



The Weekly Wave

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

March 31, 2026

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Smith - 2nd Grade ELA Teacher

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

My favorite memory at GLA is when we watched the solar eclipse as a school. It was amazing to see the joy that small moment created for so many scholars!

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

I became a teacher because I knew having representation in the classroom is important, and I also wanted to ensure that students know that they are more than just statistics/ test scores; they deserve to be seen and heard inside and outside the classroom! They matter, and they must know that!

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

I'm from the Southside of Chicago! I've lived in South Chicago, Chatham, and Bronzeville throughout my childhood. One thing I love about Chicago is the sense of history you get from each neighborhood, specifically, Bronzeville!

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

My favorite thing to do in Chicago is to drive down Lake Shore Drive and admire the beautiful skyline!

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

My favorite way to unwind is to listen to music and write in my journal about anything that is on my mind!

What's your dream vacation?

My dream vacation is to go to Amsterdam in the Netherlands!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Next week is a very important week for our students and school. All 3rd–8th graders will take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), a state-mandated test of students' skills in English Language Arts and Math. For students, this is important because it tells us how students are progressing academically on state standards for their grade level. For GLA, the assessment is important because it is a major measure on GLA's [Illinois Report Card](#). We have been one of the highest performing schools in the city, and we want our students to continue to show what they have learned and shine on the IAR!

Testing will take place each morning from Monday, April 6th through Thursday, April 9th. It is **critical** that students are present each day, as this ensures they can fully demonstrate their learning without interruptions. Testing sessions begin promptly and follow a strict schedule. Students will be testing in ELA on Monday (8:20–10:05 am) and Tuesday (8:15–10:00 am; 10:15 am–12:15 pm). They will be testing in Math on Wednesday (8:10–9:30; 10:15 am–12:15pm) and Thursday (8:10–9:30am). Late arrivals may not be admitted into testing rooms once a session has started, which means those students will have to make up missed testing.

To help your student perform at their best, please ensure they arrive to school on time each day (no later than 8:00 AM), get a full night's sleep, and have time for a healthy breakfast, whether at home or upon arrival at school. Additionally, please encourage them to focus and do their best for each testing session. State testing sessions are long. Parents can help us build student stamina by reinforcing messages around 100% effort each day.

We appreciate your support in helping our students feel confident, prepared, and ready to succeed during this important assessment period. Be sure to send your students well wishes and encouragement for testing!



Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date: Spring Art Show!

The 4th Annual Spring Art Show will be hosted on Thursday, April 16th from 4-6pm.



All families are encouraged to attend! The show will feature art work from all Kinder-4th Grade as well as the Advanced Art and Creative Arts Enrichment Programs!

For questions, please contact Ms. Paull (kpaul@glachicago.org)

Summer Programming at GLA!



The GLA Summer Program will run from June 22nd to July 17th. All programming will take place Monday-Friday (exception July 3rd - building closed for July 4th holiday observance) for current K-7th graders.

The deadline to sign-up is Monday, May 25th. Click [here](#) to enroll!
The following options are available for enrollment:

- **K-2nd AM/PM Enrichment Camp (8:30 am - 4:00 pm)**
- **3rd-4th S.M.A.R.T Summer Camp (8:30 am - 4:00 pm)**

- **5th-7th S.M.A.R.T Summer Camp (8:30 am - 4:00 pm)**

Each program is \$400 per student.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org) or Dr. Beck (sbeck@glachicago.org)

High School Success: Rolling Waitlist Now Open

The GoCPS Rolling Waitlist is now open as of Monday, March 30th. 8th Grade scholars can log into their GoCPS account to view their waitlist status, join open lists, or accept offers. Waitlist offers are released at 10am on Tuesdays and Fridays, and families have 48 hours to accept the seat before it is offered to someone else.

If you need support, please contact Ms. O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org).

State Testing is Coming Up!

