



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter
April 22, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. O'Leary - Student Programs Coordinator

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of my proudest moments as the Student Programs Coordinator was at my first 8th Grade Decision Day in 2024. It was so fun to see the 8th graders proudly share where they would be going to high school, and have their families and friends celebrate them! After a long year of working on applications, and taking the HSAT (High School Admissions Test), I even started tearing up!! I was so proud of them and what they accomplished, and I couldn't wait to hear about the amazing things they'll do in the future.

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

I love being a part of all the "fun" here at GLA! Whether it's planning our dances (like Sneaker Ball), counseling 8th graders on their high school decisions, deciding Spirit Week ideas, making bulletin boards, or working with our After-School Enrichment groups, I get to interact with our scholars in many different ways outside of their traditional academic time. I love seeing scholars try new things in after-school, or get excited about their futures at Career Day. It's extremely rewarding to work with our scholars!

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

One of my favorite memories was our "International Day" in 2nd grade. Every homeroom spends months learning about a different culture. On the day, we moved from classroom to classroom learning about different cultures (doing arts & crafts, eating a new dish, learning their language, etc). It was an absolute blast and made me want to start traveling!

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

My favorite thing to do in Chicago is anything by the lake - biking, swimming, walking, etc. My friends and I do a beach volleyball league every year at one of the beaches, and I love spending time with them.

What's your dream vacation?

My dream vacation is Greece or Australia, really anywhere I can spend the day by the water and swim.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Parents, please congratulate scholars for successfully completing our annual Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) test!

During the first week of April, GLA had our very own GLA Madness as a kickoff to get students excited about achieving on our annual state test. Staff and students participated in a spirited week that included themed days, opening/closing ceremonies, and class competitions to get them pumped for a week long of testing. After the last two weeks of testing and makeups, 99.4% of our students completed all testing!

Last year, our students' performance helped us become the highest performing elementary school in the South Chicago, South Shore, Woodlawn, and Hyde Park area. GLA is also ranked as the 4th best elementary charter school in the state of Illinois. We are hoping to maintain our outstanding performance and do well again this year!



With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashli Miller".

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Fest



Join us for the 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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GoCPS: HS Rolling Waitlists Open April 21st

On Monday, April 21st, the GoCPS High School Rolling Waitlists will open. Please log on to your GoCPS account to add your scholar to a High School waitlist. If any offers are accepted, please contact Ms. Robinson (brobinson@cjacademy.org) or Ms. O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org) as soon as possible.

Free Comprehensive Eye Exams

- High-quality prescription glasses are available at no cost to eligible City of Chicago residents.
- WHEN: Wednesday, May 7th, 2025 from 10:00-3:30
- WHERE: Chicago Dept. of Family & Support Services
 - S. Chicago Community Service Center
 - 8650 S. Commercial Ave. 60617
- Individuals **must not have vision coverage** through a private insurance provider or Medicaid to qualify. This initiative is an excellent opportunity to support communities and improve access to essential eye care.
- Interested residents must **sign up in person or by calling the center.**

If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact Carita Thompson at 312-745-0988 or carita.thompson@cityofchicago



FREE VISION CARE

Through VSP Vision™ Eyes of Hope®, you may be eligible to receive a comprehensive eye exam from a VSP® network doctor and, if prescribed, high-quality glasses at no cost.

Eligibility

- No vision coverage by a private insurer and/or government program (**NO MEDICAID OR MEDICARE**)
- Currently having vision problems
- Haven't received eye care through a VSP program during the last 12 months

VISION CARE EVENT DETAILS

Date: Wednesday, May 7th, 2025
Time: 10:00am – 3:30pm
Location: Chicago Dept of Family & Support Services
 South Chicago Community Service Center
 8650 S. Commercial Ave. | Chicago, IL 60617



**Pre- Registration is REQUIRED, Call 312-747-0331
 to schedule appointment Today**

WALK-IN APPOINTMENTS WILL BE LIMITED AND AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS

GLA Parent Advocacy Committee

PARENT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

Join us for our 2025–26 School Year Title I Planning Meeting! Hear from our Principal on how Title I funds have supported GLA in the past, share your input on how funds should be used next year, and take part in our annual wellness survey about student meals at GLA. Refreshments, raffles, and child care will be provided. Your voice matters!



TUESDAY, MAY 13TH 2025
4:30P-6:00P



Join us for our 2025–26 School Year Title I Planning Meeting on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM!** Hear from our Principal on how Title I funds have supported GLA in the past, share your input on how funds should be used next year, and take part in our annual wellness survey about student meals at GLA.

This meeting will be held in person—refreshments, raffles, and child care will be provided.

Need to join remotely? **Scan the QR code to access the virtual meeting.**

Your voice matters!

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

April 21 - May 16, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
21 5th-8th Illinois Science Assessment	22 5th-8th Illinois Science Assessment	23	24 HOME: Varsity Boys/Girls Flag Football Game- 4:45 pm	25 8th Grade Cap and Gown Photos K-3rd Spring Fest, 5:00-7:00 pm
28	29	30 El Dia Del Ninos HOME Varsity Boys Flag Football Game, 4:45 pm	1 Early Dismissal for Students, 1:50 pm	2 Wellness Day, No School
5 Staff Appreciation Week	6 Staff Appreciation Week Read and Receive Event (1st-3rd)	7 Staff Appreciation Week	8 Staff Appreciation Week	9 Staff Appreciation Week
12 Spring Book Fair Virtual GoCPS Family Information Night (Current 7th Grade), 5:30 pm AWAY: Girls & Boys Varsity Flag Football Network Playoffs Week →	13 Spring Book Fair Parent Advocacy Meeting, 4:30-6:00 pm	14 Spring Book Fair	15 Spring Book Fair	16 Spring Book Fair Haitian Flag Day 8th Grade HS Decision Day 5th-8th Spring Ball, 5:30-7:30 pm

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