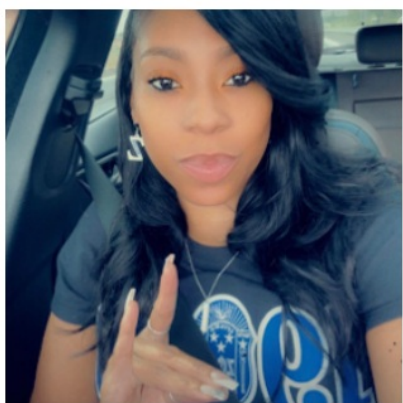




The Weekly Wave

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter
February 4, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Clayton - 1st Grade Math teacher

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

One of my favorite memories was when I first got here and all of the Zetas greeted me! I felt so welcomed and knew I had a place here.

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of my proudest moments at GLA was our black history program 2024. My kids all had a part and they did so well! Everyone remembered their parts.

This made me proud to be their teacher because they worked so hard and delivered!

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

I have been around teachers my whole life, three of my aunts are teachers. I use to go to school with my aunt because she worked in public and I went to private school so we had different schedules. I use to love helping her grade and pass out papers. In grammar school and high school I taught dance so teaching came naturally to me. It wasn't until I gave birth to my son when I realized I have something to give children. I wanted to give them the love and support my son will always have. I felt so good stepping into the classroom watching and helping the kids grow.

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

The kids and the love they have for learning. I just love seeing their little light bulbs go on when they finally understand something!

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

I am from the west side of Chicago. I love that I was able to become a young woman and grow there. I love the food, the people, the family, and friends I have there. When I was growing up I loved being outside playing with the other kids on my block, when I wasn't at piano or dance class. Although I don't live there anymore, the west side is the best side!

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

My favorite memory from grammar school was always winning the poetry contest for black history.

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

I enjoy reading and listening to books. I love spending time with my son, I have a two year old who keeps me on my toes. I also enjoy spending time with my family and talking to them on facetime.

PRINCIPAL' CORNER



February 1st marked the beginning of a month-long education and celebration of Black American Culture and contributions. Black History Month has served as a time dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating the achievements of Black Americans. We are observing this month as a community, emphasizing the historical roots and continuing efforts of the Black community. Black History Month 2025 has an overarching theme of African Americans and Labor. GLA has curated events and special programs for our students in observance of this important month.

This month, social studies classes' curriculums will include important Black History lessons that will be used to educate and prepare our students for a number of performances. For our weekly Friday Community Celebrations, students will produce and perform creative pieces like skits, poems, and songs that highlight our students' talent, knowledge, and pay homage to Black Americans. We are also hosting a special assembly for our students. This event will feature a variety of performances and presentations, including performances by Divine 9 Fraternities and Sororities, a marching band and other Black speakers. Lastly, we invite K-4 families to join us on Thursday, February 27th at 1 pm for K-4 Black History Month Performances.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ashli Miller'.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents: We Need Your Feedback!