Spring state assessments are right around the corner. Mark your calendars:

- **IAR (ELA & Math, grades 3–8): April 6–9**
- **ISA (Science, grades 5 & 8): April 20–22**

How to help your student prepare:

- Keep up with attendance — every day of instruction counts
- Talk to your child about why doing their best matters
- Make sure they're getting enough sleep each night
- Ensure they arrive to school on time on test days
- Encourage a positive mindset — remind them of how hard they've worked!
- Practice on the Student Readiness Tools: srt.testnav.com/psrt/psrt.html

Questions? Reach out to Meagan Johnson. (mjohnson@glachicago.org)

Slice the Price is Back at Great Lakes Academy!

Get ready to save big while supporting our scholars! Great Lakes Academy is launching our Slice the Price Card Fundraiser with Domino's Pizza from March 31st – April 14th, and you don't want to miss it. For just \$20, you'll receive a Slice the Price card that lets you buy one large pizza and get another FREE—with unlimited uses through December 31, 2026! It's perfect for family nights, parties, and quick dinners all year long.

Exciting news: Students have already received their fundraiser materials, and sales are officially underway! Participants have the chance to **earn prizes** for both selling cards and engaging in the fundraiser.

Not only are you getting an amazing deal, but every purchase directly supports our students and school programming.

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY

DOMINO'S FUNDRAISER

LEARN MORE



- Si hablas español escanea el código QR.
- אם אתה דובר עברית סרוק את קוד QR.

- 如果您会说中文，请扫描二维码。
- Si w pale kreybi ayiysen, eskane kòd QR la.

WE ARE SELLING THE SLICE THE PRICE CARD

- The card allows you to buy a large pizza at menu price and get a large pizza FREE!
- **NEW!!!** The SLICE THE PRICE card now works for online orders, delivery or carryout!
- The card sells for just \$20.00! Use the card just one time, it pays for itself!
- Use the card as many times as you would like until Thursday, December 31, 2026.
- Great for parties! Buy 10 large pizzas, get 10 large pizzas FREE!



HOW TO SELL THE CARD

- Register <https://Register.Dominos.cards/53804> to get your personalized store link to share!
- Use the QR Code to the left for the general store, <https://Store.Dominos.cards/53804>, just make sure your supporters choose your participant at check out.



WHAT YOU CAN EARN

- Sell at least 15 SLICE THE PRICE cards and receive a card!
- Track your online sales: <https://Dash.Dominos.cards/53804>
- Win Bonus Cash for your group: <https://Leader.Dominos.cards/53804>
- Every teacher with 5 or more participants will receive a FREE card!
- Register to pick your prize and enter to win a \$50 gift card: <https://Dominos.cards/53804>



WHERE THE CARD WORKS

- The Slice the Price card works in **2,683** Domino's in **42** states!
Most importantly all the stores in **Cook County, Illinois** accept the card!

WHEN THE CARDS WILL BE RETURNED

- Cards purchased online will be sent directly to the purchaser by the method chosen at checkout.

SLICE THE PRICE OF PIZZA AND HELP SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

**REGISTER ONLINE
TO PICK YOUR PRIZE!**

<https://Register.Dominos.cards/53804>



You're Invited: 11th Annual Be Great Benefit

Please join us on Thursday, May 7th for the 11th Annual Be Great Benefit in support of Great Lakes Academy. Hosted from 6 - 9 pm at the Chicago History Museum, this exciting evening will bring together community leaders, supporters, and friends for a memorable night of fun and giving. Guests will enjoy access to the Chicago History Museum exhibits, open bar, dinner, and a silent auction all while supporting the continued success of Great Lakes Academy scholars. Tickets are \$250 and tables of 10 are \$2,500 and can be purchased here: <https://bit.ly/47ge4he>

Can't make it but still want to support our scholars? You can make a donation here: <https://glchicago.org/donate>

We hope you will join us for a great night in support of our scholars.



11TH ANNUAL BE GREAT BENEFIT

POWERED by PURPOSE

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

JOIN US!

