



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter  
November 6, 2024

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Ms. Grandison (Ms. G) - Learning Behavior Specialist**

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

My journey to becoming a teacher was shaped by my upbringing in a supportive community. Growing up on the south side of Chicago, I was fortunate to have brilliant educators who greatly influenced my life. I believe that being an educator involves more than just teaching a curriculum; it's about making a lasting impact on students' lives and helping them

grow into successful individuals. I've always had a natural gift for working with children, and I see teaching as a higher calling that significantly affects the future of our students and community. Being part of GLA's village as an educator who helps students reach their highest potential reinforces my commitment to contributing to a brighter future.

**What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?**

What draws me back to GLA is my deep love for the students. They bring me joy and inspire me to be a guiding light for the school. I've built strong relationships with both parents and students here. Additionally, the support I've received from administration and staff over the years has been invaluable. GLA feels like a family and a village that I can truly call home.

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

I was born in Brewton, Alabama, but I grew up in the Chatham neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. What I love about my community is its rich array of Black-owned businesses and its reputation as a neighborhood for middle-class African Americans.

**What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?**

My favorite thing to do in Chicago is attend the popular music festivals held throughout the city in the summer. I also love exploring Chicago to discover new restaurants and try different foods, since everyone knows that Chicago has some of the best cuisine around.

## What's your dream vacation?


My dream vacation would be to travel to New Zealand and Greece.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Thank you to all of the parents that attended our first in person Parent-Teacher Conferences since the pandemic! Our decision to move to in-person conferences this year was largely based on family feedback. Our staff remarked at the end of the night that they were thankful to be able to meet with parents in-person this year as it made the interactions more meaningful. Overall, we met with families of over 400 students, completing 73% of our conferences! We are always appreciative when parents take the time out of their busy schedule to come to GLA for events like Parent Teacher Conferences. For any parent who did not attend conferences, we encourage you to reach out to your student's homeroom teacher to schedule a makeup appointment.

Please mark your calendars early for our Quarter 3 Parent Teacher Conference which will take place on March 14th from 11am-7pm. We expect to see you there. We appreciate your partnership as we continue to cultivate a supportive learning environment for our students.

Principal Miller



## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Affy Tapple Fundraiser

Thank you to all of the families that participated in the Power Parent Taffy Apple fundraiser. Your involvement has made a significant impact on their efforts. In a little under a week, students and families raised a whopping \$4829.90! These funds will be used to support GLA Student Activities. This success would be absolutely impossible without your continued support to the GLA community. We greatly appreciate your participation and look forward to partnering with you for future endeavors.



### 8th Grade: HSAT Results

In October, 8th grade scholars took the High School Admissions Test (HSAT). Results will be released to each scholar's GoCPS account this Friday (November 8th) by end of day. If you need help accessing your account, please select "forgot password" to reset your account or email Ms. O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org))

### GoCPS High School Applications: Deadline Friday, November 15th

On Friday, November 15th at 5pm, the GoCPS High School Applications will close. There will not be a re-rank period, all submissions and rankings will be locked. If you need help accessing your account, please select "forgot password" to reset your account or email Ms. O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org))

### 6th Grade Enrichment Opportunity: High Jump

High Jump is a year round tuition-free, academic enrichment program. For over 30

years, High Jump has been committed to supporting Chicago's middle school youth with one-of-a-kind experiences, access to resources, and educational opportunities. In High Jump, scholars will make new friends, gain meaningful experiences like field trips, high school networking, hand-on learning activities, and discover new interests such as visual arts, film studies, music history and more!

To learn more about High Jump and its application requirements, please join us on Wednesday, November 13th from 5:30-6:30 for a virtual information session.

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/hmf-nwxu-cxy>

### **Parent Advocacy Committee (PAC)**

We are meeting next week on Tuesday, Nov. 12th, at 4:30 in person and Zoom.

[Zoom Meeting Link](#) (Meeting ID: 867 9458 8852 Passcode: 974644)

*Please join us to meet other parents and learn PAC's purpose. There will be snacks and refreshments.*

Thank you to all who have attended previous parent engagement sessions. GLA will no longer sponsor the Power Parents group. However, we have formed a Parent Advocacy Committee (PAC) that will work with a school liaison to support the school's mission. Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every month. This committee will prioritize increasing parent engagement and supporting school initiatives. Our Dean of Student and Family Engagement, Ms. Melissa Stangl, will be the GLA Liaison for the PAC.

