



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter
January 28, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Belt - 5th Grade Math Teacher

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of my proudest teacher moments would have to be receiving letters from students and parents alike about how much they appreciate the work that I do as a teacher and how I inspire their students to want to follow their dreams! It means a lot to students when they have people who identify with them doing what they hope to do when they're adults.

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

What keeps me coming back would definitely have to be seeing my former students flourish in 6th and/or 7th grade! I also love how my 5th graders are becoming more confident in sharing their bright ideas and learning from each other every time we're in math or advisory for SEL!

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

I'm originally from the Southside of Chicago (Englewood). Growing up, we were able to build a community that showed it really takes a village. Everyone knew each other and would help each other when needed.

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

My favorite memory would definitely have to be our World Cultural Festival that we would have! Every homeroom had a specific country to do research on, and we would decorate the hallways and classrooms! Each floor had a day to present these countries to other homerooms and the judges would pick the best country based on the research and presentation given!

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

My favorite way to unwind would have to be catching up on shows (mostly anime) or playing sudoku.

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

I'm an artist, I sketch a lot in my free time!

What's your dream vacation?

My dream vacation would be traveling to Japan so that I may visit the Red Panda Sanctuary!!!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

GLA will host its third Annual Career Day on Friday, February 7th. A big part of our mission is preparing students for a future of their choice and career day educates students about the ever growing career options that they can pursue. Enrichment opportunities like career day are an important component of a school's educational program. It grounds students' academic work on purpose. It shows them why their academic development matters and where it can lead.

Last year, we had the honor to host over 50 professionals from various industries including finance, health care, education, hospitality, architecture and construction, information technology, engineering, communications, law enforcement, and more. Three professionals were parents of GLA scholars (we would love to have more this year!). Our classrooms were buzzing with engagement as students were thrilled with the guest speakers and had plenty of great questions to ask. We look forward to giving our students this opportunity again this year.

We are still looking for more guest speakers. If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP here. More information is provided on the flyer below.

With gratitude,



NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

2nd Annual Sneaker Ball



Kindergarten through 4th Grade scholars are invited to attend GLA's Sneaker Ball on Friday, January 31st from 4:00pm-6:00pm! Each scholar must have a guardian (18 years old+) present in order to attend. In addition, please see the participation requirements for attending:

- Reporting Period: 01/20-01/31
 - 0 referrals
 - < 2 resets
 - 0 physical altercations
 - < 2 Absences
 - < 4 Tardies to School

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=YRf0vl1epaq3kMGwUMF4IXGa9aiRt3.1>

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.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

8th Grade Graduation Package



The advertisement features a bright yellow background. At the top, the text 'Class of 2025' is written in a cursive font, followed by 'GRADUATION PACKAGE' in large, bold, blue capital letters. On the left is the Great Lakes Academy logo, which is circular and contains a lighthouse on a small island with waves below it. The text 'GREAT LAKES ACADEMY' is at the top of the circle and 'BEACONS' is at the bottom. Below the logo is a dark blue button with the text 'PAY BY MAY 1ST VIA:'. Underneath that is a white rounded rectangle containing a phone icon and the number '(773) 530-3040' and a globe icon with the text 'PayPal Invoice'. On the right side, there are two white rounded rectangles. The top one contains '\$100' in large blue font, followed by 'INCLUDED ITEMS:' and a list of five items: 'Class of 2025 T-Shirt', 'Yard Sign', 'Cap & Gown', 'Cap & Gown Portraits', and 'Graduation Day Photos'. The bottom one contains 'TICKETED EVENTS:' and a list of two items: 'Awards Dinner' (with a sub-item 'For additional purchase') and 'Graduation' (with a sub-item 'No cost, limited # available'). At the bottom of the advertisement is a silhouette of a crowd of graduates in caps and gowns, with some throwing their caps into the air.

Class of 2025
GRADUATION PACKAGE

\$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

PAY BY MAY 1ST VIA:

(773) 530-3040 PayPal Invoice

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

Class of 8th Grade Events | 2025

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.

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.



Kindergarten through 4th Grade scholars are invited to attend GLA's Sneaker Ball on Friday, January 31st from 4:00pm-6:00pm! Each scholar must have a guardian (18 years old+) present in order to attend. In addition, please see the participation requirements for attending:

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 - < 4 Tardies to School

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**

Save the Date! Join us for Family Curriculum Night!

Come explore your child's educational journey! You'll have the opportunity to:

- Learn strategies to support learning at home
- Get important information about upcoming state testing (IAR)
- Discover valuable educational resources for families
- Connect with other parents in our school community

Plus, don't miss your chance to win exciting prizes, including gift cards and gift baskets!

FAMILY CURRICULUM NIGHT

K- 8th Grade

Thursday,
January 30, 2025

4pm-5pm

**PRIZES
GAMES**

Join us !!

**Homeroom with the most
attendees wins a pizza party**

Great Lakes Academy
8401 S. Saginaw Ave



Career Day

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



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



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)



Immediate Kindergarten Enrollment

We have an exciting update! Great Lakes Academy currently has five open Kindergarten seats available for immediate enrollment! If you know a family looking for a high-quality, supportive learning environment for their child, this is a great opportunity to join the GLA community. Feel free to share this message and flyer with friends, neighbors, and anyone you know who might be interested. Let's bring more amazing families into our GLA family!



Great Lakes Academy

Looking for a high-quality, supportive learning environment for your child?

Great Lakes Academy has five kindergarten seats open for immediate enrollment!



Why Choose GLA?

- ✓ Free and open admission to all
- ✓ Full-day kindergarten with early entry for 4-year-olds
- ✓ Free 7AM drop-off and daily meals provided
- ✓ State-of-the-art campus featuring an enrichment center
- ✓ Full athletic facility and turf field



8401 S. Saginaw Ave. Chicago, IL 60617
(773)530-3040 | www.glachicago.org



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

January 27 - February 21st, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 HOME Boys Basketball Game vs. Chicago Lab (JV & V), 4:30 pm HOME Cheer Game, 4:30 pm AWAY Girls Basketball Game vs. Chicago Lab, 4:30 pm	28 Math IA #3 (2nd Grade)	29 Math IA #3 (2nd Grade)	30 Family Curriculum Night, 4:00-5:00 pm	31 K-4th Sneaker Ball, 4:00-6:00 pm
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

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