

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

October 27, 2026

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Diamond Walls - Math Interventionist

Tell us one of your favorite memories from your time at GLA. If you're new, what are you most looking forward to in your role at GLA?
I am most looking forward to building meaningful relationships with my students.

Share something that has been impactful to your teaching/professional journey.
One of the most impactful parts of my career has been seeing the difference made in a student's life. Reflecting on how my encouragement, patience, teaching, and a simple listening ear has helped students build confidence and believe in their abilities, reminds me why my work matters.

What's the most rewarding part of your job?
The most rewarding part of being a Math Interventionist is watching my students' confidence grow as they begin to believe in themselves and their abilities. I get a front row seat at watching their frustration turn into excitement, their fear turn into confidence, and their uncertainty turn into a genuine love for math. Those small wins and the smiles that come with it makes every moment worthwhile!

What's a piece of advice that you would give to a GLA student?
It's okay to make mistakes. It's okay to ask for help. It's okay to not know the answer. However, it's not okay to stop trying. Believe that you can, and you will. You CAN do Hard Things!

Where are you originally from? (If Chicago, tell us what neighborhood!) What do you love about that place?
I was born and raised right here in Chicago, south suburbs to be exact! I love how there is always something to do for all ages all year round. It is truly a special place.

What's your favorite memory from elementary/middle school?
My favorite memory from middle school was getting selected to participate in a pre-algebra course being offered after school by my math teacher. She created an opportunity to not only challenge me academically, but I then went on to skipping algebra altogether in high school and taking Geometry my freshman year.

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

I love taking the opportunity to be a tourist. Although I have lived here for the majority of my life, there are so many landmarks I have yet to visit.

What's your favorite beverage or snack to get you through an afternoon slump?
I love Blooms and trail mix with M&Ms! They are definitely my go to.

What are your hidden or surprising talents?
I wouldn't say it's a hidden talent, but I am very gifted musically.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear GLA Families,

Our school is currently undergoing Charter Renewal, an important process for our entire school community. Charter renewal is a periodic review in which Chicago Public Schools evaluates our school and determines how long to extend our charter agreement.

As part of this process, parents and caregivers have an important opportunity to share their experiences through the Parent and Caregiver Questionnaire. Your voice matters because you experience GLA alongside your children and have a unique perspective on our school community.

We want CPS to hear directly from the families who interact with GLA every day. This is your chance to share what you value about our school, the ways GLA has supported your child, and what makes our school a place where students can learn, grow, and thrive.

Parents and caregivers, I encourage you to complete the questionnaire to share how well GLA serves its students. **We are proud of our school community and know there is a reason why parents continue to choose GLA as the school for their children.**

This is our school, and this is our story. Let's make sure our families' voices are heard!



