



## Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

September 9, 2025

### STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Ms. E - 7th and 8th Grade Science Teacher**

**What made you want to become a teacher (or what made you want to work in a school)?**

I am a passionate educator dedicated to giving back to the community I grew up in. Having experienced firsthand the challenges of under-resourced neighborhoods, I am committed to providing students with meaningful opportunities in science. My goal is to inspire curiosity, foster critical thinking, and empower students to see themselves as capable scientists and problem-solvers, regardless of their background!

**What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?**

Working with my students each and every day!

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

I am from the South Shore area of Chicago, IL

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

I love the movies and walking around downtown Chicago!

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

Video games and basketball

**What are your hidden or surprising talents?**

I can play the baritone!

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents,

Family Curriculum Night is this Friday, September 12th from 2:30-4:30pm. This event provides an opportunity for you to connect with your scholar's teachers, explore their classroom, and familiarize yourself with the learning environment. There will be information regarding learning goals and curriculum, assessments, and homework expectations and tips. Parents will have time to ask questions and gain insight into the day-to-day routine for their GLA scholar. Come out and learn more about our mission, curriculum, programs, and ways to best support your scholar this school year.

Great Lakes Academy's Annual Title I Meeting will take place this Friday after Family Curriculum Night from 4:30-5:00 pm in the classroom: Juilliard (1st Floor). The purpose of this meeting is to explain how Great Lakes Academy plans to use Title I Federal Funding for the 2025-26 school year.

We hope to see you there!

With Gratitude,



Principal Miller

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner - Full-Size Bags of Chips



- Students may bring their own lunch.
- Lunch must be peanut free.
- Students are not allowed to bring full-size bags of chips into school to eat, they will be confiscated and tossed.

### Save the Date: GLA High School & Scholarship Fair

GLA is excited to invite Chicago High Schools and Scholarship organizations into the building to meet with the 6th-8th grade scholars!

On October 1st, 6th-8th grade scholars will have dedicated time during the school day to explore high schools, meet representatives, and learn more about the opportunities available to them.

GLA families are invited to participate in the event from 3:30-4:30 in the gym.



# HIGH SCHOOL FAIR

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>Connect with HS Counselors</b></li><li>✓ <b>Learn About Scholarships</b></li><li>✓ <b>Discover Programs</b></li></ul>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup></b> 1:30–4:30pm <b>SAVE THE DATE</b>
<b>MORE INFORMATION</b> ✉ <a href="mailto:coleary@glachicago.org">coleary@glachicago.org</a>	🌐 <a href="http://glachicago.org">glachicago.org</a>

Please reach out to Ms. O’Leary, [coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org), for any questions.

## Free Piano Lessons

Latin School of Chicago student offers free piano lessons. See information below:





# NOTED PIANO

Free piano lessons for  
young students offered by  
Sydney Katz

About me


- I am a junior at the Latin School of Chicago
- I've played piano my whole life
- I am an experienced piano teacher who is currently teaching students weekly
- I have additional experience working with kids through babysitting and school tutoring

Where and When

- Lessons will take place after school
- Lessons can be at my house or at your school

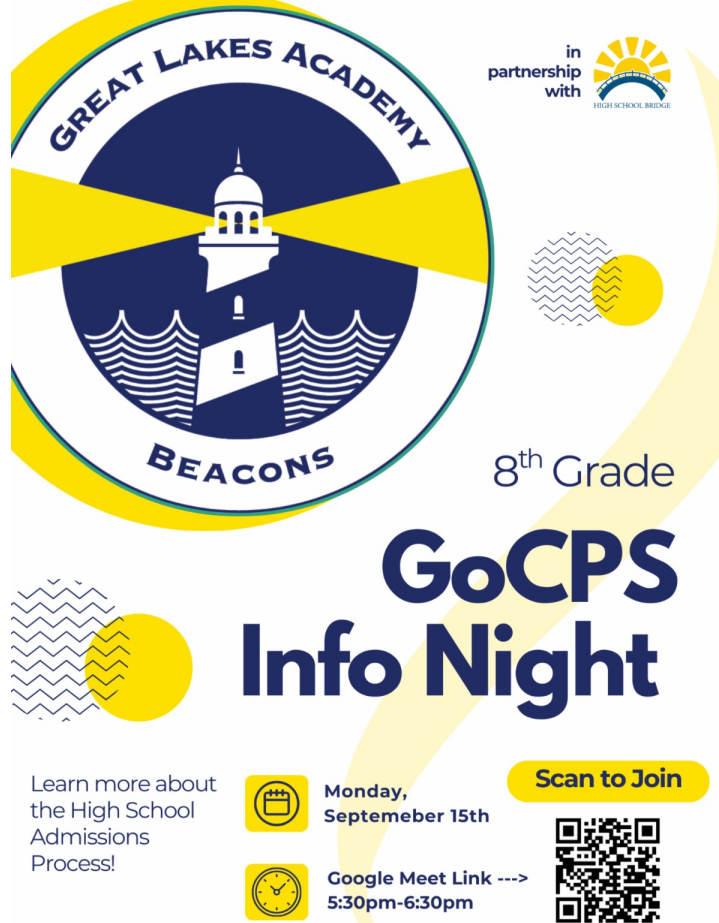
Contact Me  
773-573-4261  
skatz@soc.org

My Website  
notedpiano.com



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GoCPS 8th Grade Virtual Family Night



Learn more about the High School Admissions process and GoCPS on Monday, September 15th from 5:30pm-6:30pm.

