



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter March 19, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Brandi Silverman - Paraeducator

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of my proudest moments as a paraeducator was successfully building strong, positive relationships with my student during my first year at GLA. Establishing trust and connection not only created a supportive learning environment but also reinforced my passion for teaching and student growth.

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

Since a kid, I loved playing "teacher" with my dolls! Also I always felt a deep connection to education. My passion for working with children has only grown over the years, and especially this year while doing my student teaching, it continues to be my driving force. Seeing students learn, grow, and develop confidence in themselves is what inspires me every day to be a part of their educational journey.

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

The students! Especially the current 6th graders.

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

I am originally from the Roseland neighborhood in Chicago. What I love about my neighborhood is how, when we were kids, we would all play outside together. The adults on the block would keep an eye on us, and we truly felt like one big family.

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

My 6th-grade teacher organized an assembly for our mothers on Mother's Day. The boys recited a poem, and we girls sang the Ashanti Mother's song. My mom was so amazed that she started crying—lol.

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

Going out! It could be with my daughter, family or friends.

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

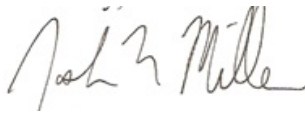
Cooking! I love to cook, I would love to have my own food truck or restaurant.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Thank you to all of the parents that attended Quarter 3 Parent-Teacher Conferences! These meetings are important in fostering open communication around students' progress and achievement and in strengthening the partnership between school and home. We met with over 400 of our student's parents, completing 75% of our conferences! We are always appreciative when parents take the time out of their busy schedule to come to GLA for events like Parent Teacher Conferences. Our students also appreciate it! When you attend Parent Teacher Conferences, you are better able to celebrate their successes and support them with their challenges. For any parent who did not attend conferences, we encourage you to reach out to your student's homeroom teacher to schedule a makeup appointment.

We appreciate your continuous effort in creating a supportive learning environment for our scholars. As a community, let's finish this last quarter off strong!

With gratitude,



NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLA Madness 2025!

- IAR state testing is coming up! 3rd-8th graders will be taking the Illinois Readiness Assessment (IAR) on April 7-April 10, 2025, but K-8 will all be a part of the MADNESS! In order to prep our students for testing, we will PUMP THEM UP with opening/closing ceremonies and friendly competition between homerooms the week of March 31-April 4. Homerooms will earn points through exit tickets, participation in dress down days, and other classroom academic competitions! Please see the below dress down days!

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY PRESENTS

Student/Staff **WEEK** *Spirit*

MARCH 31ST - APRIL 4TH

• *Monday*

Class Clash Day

Dress in your
homeroom
colors

• *Tuesday*

Staff or Student Day

Students dress
like staff and staff
dress like
students

• *Wednesday*

Pajama Day

Wear your
favorite
pajamas

• *Thursday*

Vacation Day

Dress like you're
going on
vacations

• *Friday*

Game Day

Wear your
favorite jersey
or team shirt

3rd Annual Art Showcase- Thursday, April 17th- 4:00-6:00 pm



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is overflowing! If your student is missing a jacket, sweater, lunchbox, or folder please have them look in the lost and found. **We will be donating any items not claimed on Friday, March 21st.**

Great Lakes Academy Spring Benefit

Join us for a night of fun, networking and **FUN**raising! The 10th Annual I Be Great Spring Benefit will be held Thursday Apr 3, 2025 from 6pm- 10pm. We are excited to have our GLA families come celebrate with us. Use the promo code GLAFamily25 for your discounted ticket of \$100

Great Lakes Academy
10th Annual Be Great Benefit

IMPACT BEYOND 10

Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence

COCKTAIL RECEPTION • SILENT AUCTION • DINNER • PROGRAM

THURSDAY,
APRIL 3, 2025
6:00PM-10:00PM

CITY HALL RECESS
838 W. KINZIE ST.
CHICAGO, IL

FOOD & DRINKS BY **BRONZEVILLE
WINERY**

2025 BE GREAT LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREE

Larissa Silberberg

BENEFIT CHAIR

Brad Karsh

BENEFIT SPONSORS

BEACON



ANCHOR



HARBOR

**BULLEY &
ANDREWS**



SAIL



2025 BE GREAT BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Christine Chen
Ebony Durham

Aniyah Fisher
Zoe Hughes

Lisa Karsh

Yana Long
Katie McClay

Larissa Silberberg
Kirsten Villers

Spring Fest



Join us for Great Spring Fest at Great Lakes Academy on April 25, 2025, from 5 PM to 7 PM. Open to Preschool to 3rd Grade families, this fun-filled event will feature games, activities, food, and school tours. Don't miss out—RSVP today

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

March 17 - April 11, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17 Wellness Day, No School	18	19 GLA: Community Conversation, 8:00 am	20	21 2025-2026 Lottery
24 Spring Break, No School	25 Spring Break, No School	26 Spring Break, No School	27 Spring Break, No School	28 Spring Break, No School
31 Student and Staff Spirit Week	1 Student and Staff Spirit Week	2 Student and Staff Spirit Week	3 Student and Staff Spirit Week GLA Spring Benefit, 6:00 pm	4 Student and Staff Spirit Week
7 3rd-8th IAR State Testing!	8 3rd-8th IAR State Testing!	9 3rd-8th IAR State Testing!	10 3rd-8th IAR State Testing!	11

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