



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

October 14, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Isaac Morales - Facilities Manager

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

April 2024. Day of the eclipse. I have a love for astronomy and seeing everyone, scholar and Staff alike so excited about the event was great.

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

I help coach flag football. And being able to help show the scholars the importance of teamwork and being lead and leading is wonderful.

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

Proximity to home and the fact that seeing the impact this school does to the community.

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

The overall experience and the positive environment.

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

I'm from this neighborhood. I grew up six streets over. So seeing the neighborhood go from where it was, to what it became, and the possibilities of a better future.

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

There are a lot. I honestly don't know where to start.

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

I've honestly been everywhere, so now what I love more than anything is to find good food and eat.

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

Going home, cooking dinner and just relaxing.

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

If I said it wouldn't be a secret any more

What's your dream vacation?

Retirement

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Tomorrow, GLA is excited to be hosting its first Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly. We will see performances by traditional dance group *Flor de Corazon Dance Studio* and by the band *A Late Night Few*, featuring one of our very own staff members, Anthony Contreras. The assembly will be an immersive experience for our students learning about Hispanic culture and the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month.

I want to offer a big shoutout to our second grader, Esmeralda, who inspired this whole event. Thank you Mrs. Long, Mrs. Jimenez, Ms. Gonzales, Ms. Crisantos and Ms. Fisher for working to put this assembly together and celebrating our community.

GLA has also put up an ofrenda in our Link in celebration of Días De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). We welcome families to bring in a picture of a loved one to add to the ofrenda. We can provide one frame max per family.

It has been an exciting Hispanic Heritage Month, and we are honored to be participating in Dias De Los Muertos with our entire community.

With Gratitude,

Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Afterschool Enrichment Survey](#)



Please complete the Wave One Enrichment Survey. Your feedback will provide significant insight that will help the Enrichment Team's planning for Wave Two. Click [here](#) to complete the survey.

Lost and Found

The lost and found is over flowing! If your student is currently missing a jacket, sweater, lunch box, water bottle, or back pack please remind them to check the lost and found. All remaining items after PTC on 10/24 will be donated.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Updated Lunch Policy

Due to disruption to school operations, staff will not accept or deliver outside lunches to students brought in by families AFTER 10am. As a reminder, students always have access to the school lunch. Outside lunches brought BEFORE 10am will still be accepted by staff.

Student Activities Taffy Apple Fundraiser

Last week, your scholar received a taffy apple fundraiser kit, which included a notification letter, order form, and envelope. This fundraiser is led by GLA's Parent Advocacy Committee and will be a cash only fundraiser. All forms and collected cash are due back on Friday, October 17th by 3:45 pm. Students should return sealed envelopes to the front desk by the due date.



All orders will be distributed on Friday, October 24th during Report Card Pick-up. Due to GLA being a nut-free campus, taffy apples will be distributed outside of school and are not to be consumed on campus. Monies raised will be used to support student activities here at GLA.

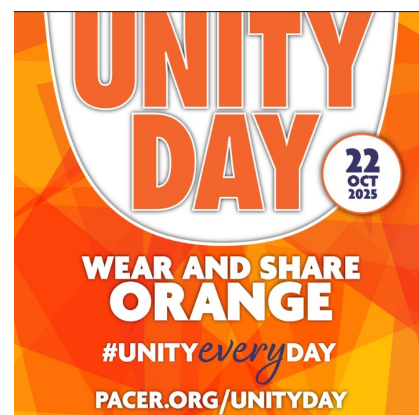
Fall Fest Spirit Week (10/14-10/17)

GLA scholars will be celebrating Fall from Tuesday, October 14th to Friday, October 17th. Take a look below for the Fall Spirit Days!



Unity Day- Wednesday, October 22

We will be celebrating **Unity Day** on Oct. 22nd this year. Unity Day is an annual event held during National Bullying Prevention Month in October, promoting unity and creating healthier communities through kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. We urge all students and staff to wear Orange on Wednesday, Oct. 22nd.