### **Sign Ups Open: Wave Two After-School Enrichment**

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

SIGN UP FOR WAVE 2

# AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

SIGN UP BY NOVEMBER 12TH  
ONLINE OR WITH MS. O'LEARY



## MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

K-2 Science Explorers	4-8 Goddess Mentoring
K-3 HW Help	4-8 Advanced Art
2-5 Beacon Board Games	4-8 Spoken Word
3-4 Jr. Beacon Athletics	4-8 Sustainability Club
	7-8 GLA Nail Salon

## TUESDAY & THURSDAY

K-2 HW Help	5-8 Strength & Conditioning
K-4 Intro to Dance	6-8 Party Planning Committee
K-8 Karate Kids	7-8 GLA Nail Salon
3-5 HW Help	

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

- Wave Two: Monday, November 18th - Thursday, February 27th

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

Please reach out to Caitlin O'Leary, [coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org) with any questions!

### Winter Sports Sign-up!

Winter sports will get underway November 11th. The sports offered will be girls & boys basketball as well as co-ed cheer!

Both the girls and boys basketball teams will be competing in a league this year with a chance to win a championship. If you have a student-athlete that played last year or has played competitively in the past we would love to have them back! See sign-up below.

[Winter sports sign-up](#)

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Coach P (tperez@glachicago.org).

Join us on our next Community Outing!



**JOIN US!**

# COMMUNITY OUTING

**CHICAGO BULLS**  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH GAME**

TICKETS AS LOW AS  
**\$66**

**CHICAGO BULLS** VS **DETROIT PISTONS**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025**  
**UNITED CENTER**  
**PRE-SHOW: 5:45 PM**  
**TIP-OFF: 7:00 PM**

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT:  
[HTTPS://FEVO-ENTERPRISE.COM/EVENT/GROUPLAKESACADEMY](https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/grouplakesacademy)



— ACOMPAÑANOS! —

# SALIDA COLECTIVA

**CHICAGO BULLS**  
**JUEGO PARA CELEBRAR EL MES DE LA HERENCIA AFROAMERICANA**

BOLETOS A TAN SOLO  
**\$66**

**CHICAGO BULLS VS DETROIT PISTONS**

**MARTES, 11 DE FEBRERO, 2025**  
**UNITED CENTER**  
**PRE-SHOW: 5:45 PM**  
**TIP-OFF: 7:00 PM**

PARA COMPRAR BOLETOS VISITA:  
[HTTPS://FEVO-ENTERPRISE.COM/EVENT/GROUPLAKESACADEMY](https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/grouplakesacademy)

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Family Income Form

GLA is encouraging all families to complete the attached CPS Family Income Information Form for the 24-25 school year. This form is used to help determine school funding and help GLA keep programs like our free breakfast and lunch programs. Only one form needs to be completed per household. Please email completed forms and any questions to [sthunherst@glachicago.org](mailto:sthunherst@glachicago.org) (a paper version will also be sent home with your scholar this week).

- Click [Here](#) for an English Version
- Haga Click [Aqui](#) para la version en Español

### The Great Hangout

Get ready for *The Great 3rd-5th Grade Hangout!*

Join us on November 8th at 5:00 PM at Great Lakes Academy for an evening of fun, games, and excitement! Make sure to RSVP and don't forget – all students must have a parent or guardian with them to attend. Let's make it a night to remember! This is a raffle ticket event.



**Great Lakes Academy Open House**

Please share the GLA Open House with your networks today. Applications for the 2024-2025 school year open on November 7, 2024.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE  
**APPLY ONLINE!**

**GREAT LAKES ACADEMY**

# OPEN HOUSE

**THURSDAY, NOV 7<sup>th</sup>**  
at 5:30 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 ONLINE



## Applications Open November 7th!

40% of the Class of 2024 was accepted to  
CPS Selective Enrollment



Website:  
<https://glachicago.org>



Campus Location:  
8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL



Telephone:  
(773) 530-3040

PAID FOR BY PUBLIC FUNDS

### 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



## November 4th - November 29th, 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 <b>Wellness Day, No School</b>	5 <b>Election Day, No School</b>	6 Mobile Dentist  Fire Drill #2	7 GLA Open House, 5:00-7:00 pm  2025-26 Application Launch Date	8 Mobile Dentist  3rd-5th Grade Hangout, 5:00-7:00 pm
11 GLA Week of Gratitude	12 GLA Week of Gratitude  Parent Engagement Meeting, 4:30-6 pm	13 GLA Week of Gratitude	14 GLA Week of Gratitude  IA #2 (3rd Grade)	15 GLA Week of Gratitude  IA #2 (3rd Grade)
18 Wave 2 After-School Programs Begin	19	20 GLA Community Conversation, 8 am  IA #2 (5th-8th Grade)	21 IA #2 (1st-2nd Grade)	22 IA #2 (1st-2nd Grade)
25 <b>Fall Break, No School</b>	26 <b>Fall Break, No School</b>	27 <b>Fall Break, No School</b>	28 <b>Fall Break, No School</b>	29 <b>Fall Break, No School</b>

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