



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter  
April 8, 2025

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Dr. Beck - Assistant Principal of Operations and Programs**

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

One of my favorite memories would definitely be witnessing our first graduating class at Great Lakes Academy. Being able to create such a strong bond with scholars that had been here since the start up and watching them move on to their respective futures to high schools around Chicago was rewarding and gratifying. Each year, each graduation holds a special place in my heart. It closes one chapter, but begins another.

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

One of my most proud educator moments would be creating the initial start up for after-school programs at Great Lakes Academy. Data has proven over and over that enrichment for scholars can only benefit those involved. Being a part of the implementation has made me proud and only served our scholars and families more and more each year.

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

I am originally from Mishawaka, Indiana! It is a town of about 60,000 people southeast(ish) from here and what I love most about it is that it has a strong sense of community where (most) of everyone knows your name and your family. I still have close friends and family that live there and it's always a good time going back to visit even though I consider Northwest Indiana my home now.

**What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?**

My favorite thing to do in Chicago is going to Cubs games, enjoying the beach, and eating the best food in the US!

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

My favorite way to unwind is watching sports, playing sports, reading (this is new with my age!) and working out. Anything active that keeps my mind busy is always

beneficial. I also love to sleep. I could sleep anytime, anywhere.

### What's your dream vacation?

A two week Euro trip! I'd love to bounce around to several cities and learn about their culture, indulge in good eats, and enjoy the scenery.

## NEW 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](mailto:brobinson@cjacademy.org)) or Ms. O'Leary ([coleary@glachicago.org](mailto:coleary@glachicago.org)) as soon as possible.

### Free 5th-8th Grade Computer Science Workshop @ GLA- Saturday, April 26!



In collaboration with Latin Academy, GLA is offering a FREE Computer Science in



Minecraft workshop on Saturday, April 26th. This workshop is open to 5th-8th grade GLA scholars will be from 12:00pm-2:00pm at GLA. Please RSVP as soon as possible, as space is limited. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Beck ([sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org)).

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP!

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



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GLA Parent Advocacy Committee

- There will be no PAC meeting in April.
- We will meet again on Tuesday, May 13th from 4:45-5:30.

### 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

**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 7 - May 2, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 3rd-8th IAR State Testing!	8 3rd-8th IAR State Testing!	9 3rd-8th IAR State Testing!	10 3rd-8th IAR State Testing!  AWAY: Varsity Boys/Girls Flag Football Game, 4:45 pm	11
14 5th-8th Cultivate Survey	15 5th-8th Cultivate Survey Make Ups	16 GLA Community Conversation, 8:00 am	17 Spring Art Showcase, 4:00-6:00 pm	18 <b>Wellness Day, No Classes</b>
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 <b>Early Dismissal for Students, 1:50 pm</b>	2 <b>Wellness Day, No School</b>

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