.

At GLA, athletics are about more than just wins and losses. We believe sports are a powerful extension of the classroom. Being a GLA athlete means being a student first. Our student athletes prioritize balancing academics, leadership, and athletic performance. They are expected to lead by example, showing discipline, respect, and determination in everything they do. When done well, athletics teach students about how to strive for excellence. Whether in the classroom, or on the field, they are building skills that will serve them far beyond their time here.

We are proud of all our athletes and look forward to all of the exciting and successful seasons ahead. Let's continue to cheer them on and support them as they pursue excellence in every arena.

Go Beacons!

With Gratitude,

Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Late Pick-Up Policy

Monday – Thursday: Students are expected to be picked up at 3:20 pm.

Fridays: Students are expected to be picked up at 1:50 pm.

Families who are persistently late in picking up their students will have a meeting with the Dean of Culture, Assistant Principal, Principal, or other designee of the principal to create a pick-up plan. Persistently late families may also run the risk of not being able to participate in schoolwide extracurricular events or after-school activities, at the discretion of the Principal or Executive Director.

- If a student is not picked up by 3:45 pm (or by 2:15 pm on Fridays), the school will take the following steps:
 - Attempt to contact the parent/guardian (at least twice if the number is working) and emergency contacts.
 - If unanswered, school staff will leave a message with all contacts stating, "If the parent, guardian, or emergency contact does not come to the school to pick up [student name(s)] by **4:30pm**, the school will be obligated to call the Chicago Police Department and the Department of Child and Family Services hotline to report child neglect."
 - If nobody has come to pick up the student by that time, school staff will:
 - **contact the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report child neglect and**
 - **call CPS Student Safety Center at 773-553-3335 to explain that a student is stranded and provide the student's emergency contact information.**
- At that point, Great Lakes Academy staff will follow the direction of CPS's Office of Safety and Security, which may include contacting 911 and/or transporting the child to the nearest police station to place the child in their protective custody.

Lockdown Drill- Thursday, October 2, 2025

The safety of students, staff, and visitors is a top priority for GLA. To support this commitment, GLA conducts emergency preparedness drills on an annual basis, in line with the Illinois School Safety Drill Act. The goal of these safety drills is to improve our ability to respond in the event of an emergency in an effective and efficient manner.

The Illinois School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/), requires a Hard Lockdown Drill be conducted annually.

This year that drill is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 2nd, subject to the availability of the Chicago Police Department who will be present to run the drill with us.

We appreciate your partnership as we work to ensure we are prepared to respond effectively and efficiently in the event of an actual emergency.

Please reach out to the main office at 773-530-3040 if you have any questions or concerns

Chicago State iDance Performing Arts

Open enrollment

Chicago State University Options Program iDance Chicago Performing Arts Team



Location: Team Practice held at
Gift of Hope Building-Jackie D. Lynch Building
7936 S. Cottage Grove - Free Parking
Register M-F, 9:30 - 4:30 pm over the phone
at CSU Cashier Office- 773-995-2029 or 773-995-4466
(tell staff you are signing up for CSU Options
iDance Chicago Performing Arts Team)

Dance Attire:
Girls - Plain black short sleeve leotard
and black leggings, black jazz shoes and
bring a pair of gym shoes and bottled
water.

Boys: Plain Black T-Shirt, black jogging
pants and black jazz/acrobatic shoes
and a pair of gym shoes and bottled
water.

*Ballet
Contemporary
Hip Hop
Drama
Acrobatics
Ethnic
Character &
Inspirational
Dance Training &
Performances
Dance Competitions*

**For Grades 2nd - 12th
Team practice dates:
Saturdays - 9:30-11:30 AM**

*Questions about the team, email
Ms. Bradley at
idancechicago@yahoo.com*

All dance levels are welcome

8 Week Session: \$55.00

Know Your Rights/Conosca Sus Derechos

Know Your Rights Card

This card explains that you are exercising your Constitutional rights. You have the right to remain silent and the right to ask to speak to an attorney.