Beacon Dash Pass - October Requirements

Earn your Dash Pass privileges by meeting ALL requirements from October 1-30:

- **Behavior:** Less than 2 referrals and less than 3 resets

- **Attendance:** No more than 1 absence (excused or unexcused)
- **Punctuality:** No more than 2 tardies to class (Middle School)
- **Yondr Policy:** No more than 3 violations (Middle School)
- **Dress Code:** 1 or less uniform violations

Rewards for qualifying scholars:

- Dress down pass for 10/31 (costumes or favorite fall wear)
- Fall treat
- Fall art activity during LIT PIT



Spread the Word: GLA Fall Open House

Families, help us share the news! Great Lakes Academy will host our **Fall Open House** on

Saturday, November 8th, from 12:00–2:00 PM. This is a chance for prospective families to tour our campus, meet our staff, and see why GLA is one of the top schools in Illinois.



Empower children today to change the world tomorrow!

APPLY ONLINE!

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

What We Offer

- ✓ Free and Open Admission to ALL
- ✓ Free 7AM Drop-off and Daily Meals Provided
- ✓ Full-Day Kindergarten (4-Year-Old Early Entry Available)
- ✓ State-of-the-art campus featuring an Enrichment Center
- ✓ Full Athletic Facility and Turf Field



APPLY HERE



The Best in Your Backyard!

40% of the Class of 2024 was accepted to CPS Selective Enrollment

 <https://glachicago.org>  8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL  (773) 530-3040

PAID FOR BY PUBLIC FUNDS

Keep Warm in Style – Get Your GLA Crewneck Sweater Today!

GLA Crewneck Sweaters are here—perfect for cooler weather and approved as part of the GLA uniform!

Why grab yours now?

- Stay warm and comfortable during chilly mornings.
- Show your GLA pride in style.
- Available at the low price of just \$20 each!

How to purchase:

- Order online through the [GLA Uniform Store](#)
- Or purchase directly at the GLA Front Office
- Monday–Thursday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Don't wait—these sweaters are sure to go quickly!

New Payment System Coming Soon!

- **View Outstanding Fees:** Parents will soon be able to see any outstanding fees directly through the **PowerSchool Parent Portal**.
- **Access Statements & Receipts:** You'll be able to **view statements** and **see or print receipts** at your convenience.
- **Payment Plans Available:** Flexible **payment plans** will be available to help families manage their fees.
- **Easy Access:** Don't have access to PowerSchool yet? Please call the front office—we're happy to help you get set up.
- **Convenient Payment Options:** Fees can still be paid through the main office, either **by phone or in person**.

We look forward to making fee management easier and more convenient for all families!

Government ID Needed to Enter Building - Visitor ID Scanning Begins October 6

Starting Monday, October 6, all visitors - including parents and guardians - will be required to scan a government-issued ID to enter the school building. The scan conducts background checks against Sex Offender Registries, Criminal Databases, and Government Watch Lists. Once your ID has been scanned, you will not need to do so again for future visits.

These measures are in place to help keep our students, staff, and community safe. Please note that individuals who do not pass the screening may be denied entry.

CPS Family Income Information Form

We are strongly encouraging all families to complete the CPS Family Income Information Form for the 2025–2026 school year. This form is required annually and helps determine school funding, which supports important programs at GLA, including our free lunch program.

- ✓ Only **one form per household** is needed
- ✓ Takes just **2–3 minutes** to complete

Forms were sent home last week. If you did not receive one, please contact the front office to have a form emailed to you, sent home with your scholar, or stop by the office to complete one today.

Completed forms may be:

- Sent back with your scholar, or
- Emailed to **sthunherst@glachicago.org**

Thank you for your prompt attention and continued support of GLA!

Race to 10 is On!

A huge congratulations to Purdue for racing to 10 and winning Heat 1! 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 starts today, 9/23. Let's keep up the momentum and continue working together to make everyday count! Attendance matters.



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

October 13 - November 7, 2025

13 Indigenous Peoples Day- Building Closed	14 Staff and Student Spirit Week	15 Staff and Student Spirit Week	16 Staff and Student Spirit Week IA#1 Math Home JV Flag Football Game vs. B. Sizemore, 4:30 pm	17 Staff and Student Spirit Week K-8th Fall Fest
20 IA#1 ANet	21 IA#1 ANet	22 Fall Cultivate Survey	23 Picture Day!	24 Parent Teacher Conferences, No Classes
27 Wellness Day, Building Closed	28 Staff PD, No Classes	29	30	31 Dia de Los Muertos Celebration (Observing)
3	4	5 Fire Evacuation Drill #2	6	7 2026-27 Application Launch

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!