Principal Miller

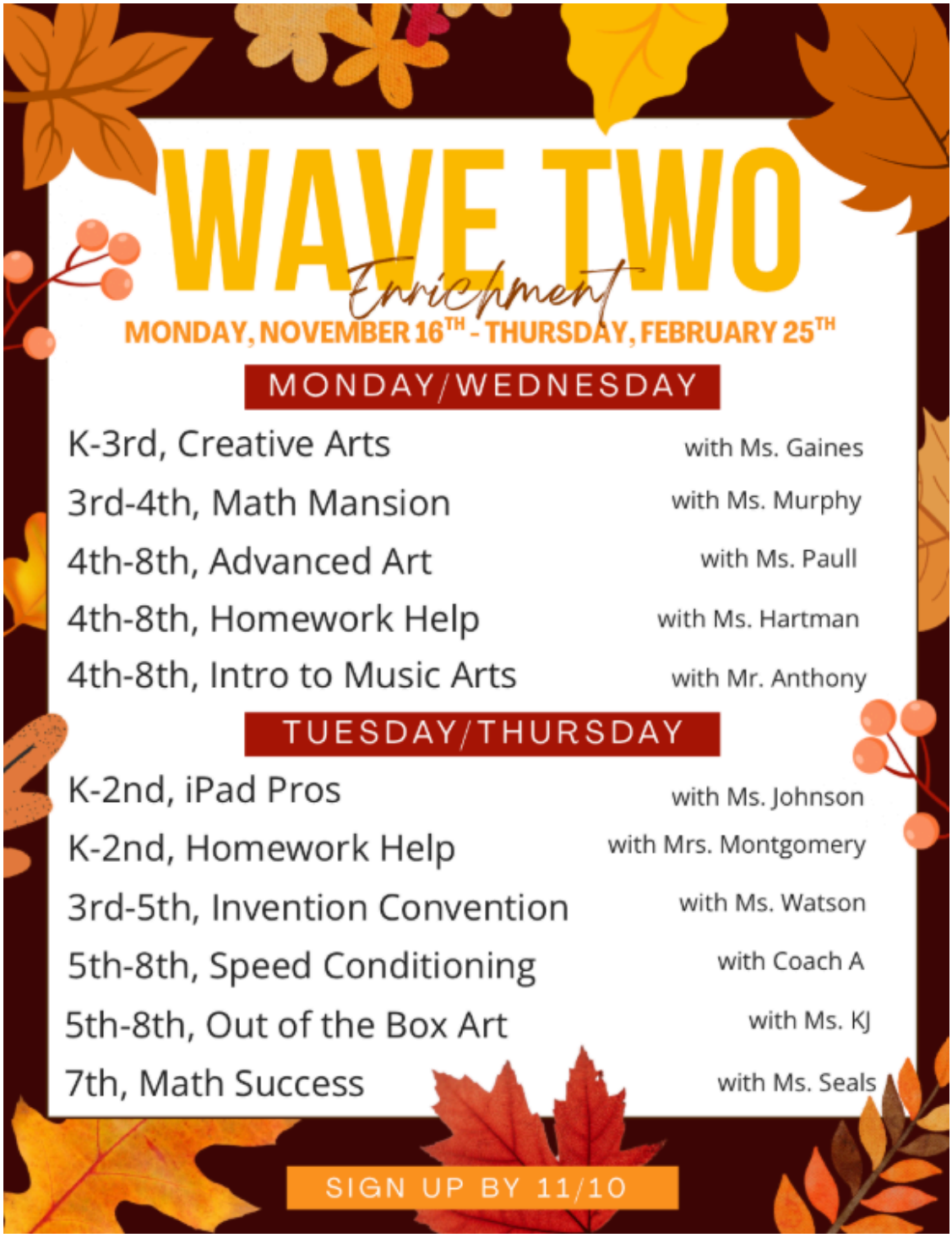
NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dia de los Muertos Festival



After-School Enrichment Programming

Wave Two Sign-Ups are now open! CLICK HERE!



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

The waves are as follows:

- Wave One: Monday, August 24th - Thursday, November 13th
- Wave Two: Monday, November 16th - Thursday, February 25th
- Wave Three: Monday, March 1st - Thursday, May 27th

Sign ups will close on Tuesday, November 10th for Wave Two. You will be notified if you get
into the program by Wednesday, November 11th via letter and email. All programs will run 3:20-5:00 pm. Cost: $175/each program/per wave.

Please reach out to Caitlin O'Leary, coleary@glachicago.org with any questions!

Erin's Law Presentation/ Title IX

All students will receive the Chicago Public Schools Erin's Law/Title IX Presentation that is broken down by grade **tomorrow, Wednesday, Oct. 28th..**

Parents have the right to opt-out of the Office of Student Protections and Title IX Student Training. If you choose to **opt your child out** please return the GLA Opt-Out Erin's Law Presentation/Title IX SY26-27 to the front office or contact Ms. Melissa at mstangl@glachicago.org.

If you wish to teach your child this material yourself, you can access the videos to the sessions on the OSP website at www.cps.edu/osp.

Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee





Culture Incentive- Beacon Dash Pass







GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Race to 10: Congratulations U Chicago

A huge congratulations to U Chicago for racing to 10 and winning Heat 2! They will be going on a free field trip of their choice. Also, congratulations to the two parents who won

our gift card raffle. Let's keep up the momentum as we enter heat 3 and continue working together to make everyday count!