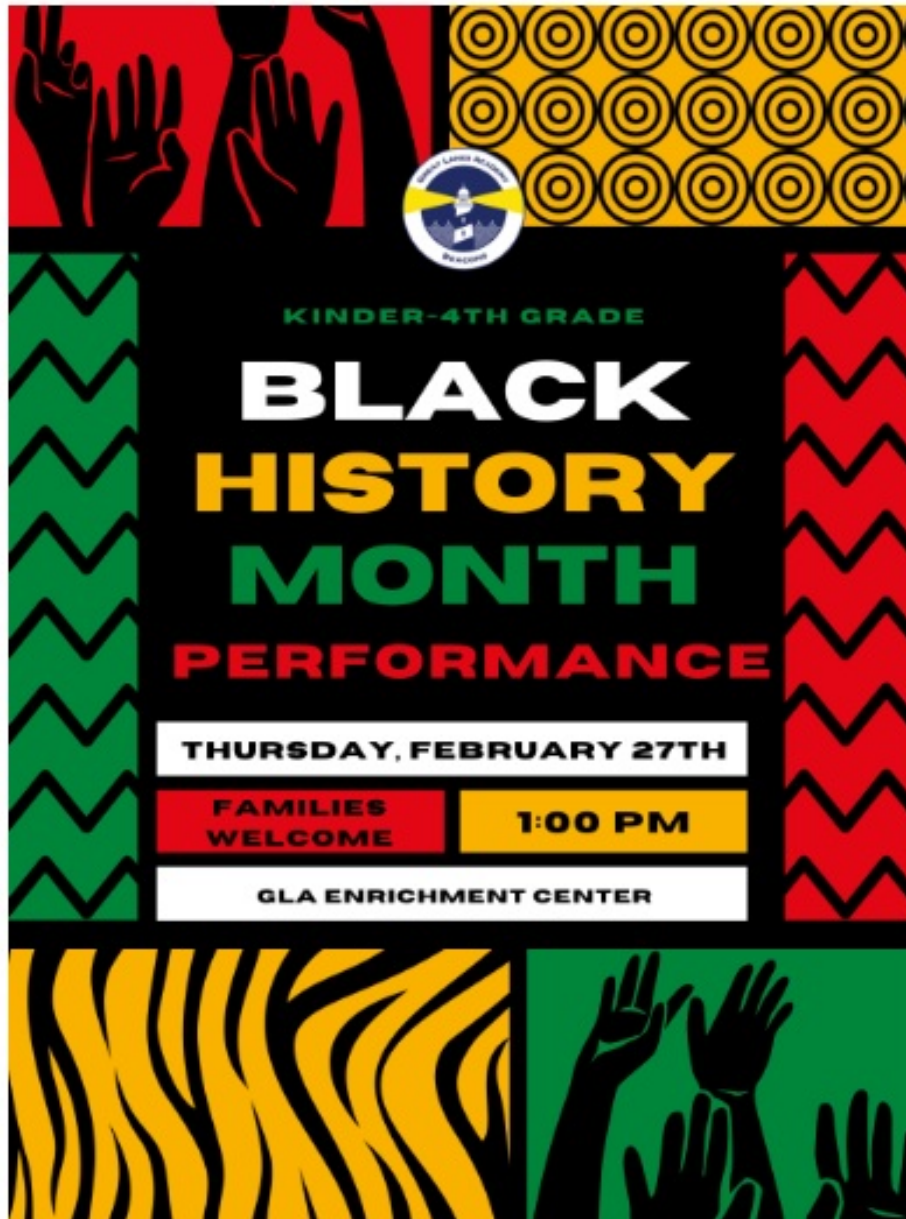
Your voice matters! Help us continue building a thriving school community by sharing your thoughts in our brief survey. It only takes a few minutes, but your feedback makes a big impact!

<https://www.weeklypossip.com/surveys/survey-20250121-72d4?position=1>

Click the link above to take the survey before Friday, February 14th. Thank you for partnering with us to support all students!

K-4 Black History Month Performance

Join us on Thursday, February 27th at 1pm for the K-4 Black History Month Performance! Each K-4 homeroom will be practicing all month long to showcase their performance to families!



School Calendar Change

- Since we had to cancel school due to cold weather on Tuesday, January 28th, we must make up a day of school as we have the minimum number of attendance days required by the state.
- We have changed the “Wellness Day” scheduled for May 1st to a student attendance day. Though it is a Thursday, we will follow a Friday schedule with a 1:50 dismissal. **We will only run after-care until 4:00 pm this day. There will be no athletics or enrichment.**
- The following day, Friday, May 2nd will remain a “Wellness Day.”
- Please plan to have your students here on Thursday, May 1st.

Parent Advocacy Committee

The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 11th, from 4:45-6:00. You can attend in

person or virtually. Here is the new Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87011078647?pwd=YRf0v11epaq3kMGwUMF4IXGa9aiRt3.1>

Join us for the **March 11th PAC Meeting**. Lauren Materre from Natural Path Nutrition Inc. will join us. She will present healthy alternative snacks and food hacks. **Learn healthy beverage options with free samples of healthy drinks and snacks!**

****Save the Date!! Saturday, March 8th, 4:00-8:00**

The GLA Parent Advocacy Committee presents the 1st ever GLA Family Dance. Parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc., are invited to dress their best and join their GLA student(s) for a night of fun and memories. More information will come soon.

Launching Soon: Intent to Return 2025-26

To help us plan our enrollment for the 2024-25 school year, we ask all families to confirm if their scholar(s) will be returning to Great Lakes Academy next year by filling out our annual Intent to Return Form.

This year, the form will be completed online in the platform "Powerschool Enrollment". You will receive specific instructions on how to complete your form later this week.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NJHS Induction

Join GLA's National Junior Honor Society on Thursday, February 6th from 6:00-7:00 pm for their Induction Ceremony. Celebrate our scholars as they officially become members of our NJHS Chapter.

This event is for scholars, and their families, who have applied to and been accepted into NJHS. Please reach out to Christina Harr (charr@glachicago.org) for any questions.

Great Lakes Academy's chapter of
the National Junior Honor Society
invites you to:

NJHS Induction Ceremony

Thursday, February 6th at 6 p.m
Great Lakes Academy Gymnasium
8401 S. Saginaw Ave.