Print this card at home and put it in your wallet. You can fold it on the center line.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS	To: Immigration or Other Officer
<p>If you are stopped by immigration or the police, hand this card to the agent and remain silent.</p> <p>If immigration comes to your home, slip this card under the door or hold it up to the window.</p> <p>Do not open the door. Do not sign any documents without speaking to a lawyer first.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am exercising my constitutional rights under the 4th and 5th Amendment. I am exercising my right to remain silent. I refuse to sign any documents without speaking to a lawyer first. I do not give you permission to enter my home.

We know that recent events in Chicago, including heightened federal enforcement activity, have created concern and uncertainty for some families. At GLA, our commitment is unwavering: our school will remain a safe haven for every student,

regardless of their background, nationality, or immigration status. At GLA, our mission is not only to educate but also to protect and support every child and family in our care. We are grateful for your trust and partnership as we continue to ensure that our school is a safe and welcoming place for all. We have put together additional resources for your convenience and feel free to reach out to Maria Jimenez if you have any questions or need more resources at mjimenez@glachicago.org.

Cook County Public Defender:
<https://www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/>

National Immigration Justice Center: <https://immigrantjustice.org/for-immigrants/know-your-rights/ice-encounter/>

Latinos Progresando:
<https://latinospro.org/>

Illinois Legal Resource Center:
<https://www.ilrc.org/>

Career Opportunities

The Revolution Institute is excited to invite you to an **Informational Session on Career Opportunities!** This event is designed for individuals who are seeking a fresh start and want to build stable, rewarding careers in Manufacturing, Aviation, and Technical Trades through three outstanding training programs.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: 639 East 87th Street (Inside Seaway Bank), Lower Level Floor, Chicago, IL 60619

Training Programs Highlighted

Electrical Maintenance Training Program – Daley College

- Starts October 7 (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
- 8-week program
- **Perks: \$1,500 completion stipend, direct connections to hiring manufacturing companies, and justice-involved friendly employers**

Electrical Charging Station Repair – Olive Harvey College

- Gain high-demand skills

Rivian Technical Trades Program – Olive Harvey College

- Prepare for careers in cutting-edge technical trades **(Paid Training)**

Additional Information

- Refreshments will be provided
- Attendees can ask questions and take their first steps toward life-changing careers

RSVP & Contact

REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WORKSHOP

We are excited to invite you to an Informational Session on Career Opportunities presented by Revolution Institute! This event is designed for individuals looking to jumpstart their careers in Manufacturing, Aviation, and Technical Trades through three outstanding training programs.



Wednesday
October 1, 2025



Time
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



639 East 87th Street, (Inside Seaway Bank) Lower Level Floor, Chicago, IL 60619

RSVP



773-558-9614



Diante@therevolution.institute

Registration options

<https://forms.gle/N3GxLft8PYTyDUZb9>



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GoCPS High School Admissions Application - Now Open

The GoCPS High School Admissions Application is now open! The application will remain open until Friday, November 14th at 5pm. Please [click here](#) to create an account and begin working on the application. For any questions, please email coleary@glachicago.org.

Comer's Pediatric Medical Van is visiting GLA

Comer's Pediatric Medical Van will be visiting GLA on **Friday, October 31st**. All consent forms need to be completed by Tuesday, September 30th.

If you would like your scholar to be seen during this visit, a consent form must be completed. You may:

- Come to GLA to complete a consent form in person, or
- Request a consent form by calling/emailing Ms. Thunherst at 773-530-3040 or sthunherst@glachicago.org. Forms can also be sent home with your scholar upon request.



Does your scholar need a new school physical?



In partnership with Comer's Medical Van, GLA is providing no-cost, school physicals

Sign a consent form at the Front Desk to secure your appointment today!

Limited Seats Available

URGENT



October 31, 2025



Great Lakes Academy



School Hours

GLA Online Uniform Store

We are excited to announce that the GLA Online Uniform Store is now open and accepting orders starting today!