Virtual 8th Grade GoCPS Family Night  
Monday, September 15 · 5:30 – 6:30pm  
Time zone: America/Chicago  
Google Meet joining info  
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wrv-aswq-pen>  
Or dial: (US) +1 319-505-8287 PIN: 242 872 575#

Please reach out to Ms. O'Leary, [coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org), for any questions.

#### **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

Join us on Friday, September 12, 2025, from 2:30–4:30 PM for Family Curriculum Night! Families will meet teachers, explore our mission, and learn more about GLA's curriculum and programs. We look forward to seeing you there!



### PAC Meeting

Join us for our 1st Parent Advocacy Committee meeting of the year. We will meet Wednesday, September 17th at 5pm. Refreshments and child care will be provided. If you can't make it in person, scan the QR code for the Zoom link.



Great Lakes Academy

# PARENT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Parent Advocacy Committee is a space where families can use their voices to strengthen and support our school community. Together, we share ideas, discuss needs, and advocate for resources that help every child succeed. Join us to partner with Great Lakes Academy in shaping the best experience for our scholars.

## September 17, 2025

All meetings start at 5pm-6:30pm.  
In person or ZOOM



Refreshments will be served & Child care provided!

### Fall Jamboree

Join us for Great Lakes Academy's annual Fall Jamboree on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 12–3 PM at our campus (8401 S. Saginaw Ave). Families with children ages 0–9 are invited to enjoy a free afternoon of fun with a petting zoo, pony rides, games, and more!





GREAT LAKES ACADEMY

# FALL JAMBOREE

PETTING ZOO - PONY RIDES - GAMES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

12:00PM - 3:00PM

THIS EVENT IS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-9,  
&

PARENTS GET TO COME ALONG TOO!

RSVP



THIS EVENT IS FREE!!!

8401 S. SAGINAW AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60617

773-530-3040

## 2025-26 5th - 8th grade parents YONDR Policy

All 5th–8th grade scholars must bring their Yondr pouch to school daily (even if they don't bring technology). This is required for entry. Phones, watches, and earbuds must be placed in the pouch each day. Scholars without a pouch will receive a deduction. After 5 times, a \$25 fee will be charged to their account. Thank you for helping us maintain a focused, phone-free environment.

## GLA Spirit Wear is Here!

We're excited to announce the launch of our very first GLA Spirit Wear Website! Show off your GLA pride with our unique collection of spirit wear.

⚠ Please note: This is not for purchasing uniforms.

NOTE: This is spirit wear only and if worn during the school day will be considered out of uniform for scholars.

Sale Dates: Now through September 16, 2025

Special Offer: Use code SCHOOL25 at checkout for 25% off all merchandise

Bonus: Enjoy FREE shipping on orders of \$75 or more – delivered right to your door!

[Click here to shop now!](#)



Or scan the QR code on the flyer to start shopping.

We're thrilled to finally offer spirit wear to our GLA families – don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

Please reach out to Sheree Thunherst, [sthunherst@glachicago.org](mailto:sthunherst@glachicago.org), with any questions.



#### GLA Uniform T-Shirts – Order Now!

We're excited to offer **GLA uniform t-shirts** for sale! In addition to the **GLA polos** available in the front office, you can now order:

- Short Sleeve Uniform T-Shirts – \$13
- Long Sleeve Uniform T-Shirts – \$16

**How to Order:**

Please refer to the order form for available t-shirt options and sizing.

[Uniform order form](#)

Please reach out to Sheree Thunherst, [sthunherst@glachicago.org](mailto:sthunherst@glachicago.org), with any questions.

#### GLA Polos Now Available!

GLA polos are now available for purchase at the GLA front office for just \$16 each. Available colors include light blue, navy, and yellow.

GLA polos are now available for purchase at the GLA front office for just **\$16 each**. Available colors include **light blue, navy, and yellow**.

#### 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

Sept 8 - October 3, 2025

8	9	10	11	12 Family Curriculum Night, 2:30-4:30 pm
15 Hispanic Heritage Month → Virtual 8th Grade GoCPS Family Night, 5:30 pm	16	17 Parent Advocacy Committee (PAC) Meeting, 5:00-6:30 pm	18	19
22	23 8th Grade GoCPS Application Opens	24	25	26 Staff PD, No Classes
29	30	1 High School Fair, 1:30-4:30 pm	2 Lockdown Drill	3

Follow Us on Social Media!



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!