



# The Weekly Wave

## Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

December 3, 2025

### STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Ms. Stuckett - Paraeducator**

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

My most favorable memory here at GLA talking with the students and listening to the things they say. During this time, I laughed so hard tears came to my eyes.

**Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.**

My proudest teacher moment and I will never forget it, a student who was struggling needed my help in class and adopted me to assist them in a subject they were struggling with.

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

What made me decide to work in a school was the children. I felt that if I can just reach one where they are at academically and when they see the efforts they have made, next time I can help 2 or more as we both grow.

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

Great Lakes Academy is one of those rare schools where everyone gives their all to the students, community, and families. Every staff member here including myself, desires the best of the best from each student and sets expectations to advance their education.

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

I'm from the South Shore and South Chicago community. Wow!! I have so many memories living in these communities. Going to Rainbow beach to play in the park, homecoming games at Eckersall Park on 83rd street, and Leon's Barbecue on 79th street (Fries with mild sauce).

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

My most favorable memory in elementary school was my 8th grade teachers, they held every student to an expectation of getting a quality education, learning the constitution to graduate from school and the class trip to Springfield. We were made to get along and nonsense wasn't part of it. The lunchroom peanut butter and butter cookies, Anne's chocolate chips cookies, Taurus Flavor, and the sweet shop. These were safe spaces for the kids in the community, the owners knew the students and the school staff, much like GLA.

**We all know teaching can be a stressful job! What's your favorite way to unwind?**  
Watching Sci-Fi movies and Diy shows.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Semester 1 officially ends on December 19, and we are entering an important stretch as students work to finish the term strong. With only three weeks remaining, this is a valuable opportunity for students to focus on raising their grades, completing all assignments and homework, and making meaningful academic progress before the semester closes. Report cards will be emailed to parents once grades are finalized, providing families with a clear overview of student progress.

As we move toward the end of the semester, we strongly encourage students and families to reach out to teachers with any questions or concerns about current grades. Teachers can provide clarification, guidance, and support to help students improve and stay on track. Open communication during these final weeks can make a significant difference.

Looking ahead, Semester 2 will begin on January 6, marking a fresh start and new opportunities for learning. Let's make the most of these last weeks and finish Semester 1 with confidence and momentum.

Warmly,



Principal Miller

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Winter Book Fair



Book Fair is here, December 8th-12th. Flyers will be sent home this week, please look out for them to see what day your student is attending!

Parents and Families are welcome to visit Tuesday, December 9th, 3:30-4:30pm.

### Winter Ball: December 12th 5:30-7:30

5th-8th Grade Scholars are invited to attend GLA's Winter Ball on Friday, December 12th from 5:30-7:30. The Winter Ball will feature a special performance by DJ Rainn, a raffle to win exclusive prizes, and a candy/glow bar. Scholars must meet these requirements to attend, and families will be notified the evening of Thursday, December 11th if their scholar is ineligible.

**Marking Period: 12/01-12/11**

- 0 Referrals
- < 2 Resets

- < 2 Tardies to Class
- < 4 Absences to School



**Giving Tuesday: Together We Give, Together We Share.**

Join Great Lakes Academy on December 2, 2025, for Giving Tuesday as we support the GLA Opportunity Fund. Your donation helps provide college support for alumni, essential resources for families facing hardships, and the operating costs that keep our school strong. Make your impact today: [www.glachicago.org/donate](http://www.glachicago.org/donate)



Great Lakes Academy

GIVING  
TUESDAY



Together  
We Give,  
Together  
We Share

**December 2, 2025**

**A Giving Tuesday Event**

This Giving Tuesday, support the GLA Opportunity Fund. Your contribution can help with:

- GLA Alumni Association: Assisting our first graduating class with last-minute college expenses, books, and scholarships.
- GLA Family Hardships: Many of our families experience hardships that traditional school budgets do not cover. Your support helps ensure they have essentials such as clothing, housing, food, and transportation.
- General Operating Costs: Supporting the daily operations that keep GLA running strong and serving our students.

Donate HERE!

[www.glachicago.org/donate](http://www.glachicago.org/donate)

773-530-3040



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Math Parent Workshop](#)



# parent WORKSHOP MATH FACT FLUENCY



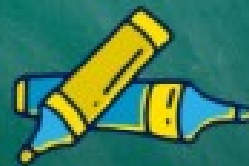
DECEMBER 2, 2025 & DECEMBER 4, 2025

5:00 PM -6:00 PM

LEARN QUICK, EFFECTIVE WAYS TO HELP YOUR  
CHILD PRACTICE AT HOME:

- ENGAGING GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- STRATEGIES THAT TAKE JUST MINUTES A DAY
- FREE RESOURCES TAILORED TO YOUR CHILD'S GRADE LEVEL

JOIN US



### **Join GLA's Student Voice Committee**

We're excited to launch a new opportunity for K–8 students. Our Student Voice Committee will give students a meaningful platform to contribute their perspectives, help guide school initiatives, and shape GLA. If your child is interested, please encourage them to apply [here](#) or use the QR code below. Applications are due Friday, December 5th.