You can now conveniently order GLA t-shirts, long sleeves, and polos online. Please see the details below:

GLA Online Uniform Store

- Orders placed **Monday–Thursday** → ready the following Wednesday
- Pick-up: **Monday–Thursday 8:30 AM–2:00 PM | Friday 8:30 AM–1:00 PM**
- Shop now: [GLA Uniform Store](#)
- Questions? Call the front office at **773-530-3040**

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!

Paloma Learning K-2nd Grade



PALOMA LEARNING

Personalized At-Home Tutoring

FOR KINDERGARTEN TO 2ND GRADE FAMILIES

Empower yourself as your child's most effective learning partner with personalized tutoring!



Easy Mobile Access

Receive a text link that works on any phone or tablet



Just 10-15 Minutes Daily

Short, focused sessions that fit busy family schedules



Personalized Learning

Custom reading & math activities tailored for your child



Parent-Guided

Step-by-step coaching to help you become an effective tutor



SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Current participation: 46%

GOAL: 85%

First class to reach 85% wins an ice cream party!

READY TO GET STARTED?

For more information, reach out to your child's teacher or Ms. Johnson. Visit our website for access details. Together, we can boost your child's reading and math success!

Save the Date: GLA High School & Scholarship Fair

GLA is excited to invite Chicago High Schools and Scholarship organizations into the building to meet with the 6th-8th grade scholars!

On October 1st, 6th-8th grade scholars will have dedicated time during the school day to explore high schools, meet representatives, and learn more about the opportunities available to them.

GLA families are invited to participate in the event from 3:30-4:30 in the gym.



HIGH SCHOOL FAIR

<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Connect with HS Counselors✓ Learn About Scholarships✓ Discover Programs	WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1st 1:30–4:30pm SAVE THE DATE
MORE INFORMATION  coleary@glachicago.org  glachicago.org	

Please reach out to Ms. O’Leary, coleary@glachicago.org, for any questions.

Race to 10 is On!

A huge congratulations to Purdue for racing to 10 and winning Heat 1! 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 starts today, 9/23. Let’s keep up the momentum and continue working together to make everyday count! Attendance matters.



Fall Jamboree

Join us for Great Lakes Academy's annual Fall Jamboree on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 12–3 PM at our campus (8401 S. Saginaw Ave). Families with children ages 0–9 are invited to enjoy a free afternoon of fun with a petting zoo, pony rides, games, and more!



GREAT LAKES ACADEMY

FALL JAMBOREE

PETTING ZOO - PONY RIDES - GAMES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

12:00PM - 3:00PM

THIS EVENT IS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-9,
&

PARENTS GET TO COME ALONG TOO!

RSVP

THIS EVENT IS FREE!!!



8401 S. SAGINAW AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60617

773-530-3040

2025-26 5th - 8th grade parents YONDR Policy

All 5th–8th grade scholars must bring their Yondr pouch to school daily (even if they don't bring technology). This is required for entry. Phones, watches, and earbuds must be placed in the pouch each day. Scholars without a pouch will receive a deduction. After 5 times, a \$25 fee will be charged to their account. Thank you for helping us maintain a focused, phone-free environment.

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

Sept 15 - October 10, 2025

15 Hispanic Heritage Month → Virtual 8th Grade GoCPS Family Night, 5:30 pm	16	17 Parent Advocacy Committee (PAC) Meeting, 5:00-6:30 pm	18	19
22 Girls Volleyball, 4:30 PM - AWAY Girls Volleyball Game (JV & V) @ Morgan Park Academy	23 8th Grade GoCPS Application Opens	24	25	26 Staff PD, No Classes
29	30 Boys Football JV HOME @ 4:30 pm	1 High School Fair, 1:30-4:30 pm	2 Lockdown Drill Boys Football JV HOME @ 4:30 pm	3
6	7	8	9 Boys Football JV HOME @ 4:30 pm	10
13 Indigenous Peoples Day- Building Closed	14 Staff and Student Spirit Week	15 Staff and Student Spirit Week	16 Staff and Student Spirit Week IA#1 Math Home JV Flag Football Game vs. B. Sizemore, 4:30 pm	17 Staff and Student Spirit Week K-8th Fall Fest

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