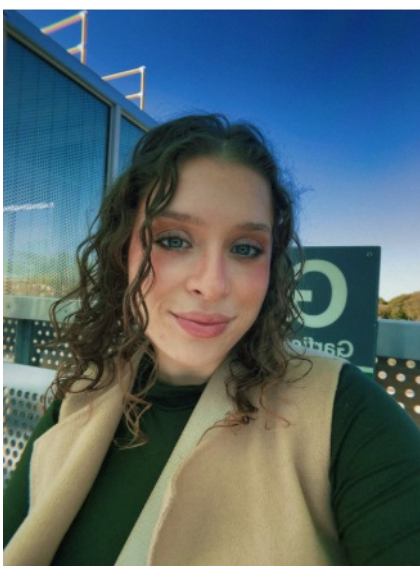




**Weekly GLA Family Newsletter**  
**May 20, 2025**

## **STAFF SPOTLIGHT**



**Ms. Alondra Holler - Social Work Intern**

**Tell us one of your favorite memories from your time at GLA.**

One of my favorite memories was when I was with the kindergarten class. One of the students had just finished her work booklet, and without anyone prompting them, her classmates all gathered around to cheer her on. They were so genuinely excited for her, and they all ended up in the sweetest group hug. It was such a heartwarming moment, it really showed how much love and support these kiddos have for each other. Moments like that stay with you.

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

What keeps me coming back every day is the kiddos and staff. The kids genuinely brighten my day—it's inspiring to see their energy, growth, and joy. It's also really special to see how deeply the staff and teachers care, and the strong relationships they build with the students and their families. The culture that GLA strives to maintain and implement is something truly special and beautiful. It feels like a family, and being part of that positive environment every day is incredibly fulfilling and something I truly value.

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

My favorite thing to do in Chicago is explore the city with my friends. I love trying out new food, there's always something new and delicious to discover, and finding fun activities to do together. Summer is definitely my favorite time in the city. I love going to the beach, soaking up the sun, and playing a few rounds of volleyball. The energy in Chicago during the summer is unmatched!

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

My favorite way to unwind is to go on a walk and get some fresh air, it helps clear my mind after a long day. I also love catching up with friends or family, whether it's a quick call or just sharing some laughs. Listening to music always puts me in a better mood, and coloring is one of my go-to ways to relax. It's peaceful, creative, and really helps me reset!

### **What's your dream vacation?**

My dream vacation would be to go to Greece or Italy. Both places are absolutely beautiful and full of rich history, culture, and amazing food. I'd love to explore the beaches, take in the stunning scenery, and wander through the trails and charming towns.

## **PRINCIPAL'S CORNER**

As a follow up to conversations in Parent Teacher Conferences at the end of Quarter 3, emails were sent to parents a couple of weeks ago for students who must complete summer school requirements for promotion. Details on your student's summer school sessions are in the email along with an attachment with more information on summer school. If students meet assessment requirements for promotion without summer school before the end of the year, they will be unenrolled from summer school and a member of the team will contact you that they no longer will need to attend.

If you have questions about summer school, please email me, Principal Miller at [jmiller@glachicago.org](mailto:jmiller@glachicago.org).

With Gratitude,



## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Work Permits**

Is your scholar interested in working this summer? Scholars aged 14 and up can apply for a work permit through GLA. Please contact Ms. O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org)) for the application and to learn more.

### **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.

### Summer EBT Program



If you have school-aged kids, you may be able to get help buying groceries this summer.

Summer EBT can give breathing room in your family's budget so you can provide your kids the nutrition they love.

- Families will receive **\$120 for each eligible child to purchase groceries** when school is out this summer.
- You can get Summer EBT even if your child gets free meals at school, camp, or other places this summer.

There's still time to sign up. Scan the QR code to find out if you're eligible and how to connect to Summer EBT.



### Free Summer Meals

You can access free meals over the summer/after school has ended! Information on where you can access these free meals is posted on our website and below.

- Link to summer meal finder tool from USDA: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>
- Link to Summer Meal Finder for Illinois: <http://summerfeedingillinois.org/>
- You can also call 800-359-2163 or text FOODIL or COMIDASIL to 304304 to find a summer feeding location.

*Please note this non-discrimination statement.*

### Interested in sharing feedback on school meals or wellness?

Join us for our virtual Wellness Committee & Menu Advisory Meeting on Tuesday, May 27 at 4:30 PM!