Monthly Reading Tips

LOWER SCHOOL FAMILIES READING TIP: Talk About What You Read

This month, encourage your child to become an active reader by talking about books at home. After reading, ask questions such as, **"What happened in the story?" "What was the most important part?" "What did you learn?"** or **"What was your favorite part?"** For younger readers, looking at the pictures and retelling what happened is a great way to build comprehension. For older students, encourage them to explain their thinking and support their ideas with details from the text. A simple conversation about a book can make a big difference in your child's reading growth.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES READING TIP: Read the news together.

Reading doesn't have to stop when the book closes.

Choose a news story, headline, or current event to read together each week. Then, talk about it. Ask your child what they think, how the story connects to their world, and what evidence from the article shaped their thinking.

Try asking:
- What is the most important idea in this story?
- What do you think about it? Why?
- What evidence supports your thinking?
- What questions does this story make you wonder about?

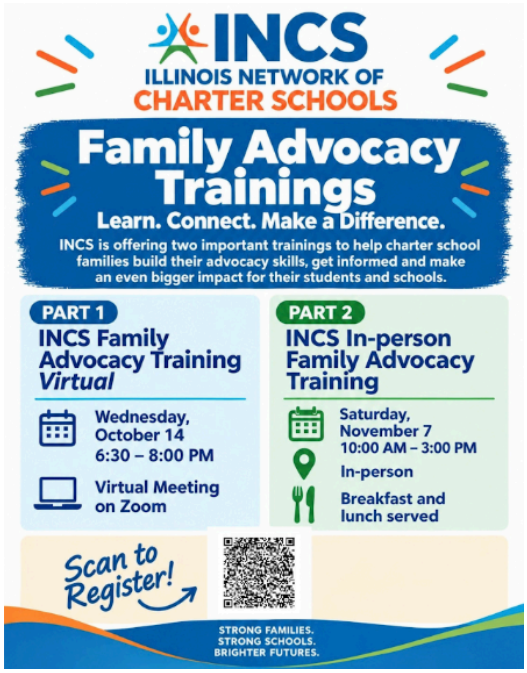
These simple conversations help middle schoolers become stronger readers, thoughtful citizens, and confident thinkers. Even ten minutes of thoughtful reading and discussion can make a difference!

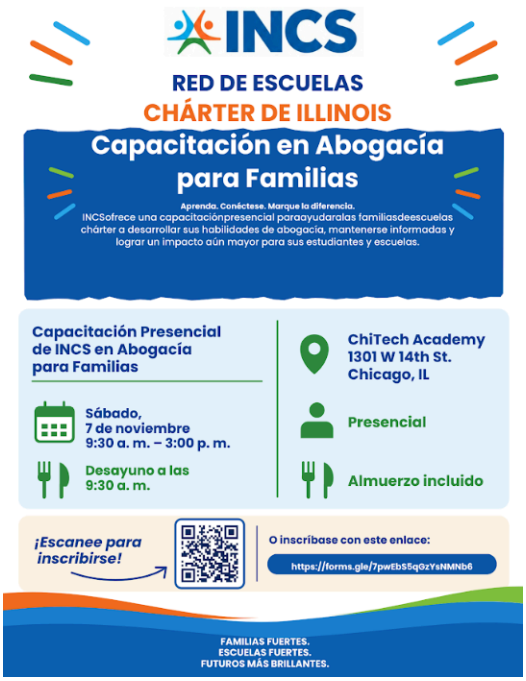
Illinois Charter School Family Coalition Parent Trainings

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS) invites you to join them for a day of connecting, learning and building your power. On Saturday, Nov. 7, INCS will bring together charter parents and families from around Illinois to expand your advocacy skills, get informed about policy and politics and how you can make change happen in your community. Please sign up here: https://forms.gle/m4zBUmWFqmDBTbuD9

Familias, les invitamos a participar en una próxima capacitación presencial para fortalecer sus habilidades de organización y defensa de causas, y así impulsar cambios en nuestra democracia. Nuestra organización asociada, INCS, ofrecerá esta capacitación el sábado

7 de noviembre (de 9:30 a. m. a 3:00 p. m.). No dejen pasar esta oportunidad. Inscríbanse aquí.





Fall Fest + Fall Spirit Week (10/26-10/30)



In order to participate in Fall Fest during school hours on Friday, October 30th scholars must meet the following expectations:

Marking Period: 10/19-10/29
0 Referrals
< or = 2 Resets
< or = 2 Absences to School

Families will be notified on Thursday, October 29th if their scholar cannot participate.