# Introducing STUDENT VOICE COMMITTEE

Join the new Student Voice Committee! Students in grades K-8 are invited to apply to help shape the GLA experience and share ideas that strengthen our school community.

Applications are due December 5, and our first meeting is Friday January 9th, 2pm - 3pm

APPLY BY DEC 5TH



[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/GLASVC](https://tinyurl.com/glasvc)

Contact Ms. Durham for more information at [edurham@glachicago.org](mailto:edurham@glachicago.org)

### Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS) Notice of Rights of Homeless Students

The Board of Education of the City of Chicago (Board) shall provide an educational environment that treats all students attending the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) with dignity and respect. Every student in a temporary living situation shall have equal access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are permanently housed. This commitment to the educational rights of students in temporary living situations, youth, and youth not living with a parent or guardian applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by the Board. If you have any questions or would like assistance, please contact Ms. Melissa at [mstangl@glachicago.org](mailto:mstangl@glachicago.org) or 773-949-9721.

### Race to 10 is On!

A huge congratulations to Illinois for racing to 10 and winning Heat 2! They will be going on a free field trip of their choice. Also, congratulations to the two parents who won our gas raffle. Race 2 started 10/20. Let's keep up the momentum and continue working together to make everyday count! Attendance matters.



## Helpful Community Resources: Food Pantries

We want to make sure families know about local food pantries available in our community. Here is a list of organizations, their locations, and hours of operation so you can easily access support when needed. If you need more options, please visit [www.findhelp.org](http://www.findhelp.org).

# Food Pantry Resources



**Trinity Resurrection United**  
9046 S Mackinaw  
773-768-9645  
Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30 am  
Service Area: Cook County

**King of Glory Tabernacle**  
2253 E 83<sup>rd</sup> St  
773-375-3537  
Thursdays, 4-7pm  
Fridays, 10am-1pm

**Giving Others Dreams**  
8832 S Commercial Ave  
Mondays, 4-6pm  
Tuesdays, 11am-1pm  
Service Area: 60617

**Christ Life Church**  
8927 S Houston Ave  
773-936-1348  
Saturdays, 10am-12pm  
Service Area: 60617, 60633

**Pilsen Wellness Center, Inc**  
2938 E 89<sup>th</sup> Street  
312-217-1831  
Wednesdays, 3-6pm  
Thursdays, 11-2pm  
Service Area: 60617

**Christ Bible Church of God**  
7877 S Coles  
773-734-2933  
Saturdays, 10am-2pm  
Service Area: Cook County  
Bring Photo ID!



Need more options? Visit: [www.findhelp.org](http://www.findhelp.org)


Additionally, Aldi has created a promotion that provides dinner for 10 for \$40. See what is included below.




- Whole Turkey
- Chicken Broth
- Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Evaporated Milk
- Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
- Miniature Marshmallows
- Cut Green Beans (x2)
- 100% Pure Canned Pumpkin
- Shells & Cheese (x2)
- Brown Gravy Mix (x3)
- Poultry Spices & Herbs
- French Fried Onions
- Pie Crust
- Chicken or Cornbread Stuffing (x2)
- Whipped Dairy Topping
- Yellow Onions (3 lbs.)
- Baby Peeled Carrots
- Celery
- Cranberries
- Sweet Potatoes (3 lbs.)
- Russet Potatoes (10 lbs.)

**Free Homework Help through the University of Chicago**

The University of Chicago is offering free Homework Help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6pm. This program is designed to support K-12th grade students with their schoolwork in a welcoming, collaborative environment. Tutoring is provided by UChicago students and covers all core subjects areas. The sessions are in person with few virtual sessions available. If interested, sign up for a 30-minute time slot via the QR code below.



NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS PROGRAM  
The University of Chicago



**STUDENTS K-12**  
MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL

# HOMework HELP



**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 4PM-6PM**

**HOW TO JOIN:**  
Students will need to register using QR Code to secure their time & tutor.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**  
Tutoring is provided by UChicago students, covering all core subject areas

**STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN MATERIALS**

**SIGN UP HERE**



**APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GOD**  
6326 SOUTH DORCHESTER AVE CHICAGO, IL 60637

**UNIVERSITY CHURCH**  
5655 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60637

LIMITED VIRTUAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE

### 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**

**December 1 - December 26, 2025**

1	2 Math Parent Workshop 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm  Boys JV/V Basketball HOME @ 4:30 pm	3 Shelter in Place Drill	4 Math Parent Workshop 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	5
8 Winter Book Fair  ANet	9 Winter Book Fair	10 Winter Book Fair	11 Winter Book Fair	12 Winter Book Fair  ANet Make Ups  5th-8th Grade Winter Ball 5:30 - 7:30 PM
15 K-8th Winter Spirit Week  iReady MOY Assessments	16 K-8th Winter Spirit Week  iReady MOY Assessments	17 K-8th Winter Spirit Week  iReady MOY Assessments Make Ups	18 K-8th Winter Spirit Week	19 K-8th Winter Spirit Week
22 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	23 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	24 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	25 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>	26 <b>Winter Break, No School</b>

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