- If you'd like to help shape our school's breakfast and lunch menus or provide input



on our wellness policy, we'd love to hear from you.

- Click here to join the meeting: [meet.google.com/bsr-xcko-pnc](https://meet.google.com/bsr-xcko-pnc)
- We hope to see you there!

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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](http://glachicago.org) [mysmartsports.org](http://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!

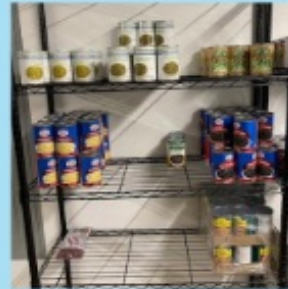
Please reach out to Dr. Beck ([sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org)) or Caitlin O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org)) with any questions!



# 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](mailto:mstangl@glachicago.org)*
- *773-949-9721*



*FIRST COME,  
FIRST SERVICE*

## 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](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org)) or Dr. Beck ([sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto: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<br>COMING!  |  | 4/30<br>Animal<br>Day        | 5/1<br>Bubble<br>Day       |                                      |
| 5/5<br>Crazy<br>Socks<br>Day  | 5/6<br>Drawing<br>Day                  | 5/7<br>End of<br>Year Awards | 5/8<br>Fancy Fit<br>Day    | 5/9<br>Glow<br>in the Dark<br>Day   |
| 5/12<br>Hat<br>Day  | 5/13<br>I Spy<br>Day                   | 5/14<br>Jersey<br>Day        | 5/15<br>Kindness<br>Day    | 5/16<br>Lollipop<br>Day   |
| 5/19<br>Music<br>Monday   | 5/20<br>New<br>Name<br>Day             | 5/21<br>Opposite<br>Day      | 5/22<br>Play a<br>Game Day | 5/23<br>Queen<br>and King<br>Day  |
|  | 5/27<br>Read<br>Around the<br>Room Day | 5/28<br>Sunglasses<br>Day    | 5/29<br>Taki<br>Day        | 5/30<br>Upside<br>Down and<br>Inside Out<br>Day   |
| 6/2<br>Visit<br>Day   | 6/3<br>Wall to<br>Wall Cleaning<br>Day | 6/4<br>Exchange<br>Seats Day | 6/5<br>Yearbook<br>Signing | 6/6<br>Zoom<br>into Summer<br>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 19 - June 13, 2025

| Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| 19   | 20   | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| EOY iReady<br>IA#4 (K, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)<br>AWAY: Girls & Boys<br>Varsity Flag Football<br>Network Playoffs<br>Week TBD → | EOY iReady<br>IA#4 (K, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)<br>IA#4 (1st Grade)<br>In-Person Registration<br>Hours, 7:00-9:00 am | EOY iReady<br>IA#4 (1st Grade)  | EOY iReady<br>IA#4 (5th-8th)  | EOY iReady  |
| 26   | 27   | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| <b>Memorial Day, No<br/>School</b>   | iReady EOY<br>8th Grade D.C. Trip  | iReady EOY<br>8th Grade D.C. Trip<br>In-Person<br>Registration Hours,<br>4:00-6:00 pm | iReady EOY<br>8th Grade D.C. Trip   | iReady EOY<br>8th Grade D.C. Trip   |
| 2  | 3  | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 8th Grade Spirit<br>Week →   | 8th Grade Awards<br>Dinner, 5:30 pm<br>8th Grade Spirit Week<br>→  | Field Day<br>8th Grade Spirit Week<br>→   | Semester 2 Incentive<br>Events<br>Lighthouse Awards<br>Night, 5:30 pm (K-7th)<br>8th Grade Spirit Week<br>→ | Last day of School!<br>Report Cards<br>Distributed<br>Kinder Moving Up<br>Ceremony, 9:00 am<br>8th Grade<br>Graduation, 4:00 pm<br>8th Grade Spirit Week<br>→ |
| 9  | 10   | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| Summer Office Hours,<br>8:00-2:30 pm   | Summer Office Hours,<br>8:00-2:30 pm   | Summer Office<br>Hours, 8:00-2:30 pm  | Summer Office Hours,<br>8:00-2:30 pm  | Summer Office<br>Hours, 8:00-2:30 pm  |

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!