



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

May 13, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Tee - Learning Behavioral Specialist

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments. One of my most proudest teacher moments was just recently. Watching my students come together and work as a team on a few different occasions. In particular, during an SEL lesson watching scholars struggle with a task and realizing they had to work together in order to successfully complete the task. Seeing this made me proud to see the culture of the classroom becoming one. Or the time one of my scholars took the initiative to help a classmate in which they both were successful through the lesson which resulted in 100% at the end on their exit ticket.

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

The students and staff keep me coming back. I look forward to speaking to all scholars and brightening up their day! I also love being a smiling, welcoming face around the building. The culture of GLA also brightens my day just by being in the presence of great scholars and staff!

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

I'm from Flint, MI and I love my city! I love how small the city is, and how it's like everyone is like family.

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

My favorite memory from elementary school is the inventor's program and science fair projects. In elementary we were able to create our own inventions and I was chosen for mine to be displayed at Kettering University where 100s of students were able to share their inventions!

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

My favorite thing to do is to wake up early and go to the lake and watch the sunrise! Chicago is the most beautiful city I've lived in so far!

We all know teaching can be a stressful job! What's your favorite way to unwind?
My favorite thing to do is play 2K or madden on my PS5, and cook!

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

If you ask me, I sound like Mariah Carey but that's just my personal opinion.
However, I have been told I'm a good cook, I call myself Chef R' Tee!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Last week, GLA celebrated Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. The week-long celebration included wellness and joy initiatives to have fun and reward our team for all of their excellent work. We partnered with StretchLab Hyde Park to offer stretches and massages, catered breakfast and lunch, hosted a cafe station, and a snack cart. Our staff also participated in themed days including GLA Spirit Day, Show Your Gratitude, and Represent Chicago. We ended the week with a Staff Raffle with prizes ranging from ballgame tickets to gym memberships.

Our staff drive everything we do, and our accomplishments would be impossible without the excellence they deliver inside and outside the classroom. I am humbled to be able to work with such a committed team of people every day! Thank you to all of the students, staff, and families that showed their appreciation through kind words, notes, and gifts. Our staff were so grateful to celebrate with you.



With Gratitude,

Handwritten signature of the principal.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Person Registration Hours- TODAY!

Mark Your Calendars! Join us for In-Person Registration on Tuesday, May 13th from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM. We are also accepting Kindergarten & 1st Grade applications!



Spring Book Fair

Book fair is back May 12th-16th. Packets were sent home, please look out for them to see what day your student is attending! Students can attend Friday if they missed their scheduled homeroom visit.



Monday: Tennessee, UIC, Howard, Xavier, Princeton

Tuesday: NW, Chicago St, Illinois, Duke, Emory, Morgan St.

Wednesday: GT, NIU, DePaul, Stanford

Thursday: Purdue, Harvard, U Chicago, Michigan



Parents and Families are welcome to visit **TODAY, May 13th, 3:30-4:30pm.**

GLA Parent Advocacy Committee

PARENT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

Join us for our 2025-26 School Year Title I Planning Meeting! Hear from our Principal on how Title I funds have supported GLA in the past, share your input on how funds should be used next year, and take part in our annual wellness survey about student meals at GLA. Refreshments, raffles, and child care will be provided. Your voice matters!

TUESDAY, MAY 13TH 2025
4:30P-6:00P

Join us for our 2025-26 School Year Title I Planning Meeting on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM!** Hear from our Principal on how Title I funds have

supported GLA in the past, share your input on how funds should be used next year, and take part in our annual wellness survey about student meals at GLA.

This meeting will be held in person—refreshments, raffles, and child care will be provided.

Need to join remotely? **Scan the QR code to access the virtual meeting.**

Your voice matters!

End of year testing

As we approach the end of the academic year, we want to share important information about upcoming assessments. These tests help us see how much your child has grown academically this year and celebrate their learning journey.

Upcoming Test Dates

- IRLA: May 19 - June 3 (Grades K-4)
- ANET: May 21-22, with make-ups on May 23 (Grades 2-8)
- iReady: May 19-20, with make-ups on May 23 (All grades)
- Math Interim Assessment 4:
 - K-1st: May 28
 - 2nd-4th Grade: May 20
 - 5th, 7th, 8th Grades: May 22
 - 6th Grade: May 28

How You Can Help

- Ensure your child gets plenty of rest before testing days
- Provide a nutritious breakfast each morning or arrive in time to eat breakfast at school
- Make sure your child arrives at school on time
- Encourage a positive attitude toward testing

Thank you for your partnership in supporting your child's academic success. If you have any questions about the assessments, please contact your child's teacher or Ms. Johnson.

8th Grade Events: Decision Day (THIS Friday)

This Friday, May 16th the 8th Grade GLA scholars will officially announce their plans for High School! 8th Grade families are invited to join us to celebrate their accomplishments. Doors will open at 8:45am and the event will be from 9am-10:15. We look forward to seeing you there!