Join GLA's Student Voice Committee
We're excited to kick off this year's Student Voice Committee, which gives students a meaningful platform to contribute their perspectives, help guide school initiatives, and

shape GLA. If your child is interested, please encourage them to apply here or use the QR code below. Applications are due Monday, October 19th.



5th–8th Grade Winter Athletics

Is basketball your scholar's favorite sport? Time to sign them up so they can dribble up and down the court!!

Winter sports season is approaching fast. Sign-ups are open now!

Winter season sports offered: Co-ed cheer, Girls basketball & Boys basketball.

The athletic fee per student will be $150/season.

If you have a student-athlete who might be interested in any winter sports, please fill out the interest form.

All student-athletes must have a sports physical on file to participate in GLA athletics. Any outstanding balances must also be settled before joining GLA athletic teams.

Please reach out to Coach P (tperez@glachicago.org) with any questions!

CPS Family Income Information

GLA families, please complete the **CPS Family Income Information Form, linked below, for the 2026–27 school year**. Only **one form per household** is needed, and it takes just **2–3 minutes** to complete.

This form helps determine school funding that supports important programs at GLA, including our **free lunch program**.

Completed forms can be:

- Dropped off to the GLA front office
- Emailed to **sthunherst@glachicago.org**
-

Paper forms are also available in the front office for families who are unable to complete the form electronically.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this important form and for your continued support of GLA!

English Form
Spanish Form

🦷👓 Mobile Dental & Vision Visits – 2026–27

GLA is happy to announce that our **mobile dental and vision providers will be returning during the 2026–27 school year** to provide services to our students! Mobile dental providers are scheduled to visit GLA **Monday, January 26th through Wednesday, February 3rd** to provide dental services to students who sign up.

Vision providers will be scheduled once we have enough students registered for the service. **A minimum of 30 students must sign up before we can schedule a vision provider.**

In order for your student to be seen during these visits, a **completed consent form (front and back)** must be on file. Consent forms can be completed in either of the following ways:

- **Online: Complete the form and email it to sthunherst@glachicago.org**
- **In Person: Complete the form at the GLA Front Office, Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–2:30 PM**

Please note the following **Illinois state requirements**:

- **Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, and 6th Grade: An updated Illinois Dental Exam is required.**
- **Kindergarten: A completed Illinois Vision Exam Form is required.**

We encourage families to complete the required forms as soon as possible so students are ready to participate when the mobile dental and vision providers visit GLA.

Thank you for helping us keep our students healthy and ready to learn!

Dental - English Dental - Spanish
Vision - English Vision-Spanish

2026-27 School Calendar

The 2026-27 school calendar is posted on 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 October's Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper menus here (these are also linked on our website's Parent and Student Resource Page)

October 2026

Great Lakes Academy
Breakfast

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 • WG Buttermilk Biscuits • Turkey Sausage • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**2** • Danimals Strawberry Banana yogurt • WG Goldfish Graham Crackers • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk
5 • WG Trix Cereal • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**6** • Turkey Sausage Egg and Cheese Sandwich WG • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**7** • WG Double Chocolate Chip Muffin • WG Goldfish Graham Crackers • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**8** • French Toast Sticks • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**9** • WG Cinnamon Bagelful • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk
12  Indigenous Peoples Day	**13** • Pancake sausage on a Stick WG • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**14** • Apple Cinnamon Breakfast Round • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**15** • WG English Muffin • Turkey Sausage • Sliced American Cheese • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**16**  PTC
19  Wellness Day	**20**  Professional Development Day	**21** • WG Blueberry Muffins • WG Goldfish Graham Crackers • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**22** • Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**23** • Raspberry Yogurt • WG Honey Grahams • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk
26 • Honey Cheerios WG • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**27** • Pancake Bites WG • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**28** • WG Apple Cinnamon Muffin • WG Goldfish Graham Crackers • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**29** • Breakfast Pizza WG • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**30** • Cherry Frudel WG • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk

