



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

October 8, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Maria Jimenez - Office Manager

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

One of my favorite memories here at GLA is seeing all the kids graduate. To see what they have accomplished and what they will accomplish makes me happy. I love to see them when they come back to visit and then tell us they miss us (GLA).

Una de mis memorias favoritas es ver a los estudiantes el día de su graduación. El mirar lo que

han logrado y lo que están por lograr me hace muy feliz. Se sienten bien cuando regresan a visitar la escuela y nos dicen que nos extrañan.

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

I come to GLA everyday because I know I can help at least one person that day, especially our Spanish speaking families. I love seeing the students who are learning English as a second language strive because I see myself in them and they make me proud every day.

Yo vengo a GLA todos los días porque sé que puedo ayudar a por lo menos 1 persona al día, especialmente a nuestras familias de habla hispana. Me encanta ver cómo los estudiantes que están aprendiendo Inglés como segundo idioma van avanzando porque yo me veo en ellos, yo también pase por eso y me siento super orgullosa de ellos.

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

I was born in Mexico and moved to the US when I was in the 3rd grade. I lived at Little Village for a few years, then Cicero and now am living in Indiana. I loved every location because they all had a little bit of my Mexican Culture in my everyday life.

Yo nací en México, me vine a los Estados Unidos en el tercer grado. Viví en la Villita por unos años, después en Cicero y ahora en Indiana. Me gusta vivir en cada uno de estos lugares porque todos de una manera u otra seguimos teniendo nuestra cultura mexicana.

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

I love spending time with my family. Family means everything to me.

Me encanta pasar tiempo con mi familia. La familia es muy importante para mi.

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

I think I am a pretty good cook and love to knit (still learning) but it is very relaxing.

Creo que cocino rico y me encanta tejer (aun estoy aprendiendo) pero me relaja bastante.



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Last Wednesday, GLA hosted a High School Fair for the 6th-8th graders. We welcomed 18 high schools and two scholarship programs to come out and speak with our scholars. This event offered students and families a valuable opportunity to explore different educational paths, ask important questions, and gather information to help guide their decision-making for the next stage of their academic journey.

Events like this are an essential part of how we support students in preparing for a future of their choice. By engaging directly with school representatives, students were able to learn about what each school offers. From academics and extracurriculars to unique programs and admission requirements, students and families can begin to get a feel for the programs and consider which may be a good fit for high school.

Thank you Ms. O'Leary, Ms. Robinson and Ms. Menges for planning the High School Fair and for always being committed to our student's success beyond GLA. We are proud to help our students take informed steps toward a future that fits their goals and interests!



With Gratitude,

Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Updated Lunch Policy

Due to disruption to school operations, staff will not accept or deliver outside lunches to students brought in by families AFTER 10am. As a reminder, students always have access to the school lunch. Outside lunches brought BEFORE 10am will still be accepted by staff.

Student Activities Taffy Apple Fundraiser

Last week, your scholar received a taffy apple fundraiser kit, which included a notification letter, order form, and envelope. This fundraiser is led by GLA's Parent Advocacy Committee and will be a cash only fundraiser. All forms and collected cash are due back on Friday, October 17th by 3:45 pm. Students should return sealed envelopes to the front desk by the due date.



All orders will be distributed on Friday, October 24th during Report Card Pick-up. Due to GLA being a nut-free campus, taffy apples will be distributed outside of school and are not to be consumed on campus. Monies raised will be used to support student activities here at GLA.

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



Fall Fest Spirit Week (10/14-10/17)

GLA scholars will be celebrating Fall from Tuesday, October 14th to Friday, October 17th.
Take a look below for the Fall Spirit Days!



Unity Day- Wednesday, October 22

We will be celebrating **Unity Day** on Oct. 22nd this year. Unity Day is an annual event held during National Bullying Prevention Month in October, promoting unity and creating healthier communities through kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. We urge all students and staff to wear Orange on Wednesday, Oct. 22nd.



Beacon Dash Pass - October Requirements

Earn your Dash Pass privileges by meeting ALL requirements from October 1-30:

- **Behavior:** Less than 2 referrals and less than 3 resets
- **Attendance:** No more than 1 absence (excused or unexcused)
- **Punctuality:** No more than 2 tardies to class (Middle School)
- **Yondr Policy:** No more than 3 violations (Middle School)
- **Dress Code:** 1 or less uniform violations

Rewards for qualifying scholars:

- Dress down pass for 10/31 (costumes or favorite fall wear)
- Fall treat
- Fall art activity during LIT PIT



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- Fall treat
- Fall art activity

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.



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

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!

New Payment System Coming Soon!

- **View Outstanding Fees:** Parents will soon be able to see any outstanding fees directly through the **PowerSchool Parent Portal**.
- **Access Statements & Receipts:** You'll be able to **view statements** and **see or print receipts** at your convenience.
- **Payment Plans Available:** Flexible **payment plans** will be available to help families manage their fees.
- **Easy Access:** Don't have access to PowerSchool yet? Please call the front office—we're happy to help you get set up.
- **Convenient Payment Options:** Fees can still be paid through the main office, either **by phone or in person**.

We look forward to making fee management easier and more convenient for all families!

Government ID Needed to Enter Building - Visitor ID Scanning Begins October 6

Starting Monday, October 6, all visitors - including parents and guardians - will be required to scan a government-issued ID to enter the school building. The scan conducts background checks against Sex Offender Registries, Criminal Databases, and Government Watch Lists. Once your ID has been scanned, you will not need to do so again for future visits.

These measures are in place to help keep our students, staff, and community safe. Please note that individuals who do not pass the screening may be denied entry.

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!

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.



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

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October 6 - October 31, 2025

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
20 IA#1 ANet	21 IA#1 ANet	22 Fall Cultivate Survey	23 Picture Day!	24 Parent Teacher Conferences, No Classes
27 Wellness Day, Building Closed	28 Staff PD, No Classes	29	30	31 Dia de Los Muertos Celebration (Observing)

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