GLA Summer Enrichment Programming- NOW OPEN!

The GLA Summer Program will run from June 23rd to July 18th. All programming will take place Monday-Friday (exception July 4th - building closed for holiday) for current K-7th graders.

The deadline to sign-up is Monday, May 26th.

There will be three different programs offered for students:

- AM Academic Support (required for promotion for some students- letters have been sent)

- AM and PM (K-2nd) Enrichment Camp
- AM and PM (3rd-4th and 5th-7th) S.M.A.R.T Summer Camp





SPORTS & ACADEMICS Summer Camp

FOR BOYS & GIRLS / 3RD THRU 6TH GRADES

ABOUT:

Great Lakes Academy is hosting a special learning lab this summer, the S.M.A.R.T Sports Summer Camp. This is a full day STEM-like learning lab that combines science, math, and literacy activities with sports and character education. In conjunction with our full day summer enrichment programs, the S.M.A.R.T Sports Summer Camp will take place June 23rd-July 18th, operating daily from 8:30 to 4:00. Doors will open at 8:00 am each day and lunch will be served from 12:00-12:30.

glachicago.org

mysmartsports.org

Spaces are limited for this exclusive 4-week program.
Register now and let the summer adventure begin!




The cost for AM/PM K-2nd Enrichment Camp and AM/PM (3rd-7th) S.M.A.R.T Summer Camp is \$400/scholar. This includes programming scheduled from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM over a four-week period.

If you are interested in one of the above programs, please click [HERE](#) more details and sign up!

Please reach out to Dr. Beck (sbeck@glachicago.org) or Caitlin O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org) with any questions!

GLA Food Shelf



GLA FOOD SHELF

**WE ARE STARTING A SMALL FOOD SHELF
FOR GLA FAMILIES**

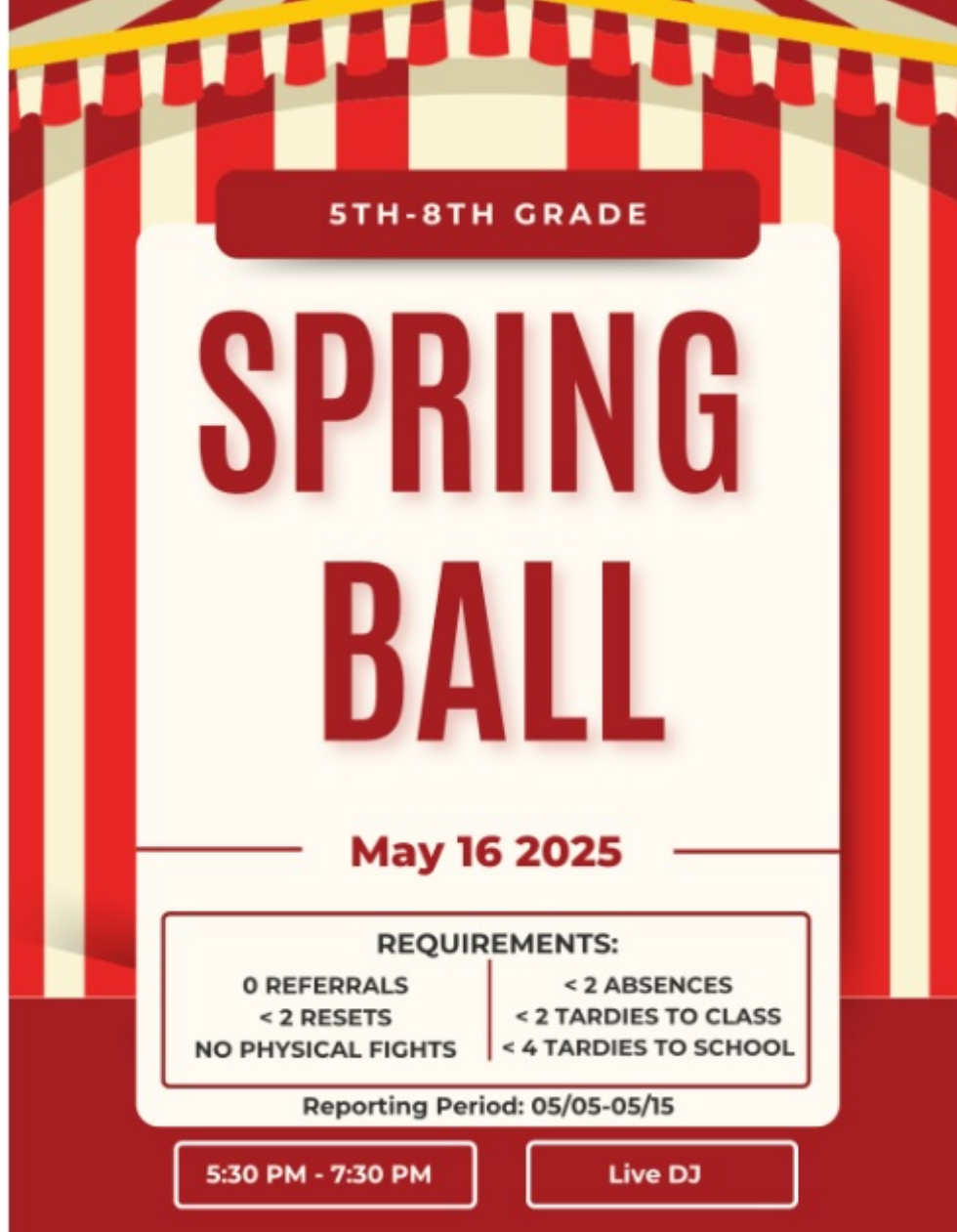
- *Bi-Weekly, we will receive food donations.*
- *If you and your family need support, contact Ms. Melissa*
- *mstangl@glachicago.org*
- *773-949-9721*



*FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVICE*

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Ball



Calling all 5th-8th graders for the final dance of the year on Friday, May 16th. The Spring Ball will be from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. In order to attend, scholars must meet the following requirements:

Reporting Period: 05/05-05/15

- 0 referrals
- <2 resets
- No physical fights
- <2 absences
- < 2 tardies to class
- < 4 tardies to school

8th Grade End of Year Events: Awards Dinner & Graduation Tickets

Starting Thursday, May 1st tickets for the 8th Grade Awards Dinner tickets and Graduation tickets will be available for purchase and pick-up.

Awards Dinner tickets are \$25 and each person attending must have a purchased ticket. Tickets can be purchased and picked up from the Front Desk from May 1st-May 23rd.

Graduation tickets are at no-cost, and graduates do not need a ticket. Each individual over the age of 5 will need a ticket. Tickets can be picked up from the Front Desk from May 1st-May 23rd.

Each graduate has been allotted 4 tickets for both the Awards Dinner and Graduation. If additional tickets are needed, please contact Ms. O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org) or Dr. Beck (sbeck@glachicago.org) to request additional tickets. Additional tickets will be distributed in late May.

School-Wide ABC Countdown!

It's that time of year again, we are getting close to the start of our ABC Countdown to Summer! Please take a moment to read through our celebrations calendar.

ABC COUNTDOWN

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SUMMER IS COMING!		4/30 Animal Day	5/1 Bubble Day	
5/5 Crazy Socks Day	5/6 Drawing Day	5/7 End of Year Awards	5/8 Fancy Fit Day	5/9 Glow in the Dark Day
5/12 Hat Day	5/13 I Spy Day	5/14 Jersey Day	5/15 Kindness Day	5/16 Lollipop Day
5/19 Music Monday	5/20 New Name Day	5/21 Opposite Day	5/22 Play a Game Day	5/23 Queen and King Day
	5/27 Read Around the Room Day	5/28 Sunglasses Day	5/29 Taki Day	5/30 Upside Down and Inside Out Day
6/2 Visit Day	6/3 Wall to Wall Cleaning Day	6/4 Exchange Seats Day	6/5 Yearbook Signing	6/6 Zoom into Summer Day 

Our countdown will begin with A on April 30th!

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

May 12 - June 6, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12 Spring Book Fair Virtual GoCPS Family Information Night (Current 7th Grade), 5:30 pm AWAY: Girls & Boys Varsity Flag Football Network Playoffs Week TBD →	13 Spring Book Fair - Parent Night, 3:30-4:30 pm Parent Advocacy Meeting, 4:30-6:00 pm In-Person Registration Hours, 4:30-6:00 pm	14 Spring Book Fair	15 Spring Book Fair	16 Spring Book Fair Haitian Flag Day 8th Grade HS Decision Day 5th-8th Spring Ball, 5:30-7:30 pm
19 EOY iReady IA#4 (K, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) AWAY: Girls & Boys Varsity Flag Football Network Playoffs Week TBD →	20 EOY iReady IA#4 (K, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) IA#4 (1st Grade) In-Person Registration Hours, 7:00-9:00 am	21 EOY iReady IA#4 (1st Grade)	22 EOY iReady IA#4 (5th-8th)	23 EOY iReady
26 Memorial Day, No School	27 iReady EOY 8th Grade D.C. Trip	28 iReady EOY 8th Grade D.C. Trip In-Person Registration Hours, 4:00-6:00 pm	29 iReady EOY 8th Grade D.C. Trip	30 iReady EOY 8th Grade D.C. Trip
2 8th Grade Spirit Week →	3 8th Grade Awards Dinner, 5:30 pm 8th Grade Spirit Week →	4 Field Day 8th Grade Spirit Week →	5 Semester 2 Incentive Events Lighthouse Awards Night, 5:30 pm (K-7th) 8th Grade Spirit Week →	6 Last day of School! Report Cards Distributed Kinder Moving Up Ceremony, 9:00 am 8th Grade Graduation, 4:00 pm 8th Grade Spirit Week →

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