October 2026

Great Lakes Academy

Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 • Chicken Alfredo • Steamed Broccoli • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**2** • Cheesy Breadstick WG • Zesty Marinara • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
5 • Bosco Sticks • Zesty Marinara • Fresh Broccoli Bites • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**6** • Beef Taco • **Hard Taco Shell WG** • Shredded Cheddar Cheese • Chopped Romaine • Golden Corn • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**7** *Crispy Chicken Slider* • Breaded Chicken Breast Fillet • Slider Bun WG • Sliced American Cheese • Curly Fries • Fresh Celery Sticks • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**8** • Cheese Lasagna Roll-Up WG • Seasoned Green Beans • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**9** • Turkey Hoagie • WG Sub Bun • Baby Carrots • WG Chips • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
12  Indigenous Peoples Day	**13** • Beef Burrito • Golden Corn • Refried Beans • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**14** • WG Chicken Sticks • Fresh Celery Sticks • Hummus • WG Dinner Roll • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**15** • WG Cheese Pizza • Romaine Garden Salad • Grape Tomatoes • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**16**  PTC
19  Wellness Day	**20**  Professional Development Day	**21** • Crispy Chicken Patty • Spicy Chicken Patty • WG Burger Bun • Fresh Carrot Sticks • Fresh Cucumber Slices • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**22** • White Cheddar Mac & Cheese • Steamed Broccoli • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**23** *Surf Burger* • Cod Fish Patty • WG Burger Bun • Sliced American Cheese • Tasty Tots • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
26 • Turkey Pepperoni Pizza WG • Fresh Cucumber Slices • Grape Tomatoes • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**27** • Walking Taco • Turkey Taco Meat • Nacho Cheese • WG Fritos • Golden Corn • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**28** • Boneless Chicken Wings WG • WG Dinner Roll • Fresh Celery Sticks • Hummus • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**29** • Beef Spaghetti • Fresh Broccoli Bites • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**30** • **Sloppy Joe on a Bun** • WG Burger Bun • Tater Tots • Baby Carrots • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk

October 2026

Great Lakes Academy
Supper

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
			1 • Philly Beef Steak Club Roll Shredded Cheddar Cheese • Oven Fries • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
5 • Chicken Drumstick • WG Dinner Roll • Corn on the Cob • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**6** • Cheese Beef Slider • Slider Bun WG • Oven Fries • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**7** • Meat Loaf • Mashed Potatoes • WG Dinner Roll • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**8** • Turkey Sausage Pizza WG • Romaine Garden Salad • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
12  Indigenous Peoples Day	**13** • BBQ Meatballs • Mashed Potatoes • WG Dinner Roll • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**14** • Beef Spaghetti • Green Beans • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**15** Jerk Chicken Pita Melt • Pulled Chicken • Pita WG • Oven Fries • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
19  Wellness Day	**20**  Professional Development Day	**21** • Turkey Sausage Pizza WG • Mixed Veggies • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**22** Chicken Caesar Salad • Chopped Romaine • Diced Chicken • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
26 • Cheese Quesadilla WG • Corn on the Cob • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**27** • Chicken Jambalaya • WG Dinner Roll • Baby Carrots • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**28** • **Beef Mostaccioli** • WG Garlic Toast • Green Beans • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**29** Chicken & Waffles • Chicken Tenders • WG Buttermilk Waffles • Tater Tots • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

October 26 - November 27, 2026

26 Staff and Student Spirit Week	27 Staff and Student Spirit Week	28 Staff and Student Spirit Week	29 Staff and Student Spirit Week	30 Staff and Student Spirit Week K-8th Fall Fest (during school hours) Dia de Los Muertos Celebration (Observing)
2 Dia de Los Muertos Festival 5:00-7:00 pm	3 Election Day Building Closed	4 BAC Parent Meeting 5:00 - 6:00 PM	5	6
9 Fall Sports Celebration, 3:30 pm	10	11 Staff PD, No Classes	12 Picture Day Makeups	13 8th Grade GoCPS Application Closes
16 iReady T1 Testing	17 iReady T1 Testing	18 iReady T1 Testing	19 iReady T1 Testing	20 iReady T1 Testing
23 **Fall Break** No School Building Closed	24 **Fall Break** No School Building Closed	25 **Fall Break** No School Building Closed	26 **Fall Break** No School Building Closed	27 **Fall Break** No School Building Closed

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