



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

August 25, 2026

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Families,

Congratulations on getting through week 1! We have had an excellent start to the school year!.

This past Friday, we hosted our third annual “Anchors Up!” start of year event. Our students and staff spent the day building community with each other, working together as teams, and learning what it means to “Be GREAT” at GLA all while having a ton of fun.

Our Kindergarten through 2nd graders were at GLA. They played teambuilding games, learned the GLA Creed, and practiced their homeroom cheer. Our 3rd and 4th graders went to ClimbZone, where they did their own teambuilding, practiced the school creed, and faced their fears on a high ropes course. Our 5th through 8th graders traveled to a park district fieldhouse where they competed in a series of cooperative competitions with their homeroom teammates. At every site, there was lots of joy, laughter, and relationship-building. I know that this eventful day helped students make memories that will last a lifetime!

As scholars begin to settle into their 2026-27 academic journey, academic expectations are going to ramp up. Parents, please ensure that students are completing homework and practicing what they are learning at home. It is essential that we continue to prioritize partnership and support of our scholars for a GREAT school year!



Josh Miller

Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLA x Build Coffee & Books: New Date 8.29.26

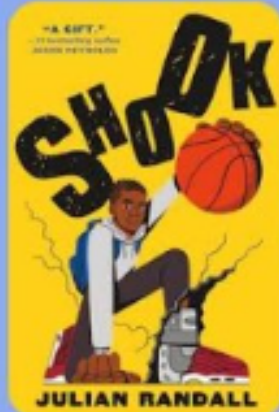
Our Build Coffee & Books event has been rescheduled! Join us this Sunday, August 29th, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Great Lakes Academy (8401 S. Saginaw Ave., Chicago, IL 60617) for a fun afternoon celebrating literacy and community! In partnership with Build Coffee & Books and Men of Color Read, GLA is excited to host Julian Randall, author of Shook, for a special meet-and-greet. Families can enjoy an open gym, connect with the author, and receive free books while supplies last.

Please RSVP [here](#) or use the QR code below. We hope to see you there!

  **BUILD COFFEE & BOOKS** 

SHOOK

LAUNCH EVENT + OPEN GYM



Meet & greet
with author
Julian Randall!

✦

Open gym!

✦

Free books
while supplies
last!

Saturday, August 29
2 PM - 4 PM
Great Lakes Academy
8401 S. Saginaw

*presented in
partnership
with*

RSVP:



Race to 10 is On!

We're excited to launch our Race to 10 Attendance Challenge. 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. Let's work together to make every day count! Attendance matters!



We are excited to kick off

Race to 10

the homeroom that achieves
100% attendance 10 times wins
a FREE field trip & 2 raffled
parent gas/Uber gift cards.

Family Curriculum Night



Family Curriculum NIGHT

Join us for an evening with your child's teachers!
You will learn more about the daily schedule,
course syllabus, homework expectations, how we'll
communicate with you throughout the year, our
behavior system, assessments, and more. Plus,
we'll be raffling off prizes! We can't wait to see you
there!

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

FRI

2:30P-4:30P

Refreshments will be served
from 2:10-2:30

SEE YOU THERE!



Noche de Currículo Familiar

¡Acompáñenos a una tarde con los maestros de su hijo(a)! Conocerá más sobre el horario durante el día, el plan de estudios, las expectativas respecto a las tareas, cómo nos comunicaremos con usted durante el año escolar, nuestro sistema de comportamiento, las evaluaciones y mucho más.

¡Además, estaremos sorteando premios!

¡Esperamos verlo(a) allí!

11 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2026

FRI

2:30P-4:30P

NOS VEMOS ALLÍ

Se servirán refrigerios de 2:10 a 2:30.

Mind Health Questionnaire - GLA Middle School

Our middle school students will participate in the MHQ, a 20-minute, comprehensive assessment of mind health, to help us understand the specific factors driving mind health and well-being at GLA, including technology, smartphones, friendships, food habits, and more. We will use this information to help direct services and policies that support the mind health of our students.

The MHQ is **entirely private and anonymous**, so your student can trust that they can answer the questions honestly. **No individual student data is shared** with Great Lakes Academy, and students are not required to share their results with peers, teachers, parents, or others. Importantly, Sapient Labs will not have any personally identifiable information, and the data is for the school's use alone.

For students aged 10–12, we ask for parental consent. Students will take the MHQ during advisory on Wednesday, Sept. 9th. Please complete the [GLA MHQ Parent/Guardian Permission Form](#) giving your student permission to take the MHQ. If you do not complete the form, your student will not be able to take the MHQ.

We hope you will encourage your student to participate and support our efforts to improve mind health and well-being at Great Lakes Academy. Please complete the form by Friday, Sept. 4th. For questions and concerns, contact Ms. Melissa at mstangl@glachicago.org or 773-949-9721.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

5th–8th Grade Fall Athletics

Time is running out to sign up for Fall athletics! This season we are offering Co-ed Intramural Flag football as well as girls volleyball

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

If you have a student-athlete that might be interested in any fall 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!

