



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter
December 17, 2024

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Blumberg - 2nd Grade Math Teacher & K-1 Cluster Lead

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

I love every Spirit Week! Nothing is better than getting to dress up and be silly with the students. It is so fun to see everyone's personality show through their clothes and I love to see the creativity everyone brings!

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

The GLA community! I love walking through the hallway and seeing familiar faces from previous

years. It is awesome to watch as my students grow from second graders up through middle school. I can't believe that some of the students I taught back in 2019 are in 7th grade now!

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

Highland Park, IL

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

I will always remember in 2nd Grade, we each got a mealworm who sat with us on our desk for a few weeks. We observed them as they changed and grew into mature beetles - it was so cool!

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

I love going for walks - exploring new areas and going on the lake path! When it is nice out, I bring my book with me and sit for a bit enjoying the Lake Michigan breeze.

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

Reading! I am a bookworm - I always have a book with me that I can pick up when I need to take a moment.

What's your dream vacation?

Anywhere with a beach!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



As we reach the end of Quarter 2 and 2024, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all of the amazing accomplishments we have had thus far. First, a huge congratulations to our staff, teachers, and students on improving GLA's State Report Card score and earning another Commendable rating. We are continuing to stay focused on delivering quality instruction so students can grow and achieve academically. In a strategic effort to serve our students even better, we made significant increases to our academic intervention capacity by launching our afterschool Beacon Boost Program. This program consists of K-3 On Your Mark

(OYM) virtual tutoring, Paloma Parent Tutoring, and ELA and Math Intervention by two interventionists on staff. We are working diligently with students to help them meet their academic goals.

Alongside our academic achievements, we have added programming to increase community amongst our students, staff, and our parent body. This past August we had our first "Anchor's Up!" start of year event to build strong start of year student and staff relationships. K-2 had activities and games in house, 3rd-4th visited ClimbZone, and 5th-8th spent time playing team building games at Intentional Sports. Additionally, we have added several community family engagement events. We started off strong with the Great Block Party to kick off our school year. From there we hosted The K-2 Great Playdate, The Great Fall Jamboree, The 3rd-5th Great Paint Party Hangout, and The 6th-8th Scavenger Hunt Meetup. These events have been filled with food and fun bringing our GLA community together.



The first half of the year has been amazing and I look forward to all of the things that we have yet to come in 2025! Thank you for partnering with us to make GLA the special place it is for our students.

With gratitude,

Nash & Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

NJHS CandyGram

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is spreading holiday cheer by selling candy canes! Send a personalized candy cane to a peer or staff member for only \$1. CandyGram sales begin Friday, December 6th and end Wednesday, December 18th. CandyGrams will be distributed on Friday, December 20th.



Winter Spirit Week: 12/16-12/20

Scholars may be out of uniform to dress up for the following Spirit Day themes:

MON. 12/16
THRU
FRI. 12/20

K-8

WINTER SPIRIT WEEK

REQUIREMENTS

0 REFERRALS

< 2 TARDIES TO CLASS

< 2 RESETS

< 4 TARDIES TO SCHOOL

NO PHYSICAL FIGHTS

< 2 ABSENCES

MON.
12/16

TUES.
12/17

WED.
12/18

THURS.
12/19

FRI.
12/20

**PJ
DAY**



**"SNOW"
DAY**



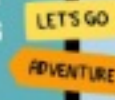
**CRAZY
HATS**



**SEM. 1
INCENTIVE**

EVENTS

DRESS DOWN
IF ATTENDING



**CEL-E-
BRATE**

DRESS WHAT
YOU CELEBRATE IN
WINTER FEST
EX: HOLIDAY, VALUE,
CULTURE, ETC.



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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Career Day

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

A vibrant blue and yellow graphic for Career Day 2025. At the top, a woman in a pink jacket sits on the floor with a laptop, surrounded by icons for career choice, money, books, and a calculator. The Great Lakes Academy logo is in the top right. The main text reads 'CAREER DAY 2025 SAVE THE DATE' and 'Friday February 7th'. Contact information and a QR code are at the bottom.

CAREER CHOICE

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY
BEACONS

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



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

December 16 - January 10th, 2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| 16 <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 18 GLA Community Conversation, 8:00 am iReady MOY Assessment | 19 Semester 1 Incentive Events!! iReady MOY Assessment | 20 Winter Fest End of Q2- Report Cards iReady MOY Assessment |
| 23 Winter Break, No School | 24 Winter Break, No School | 25 Winter Break, No School | 26 Winter Break, No School | 27 Winter Break, No School |
| 30 Winter Break, No School | 31 Winter Break, No School | 1 Winter Break, No School | 2 Winter Break, No School | 3 Winter Break, No School |
| 6 No School, Staff PD | 7 HOME Girls Basketball Game vs. Chicago Lab, 4:30 pm AWAY Boys Basketball Game vs. Chicago Lab (JV & Varsity), 4:30 pm/5:30 pm | 8 HOME Boys Basketball Game vs. Morgan Park Academy (JV & Varsity), 4:30 pm/5:30 pm HOME Cheer Game, 4:30 pm | 9 | 10 |

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