



**Weekly GLA Family Newsletter**  
January 6, 2026

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Ms. Anderson - 7th Grade Para-educator**

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

I'm really looking forward to getting to know the students, learning their personalities, what motivates them, and how to best support them. I love creating a positive, structured environment, so I'm excited to bring that energy to GLA.

**Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.**

One of my proudest moments was when the lead teacher told me she felt the class ran smoother because of my support. I take pride in stepping in where needed — whether it's behavior support, small groups, or preparing materials, hearing that my presence made a difference meant a lot.

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

I'm from CHICAGO!! DA BEARS !!

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

My favorite school memories were definitely the science fairs. I used to think I was a mini-scientist with my little experiments and homemade posters. I loved seeing everyone's projects.. volcanoes, plants, things bubbling that probably shouldn't have been bubbling. It was just pure fun and made school feel like an adventure.

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

Eat !! All jokes aside lol

My favorite thing to do in Chicago is take my son on little city adventures — parks, museums, the aquarium, you name it. And we love finding those food spots you just can't duplicate anywhere else. Chicago always gives us something fun (and tasty!) to get into

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

When I need to unwind, I love getting creative — writing, crafting, or even dabbling as a little influencer online. I also enjoy binge-watching my favorite TV shows or catching up with family. It's my perfect way to recharge and reset before the next day.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Happy New Year and welcome to Semester 2! We had an amazing first semester and we are hoping for an even better second semester. Parents, we have included some tips to help combat a mid-year slump. First, we encourage all parents to check their students' homework folders and make sure students are regularly completing assignments. It is also important to have nightly conversations with students about what they learned and are working on in school. For K-2 families, Paloma is a great resource to support students in mastering early math and literacy skills through parent tutoring. Please do not hesitate to reach out to teachers for clarity on any academic concerns.

In an effort to help students arrive at school well rested, make sure that they have a consistent nighttime routine and get adequate amounts of sleep each night. It is also recommended that students do not use electronic devices within 2 hours of bedtime. A good night's rest improves learning, memory and behavior making it essential for a successful school day.

Looking ahead, please be advised that we will be holding "on track" meetings for students who are behind and may not meet standards for promotion to the next grade level.

Families, your partnership has been greatly appreciated. The GLA community has done an amazing job thus far and we are hoping to finish the school year strong!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ash Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "M".

Principal Miller

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIMITED EDITION: Kinder-Fourth Grade Sneaker Ball!**

**K-4TH** Limited Edition

# SNEAKER BALL

FRIDAY  
**JAN 23**  
4:00-6:00 PM



## Requirements

0 Referrals < 3 Absences to School  
< 2 Resets Guardian (18+) at Event

Marking Period: 01/12-01/22

CANDY BAR & PRICE RAFFLE!



Mark your calendars for Friday, January 23rd from 4:00-6:00pm for the annual Kinder-Fourth Grade Sneaker Ball! Each scholar must have a guardian (18 years old+) present in order to attend. In addition, please see the participation requirements for attending:

- Marking Period: 01/12-01/22
  - 0 Referrals
  - < 2 Resets
  - < 3 Absences to School

## Culture & Climate Incentives

Scholars who maintain **zero** Resets and Referrals from January 6–January 9 will be rewarded with a Dress Down Pass on January 16!

**JANUARY**

**BEACON DASH PASS**

**BE GREAT**

**Jeopardy LIVE!**

**Eligibility Window: January 6 - January 28, 2026**

**HOW TO QUALIFY:**

- ✓ Less than 3 absences (Excused or Unexcused)
- ✓ Less than 2 referrals
- ✓ Less than 3 resets
- ✓ Less than 3 uniform violations

**QUALIFY & EARN A CHANCE TO WIN THESE AWESOME PRIZES!**

**\$50 ADDED TO YOUR PAYCHECK!**

**Dress Down PASS!**

**FREE SNACK!**

**GAME SHOW FUN! ELA • MATH • SPORTS • ENTERTAINMENT**

**WORK HARD. BE GREAT!**

Gratitude • Respect • Excellence • Accountability • Truthfulness

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Race to 10 Semester 1 Recap!

GLA's Race to 10 Attendance Initiative started on August 25th. In four months, we have awarded three homerooms with a field trip of their choice and have had six parent raffle winners. Purdue visited Up Your Alley for Esports, Illinois took a trip to Navy Pier's Winter Wonderfest, and Howard's trip will be shortly after our return from winter break.

As a reminder, the first homeroom to achieve 100% attendance 10 times will win a free field trip. Parents will also have the chance to win raffled gas or Uber gift cards as an added bonus. Our fourth race started Friday, December 5th and all homerooms were reset

to 0 days. The Race to 10 tracker shows our progress and highlights the top 5 homerooms as of December 15th. Let's keep working together to make every day count! Attendance matters!



**Helpful Community Resources: Food Pantries**

We want to make sure families know about local food pantries available in our community. Here is a list of organizations, their locations, and hours of operation so you can easily access support when needed. If you need more options, please visit [www.findhelp.org](http://www.findhelp.org).