Chicago Youth Center

NOW ENROLLING FOR EARLY LEARNING!



CYC is now accepting applications for children ages 15 months - 5 years old. CYC is an inclusive program that accepts children of all abilities and disabilities, as well as dual language learners.

All enrolled families will receive:

- Full-Day, Full-Year Programs
- Pre-Kindergarten Readiness Activities
- Cognitive learning, social-emotional engagement, and play
- Child Care Subsidy Accepted (CCAP)



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CYC

Calumet Heights

CYC-Calumet Heights
9207 S. Phillips Avenue
Chicago, IL 60616
(872)228-0417

Humboldt Park

CYC-Centro Nuestro
CYC- George E. Taylor
3222 W. Division Street
Chicago, IL 60651
(773) 489-3157

North Lawndale

CYC-Sidney Epstein
3415 W. 13th Place
Chicago, IL 60623
(773) 762-5655

Riverdale

CYC-Dorothy Gautreaux
975 E. 132nd Street
Chicago, IL 60827
(773) 291-1000

South Shore

CYC-Rebecca K. Crown
7601 S. Phillips Avenue
Chicago, IL 60649
(773) 731-0444

Eligible families
must live within
the city of
Chicago.

SCAN TO START ENROLLING



More information available on www.chicagoyouthcenters.org



/ChicagoYouthCenters



@ChicagoCYC



/chicago-youth-centers

INSCRIPCIONES ABIERTAS PARA APRENDIZAJE TEMPRANO!

CYC ahora está aceptando solicitudes para niños de 15 meses a 5 años. CYC es un programa inclusivo que acepta niños de todas las habilidades y discapacidades, así como estudiantes de dos idiomas.

Todas las familias inscritas son apoyadas con:

- Programas de día completo, todo el año
- Actividades de preparación para el pre-kinder
- Aprendizaje cognitivo, apoyo socio emocional y actividades divertidas
- Subsidio de cuidado infantil aceptado (CCAP)

CONTACTA TU CENTRO LOCAL

Calumet Heights

CYC-Calumet Heights
9207 S. Phillips Avenue
Chicago, IL 60616
(872) 228-0417

Humboldt Park

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CYC-Rebecca K. Crown
7601 S. Phillips Avenue
Chicago, IL 60649
(773) 731-0444

Las familias
elegibles deben
vivir dentro de la
ciudad de Chicago.

ESCANEA PARA INSCRIBIRTE



Más información disponible en www.chicagoyouthcenters.org



/ChicagoYouthCenters



@ChicagoCYC



/chicago-youth-centers

Chicago Children's Theatre

Chicago Children's Theatre Theatre Playdate for the Very Young

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

10 AM-12 PM

100 S. Racine Ave., Chicago

Each child must attend with a parent or guardian.



FREE

TICKETS

Scan to register

Recommended ages 1-8



A joy-filled morning made for young imaginations

Kids will find rooms filled with music, stories and shows, crafts, hands-on activities, puppets, and more. Come enjoy a joy-filled morning with the actors and professionals who make live shows come to life!

Families can come and go as they please throughout the event. All language speakers are welcome and encouraged.



This project is partially supported by a CityArts Project grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Required for All 5th–8th Grade Families

Please complete the [Student Technology Agreement Form](#) to select your child's Technology-Free or Yondr status for the school year.

OpenSeat-Middle School Students

This year, our school is once again partnering with OpenSeat to increase access to mental health and well-being support for our students. OpenSeat provides students with one-on-one, short-term virtual wellness coaching to address a range of issues that students may struggle with, such as anxiety, academic stress, motivation, sadness, or loss.

Through OpenSeat, your student will have access to:

- secure, virtual, and 1:1 access to OpenSeat's trained and supervised coaches via video or chat
- diverse wellness professionals with years of professional experience supporting students
- Short-term, flexible coaching is available during the school day. (*never during core classes*)

If you DO NOT want your student to access OpenSeat Virtual Wellness Coaching this school year, please sign this form, [OpenSeat Family Consent Form Parent Opt-Out](#) 26-27,

and return it to the front office by Friday, September 4, 2026.

You can learn more about OpenSeat's work at www.openseat.me and/or by contacting Ms. Melissa at mstangl@glachicago.org /773-949-9721.

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 a vision provider can be scheduled.**

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](#)

Important Medical Requirements – 2026–27

Please be aware of Illinois medical requirements for the upcoming school year:

- **Incoming Kindergarten: Physical, required immunizations**

- **Incoming 6th Grade: Physical, required immunizations, and dental exam.**

All required medical documentation must be submitted to the school by **Thursday, October 15, 2026, to avoid medical exclusion.**

If the required documentation is not received by this deadline, your child **will be medically excluded from attending school** until all outstanding health requirements have been completed and the school receives the appropriate documentation.

Medical exclusion is not a disciplinary action or suspension. It is a health requirement that schools are required to follow under Illinois law.

We encourage families to schedule appointments early and submit required documentation as soon as possible.

Family Medical Resources: [Click Here](#) for a list of local health centers and clinics that may offer free or reduced-cost services to assist families with physicals, immunizations, and other basic medical needs.