THURSDAY MAY 7, 2026
Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark
6p-9p

2026 BE GREAT COMMITTEE

Christine Chen
Brad Karsh

Katie McClay
Kirsten Villers

Larissa Siberberg
Ebonie Durham

Aniyah Fisher
Yana Long

Beacon Dash Pass

Our next **Beacon Dash Pass** is here for all grade levels, with grade-specific celebrations! K-2nd-grade scholars can earn a ticket to a Magic Show with live animals and interactive fun. 3rd and 4th-grade scholars can earn a celebration with a bouncy house, music, and games. 5th-8th-grade scholars will participate in an Escape Room experience. Scholars must meet expectations from March 20 to April 16 to attend their event.



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Great Lakes Academy's Uniform Expectations

Recently, we have seen an increase in scholars arriving to school out of uniform, and we want to ensure families are aware of expectations and next steps. [Uniform Policy](#) can be found here. Repeated out-of-uniform violations will result in scholars being ineligible for incentive events and referral documentation.

K-3rd grade Spring Fest

Spring is in the air at Great Lakes Academy!

Join us for our **K-3 Spring Fest** on **Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 12PM-3PM** at 8401 S. Saginaw Ave. This family-friendly celebration will include music, snacks, fun, and games for our youngest scholars.

We can't wait to see our K-3 families come out, connect, and celebrate the season together. Be sure to RSVP using the QR code and mark your calendars for an afternoon full of springtime fun! All students must be accompanied by an adult for the entirety of this event.

A promotional poster for the K-3 Spring Fest. The top left features the Great Lakes Academy Charter School logo, which is a circular emblem with a lighthouse and the text 'GREAT LAKES ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL'. The main title 'K-3 Spring FEST' is centered on a white, slightly tilted rectangular background, surrounded by a variety of colorful flowers including purple daisies, pink hibiscus, and white daisies. Below the title, a blue horizontal band contains the event date and time: 'SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026' and '12PM-3PM'. Underneath the blue band, the text 'MUSIC | SNACKS | FUN | GAMES' is displayed in a purple, sans-serif font. The address '8401 S. Saginaw Ave. Chicago, IL 60617' is listed below that. At the bottom, the text 'RSVP here:' is followed by a QR code.

Great Lakes Academy

K-3
Spring
FEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
12PM-3PM

MUSIC | SNACKS | FUN | GAMES

8401 S. Saginaw Ave. Chicago, IL 60617









RSVP here: 

Race to 10 is On!

Our Race to 10 is heating up, and Heat 5 is very close to having a winner! Each day your student arrives at school and on time, their class moves one step closer to winning a free field trip of their choice. Attendance really makes a difference, so we encourage all families to help students be here every day and ready to learn.

Parents can win too! Families whose students participate will be entered into a parent raffle for two \$50 gas cards. Thank you for helping your student and their class stay in the race!



Laps Completed	
100% Attendance Days	
10	
9	
8	
7	
6	
5	
4	
3	
2	
1	
	UIC Purdue U Chicago Duke MS

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

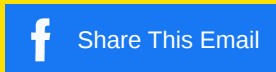
Access April's [Breakfast](#), [Lunch](#), and [Supper](#) menus here (these are also linked on our website's [Parent and Student Resource Page](#))

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES
March 30 - April 17, 2026

23 Spring Break, Building Closed	24 Spring Break, Building Closed	25 Spring Break, Building Closed	26 Spring Break, Building Closed	27 Spring Break, Building Closed
30 GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week	31 GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week	1 GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week Start of Month of Kindness, Autism Acceptance Month	2 GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week	3 GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week
6 IAR State Testing	7 IAR State Testing	8 IAR State Testing	9 IAR State Testing	10
13 Spring Cultivate Survey	14	15	16 K-4 Spring Art Showcase Open House, 4:00-6:00 pm	17 8th Grade Graduation Portraits

Follow Us on Social Media!



Great Lakes Academy Charter School | 8401 S. Saginaw Ave | Chicago, IL 60617 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!