# Food Pantry Resources



**Trinity Resurrection United**  
9046 S Mackinaw  
773-768-9645  
Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30 am  
Service Area: Cook County

**King of Glory Tabernacle**  
2253 E 83<sup>rd</sup> St  
773-375-3537  
Thursdays, 4-7pm  
Fridays, 10am-1pm

**Giving Others Dreams**  
8832 S Commercial Ave  
Mondays, 4-6pm  
Tuesdays, 11am-1pm  
Service Area: 60617

**Christ Life Church**  
8927 S Houston Ave  
773-936-1348  
Saturdays, 10am-12pm  
Service Area: 60617, 60633

**Pilsen Wellness Center, Inc**  
2938 E 89<sup>th</sup> Street  
312-217-1831  
Wednesdays, 3-6pm  
Thursdays, 11-2pm  
Service Area: 60617

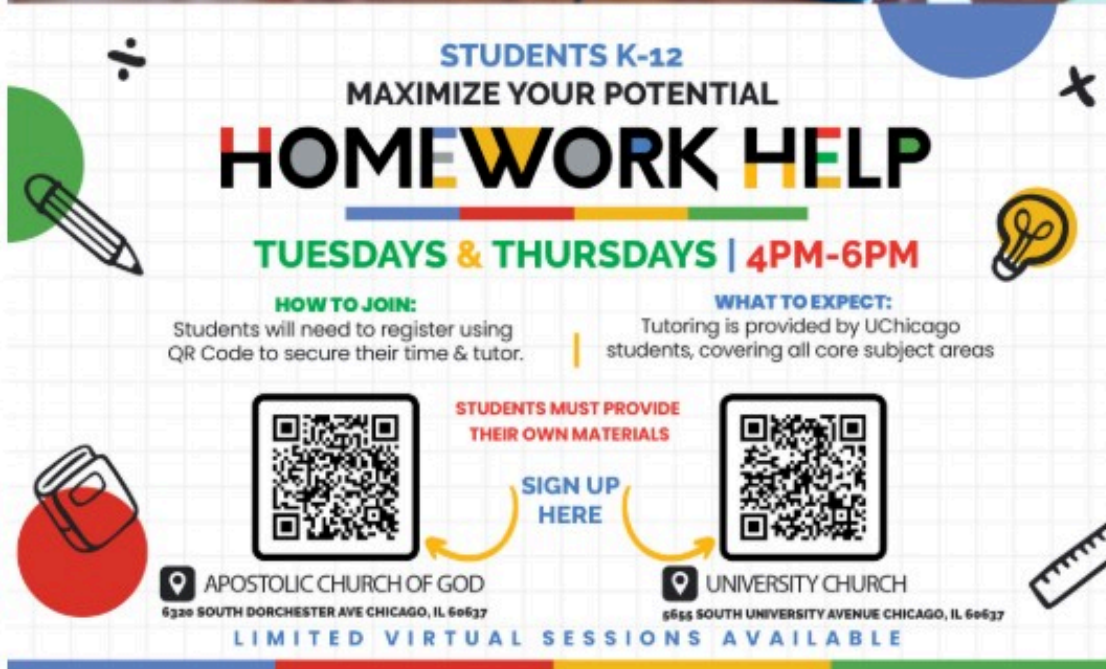
**Christ Bible Church of God**  
7877 S Coles  
773-734-2933  
Saturdays, 10am-2pm  
Service Area: Cook County  
Bring Photo ID!



Need more options? Visit: [www.findhelp.org](http://www.findhelp.org)

## **Free Homework Help through the University of Chicago**

The University of Chicago is offering free Homework Help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6pm. This program is designed to support K-12th grade students with their schoolwork in a welcoming, collaborative environment. Tutoring is provided by UChicago students and covers all core subjects areas. The sessions are in person with few virtual sessions available. If interested, sign up for a 30-minute time slot via the QR code below.



**STUDENTS K-12**  
**MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL**  
**HOMEWORK HELP**  
**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 4PM-6PM**

**HOW TO JOIN:**  
Students will need to register using QR Code to secure their time & tutor.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**  
Tutoring is provided by UChicago students, covering all core subject areas

**STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN MATERIALS**

**SIGN UP HERE**

**APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GOD**  
6320 SOUTH DORCHESTER AVE CHICAGO, IL 60637

**UNIVERSITY CHURCH**  
6655 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60637

**LIMITED VIRTUAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE**

### 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

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**  
**January 5 - January 30, 2026**

5 Staff PD, No Classes	6 Scholars Return from Winter Break!	7	8	9
12	13	14	15 Family Fitness Night 4-6 PM	16
19 MLK Day School Closed	20	21	22	23 K-4th Sneaker Ball 4-6 PM
26	27	28	29	30 K-8th Family Curriculum Night 2:30 - 4:30 PM

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