Questions? Contact **Ms. Thunherst** at **773-530-3040** or sthunherst@glachicago.org.

2026–27 GLA Uniform Information

Please review the **2026–27 GLA School Uniform Policy** linked below for approved uniform items and expectations.

GLA Online Uniform Store is OPEN!

Available Items:

- Short Sleeve T-Shirts – \$13
- Long Sleeve T-Shirts – \$16
- GLA-Branded Polos – \$16
- Crewneck Sweaters – \$20

Ordering & Pick-Up:

Orders placed Monday–Thursday are ready for pick-up the following Wednesday.

Pick-Up Hours:

Monday–Thursday: 8:30 AM–2:00 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM–1:00 PM

Need your uniform sooner? **All available uniform items can also be purchased directly from the GLA Front Office** during pick-up hours.

[Uniform Policy](#) | [Shop the GLA Uniform Store](#)

Questions? Contact the GLA Front Office at **773-530-3040**.

Help Us Spread the Word, GLA Families!

Applications for the upcoming school year are now open at Great Lakes Academy, and there's no better recommendation than one from our current families!  

If you love the GLA experience, tell your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers about our amazing school community. From strong academics and year-round support to a culture that empowers scholars to thrive, we're proud to offer an education where the best is truly in your backyard.

✨ Now enrolling Kindergarten–8th Grade

 8401 S. Saginaw Ave., Chicago, IL 60617

 (773) 530-3040



Great Lakes Academy



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!



APPLY NOW
WWW.GLACHICAGO.ORG

**8401 S. SAGINAW AVE.
CHICAGO, IL 60617
(773)530-3040**

2026-27 Returning Student Annual Registration Paperwork

Annual registration paperwork for returning students is now **past due** and should be completed as soon as possible.

Annual registration paperwork needs to be completed each school year to ensure we have the most accurate and up-to-date information for your student for the 2026-27 school year.

Each student has a personalized registration link that was emailed to parents/guardians. Please check your email to retrieve the link and complete the annual registration paperwork for your student(s) as soon as possible.

If you have not received the link or have any questions, please contact Ms. Thunherst at sthunherst@glachicago.org or 773-530-3040.

School Supply List

The 2026-27 school supply list has been posted to GLA's website. Please [view it here](#).

2026-27 School Calendar

The 2026-27 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

Summer Office Hours - June 8-July 31

Monday-Friday, 8:00-2:30 pm

GLA Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper Menus

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

August 2026

Great Lakes Academy

Breakfast

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
• Honey Cheerios WG • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	• Pancake Bites WG • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	• 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	• Breakfast Pizza • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	• Cherry Frudel WG • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk
24	25	26	27	28
• WG Blueberry Bread • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	• WG Cinnamon Glazed Pancakes • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	• WG Bagel • Plain Cream Cheese • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	• 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	• 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
31				
• WG Trix Cereal • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk				

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Just A Dash
FOOD SERVICE GROUP

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
- 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	- 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	- 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	- 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	- 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
24	25	26	27	28
- Cheeseburger - WG Burger Bun - Oven Fries - Fresh Cucumber Slices - Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments - Fat Free Milk - Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. - Strawberry Milk - Chocolate Low Fat Milk	*Loaded Taco Fries* - Beef Taco Meat - Potato Wedges - Nacho Cheese - Golden Corn - WG Dinner Roll - Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments - Fat Free Milk - Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. - Strawberry Milk - Chocolate Low Fat Milk	- WG Chicken Tenders - WG Dinner Roll - Fresh Carrot Sticks - Hummus - Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments - Fat Free Milk - Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. - Strawberry Milk - Chocolate Low Fat Milk	- 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	- 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
31				
- 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				

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Just A Dash
FOOD SERVICE GROUP

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

August 24 - September 18, 2026

24 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks iReady Diagnostic Testing	25 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks iReady Diagnostic Testing	26 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks iReady Diagnostic Testing	27 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks iReady Diagnostic Testing	28 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks iReady Diagnostic Testing
31 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks	1 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks 8th Grade - Test Prep Chicago Session 3:30-5:00 pm	2 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks	3 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks 8th Grade - Test Prep Chicago Session 3:30-5:00 pm	4 ARC IRLA Assessment Level Checks JV/Varsity Girls Volleyball Game (HOME), 4:30 pm
7 Labor Day No School	8 8th Grade - Test Prep Chicago Session 3:30-5:00 pm	9 8th Grade GoCPS Application Opens	10 8th Grade - Test Prep Chicago Session 3:30-5:00 pm JV Girls Volleyball (AWAY) @ Horizon Science Academy, 4:30 pm	11 K-8th Grade Open House 2:30-4:30 pm
14 JV Girls Volleyball Game (AWAY) @ Latin School, 4:30 pm Virtual 8th Grade GoCPS Family Night, 5:30 pm	15 Hispanic Heritage Month Begins!	16 Fire Drill #1	17 JV Girls Volleyball (HOME), 4:30 pm	18

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

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