Career Day

We are excited to host our Career Day Friday, February 7, 2025. Please share with your networks.

CAREER CHOICE

CAREER DAY 2025

SAVE THE DATE

Friday February 7th

8401 S SAGINAW AVE

[HTTPS://GLACHICAGO.ORG](https://glachicago.org)

@GLA_CHICAGO 773-530-3040

JOIN US

8th Grade Graduation Package

Class of 2025 GRADUATION PACKAGE



PAY BY MAY 1ST VIA:



(773) 530-3040



PayPal Invoice

\$100

INCLUDED ITEMS:

- Class of 2025 T-Shirt
- Yard Sign
- Cap & Gown
- Cap & Gown Portraits
- Graduation Day Photos

TICKETED EVENTS:

- Awards Dinner
 - For additional purchase
- Graduation
 - No cost, limited # available



For 8th Grade Events, families can purchase the Class of 2025 Graduation Package. Graduation packages cost \$100 and include: Class of 2025 T-Shirt, Yard Sign, Cap & Gown, Cap & Gown Portraits, and Graduation Day Photos. 8th Grade Awards Dinner tickets will be available for additional purchase at a later date. Invoices will be sent via PayPal by the end of the week, with a payment deadline of May 1, 2025. Please contact Dr. Stephanie Beck (sbeck@glachicago.org) or Caitlin O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org) for any questions.

Save the Date: 8th Grade Events

Great Lakes Academy
Class of 2025
8th Grade Events

**25
APRIL**

during school hours
scholars only

Graduation Portraits

Scholars will take individual photos in their cap & gown, as well as a Class of 2025 photo.

**16
MAY**

9:00am - 10:30am
families invited

HS Decision Day

Each 8th grader will announce which high school they will be attending in the Fall.

**27
MAY - 30
MAY**

overnight
must meet requirements

DC Trip

Scholars will travel to Washington DC. Please reach out to Ms. Lifka for more information.

**02
JUN - 06
JUN**

during school hours
scholars only

Spirit Week

Scholars will vote on spirit day themes, and days will be announced in May.

**03
JUN**

5:30pm - 7:00pm
ticketed event

Awards Dinner

8th grade only Awards Night to celebrate their time at GLA!
Tickets must be purchased (\$25 per person) for each individual attending.

**05
JUN**

during school hours
scholars only

Clap Out

K-7 scholars will cheer on our 8th graders on their final walk through the halls of GLA!

**06
JUN**

4:00pm - 5:30pm
ticketed event

Graduation

Eligible scholars will participate in the graduation ceremony.
Attendees 5 years old + must have a ticket. Tickets are limited to 4 guests.

Please contact Dr. Stephanie Beck (sbeck@glachicago.org) or Caitlin O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org) for any questions.

GLA Family BINGO Night

Join us for our first family event of 2025! Mark your calendars for Friday, February 21, 2025. Students must attend with a parent or guardian. See you there!

BINGO

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY
Family Night

Come for an evening of GLA family, fun, food, and lots of prizes! We will even be offering school tours Scan the QR code
RSVP TODAY!

**FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY
21, 2025**

**5:00PM
-
7:00PM**

**8401 S. SAGINAW
AVE.
CHICAGO, IL
60617**

**MUST HAVE A PARENT
OR GUARDIAN PRESENT**

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL

Chicago Bulls Black History Family Outing

JOIN US!

CHICAGO BULLS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH GAME

TICKETS AS LOW AS

\$66



VS



CHICAGO BULLS

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)



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

February 3 - February 28, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Math IA #3 (1st Grade) AWAY Girls Basketball Game vs. Chicago Jesuit Academy, 5 pm	4 Math IA #3 (1st Grade)	5 AWAY Boys Basketball Game @ CJA (JV & V), 5 pm	6	7 Career Day
10	11 Parent Advocacy Meetings, 4:30 pm Black History Month Bulls Game, 7 pm	12	13	14 100th Day of School Friendship/Love Day
17 Presidents' Day, No School	18 Staff PD, No School	19 GLA Community Conversation, 8 am HOME Girls Basketball Game vs. CJA, 5:30 pm	20	21 Family BINGO Night, 5:00-7:00 pm
24 Fire Drill #3	25 IA#3- 3rd Grade	26 IA#3- 3rd Grade Boys Basketball HOME vs. Betty Shabazz, JV (4 pm) and Varsity (6 pm) Girls Basketball HOME vs. Betty Shabazz, 5:00 pm HOME Cheer game, 5:00-7:00 pm	27 K-4th Black History Month Performances, 1:00 pm	28 HOME Boys Basketball Game (JV & Varsity) vs. CJA, 4:00 pm

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