



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

August 19, 2025

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents,

We have had an amazing first two days of school here at GLA. All of our staff and students are happy to be back in building and ready for an exciting school year. I just wanted to share a few quick reminders that will help us have another successful year. It is extremely important for students to be in attendance everyday and on time. Our doors open at 7am and students should be here by 8am (5th-8th graders must be in their classrooms by 8am). With your partnership, we can achieve our school attendance goal of 93.5%. When students are absent, not only are they missed, but they miss important instruction.

At GLA, we prioritize keeping our families informed. I recommend checking your email daily as we send frequent communications. Please make sure that you are also reading the Weekly Wave to stay in the know. Our school calendar can always be found on the [website](#).

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your patience during dismissal. With an influx of new students and routines, dismissal will be a little slower than usual this week. As students and families become acclimated with the system and after school programming begins, it is expected that the dismissal process will go a lot faster and smoother.

I know that we will build on the momentum and energy of the first two days to make this a GREAT school year.

With Gratitude,

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLA Spirit Wear is Here!

We're excited to announce the launch of our very first GLA Spirit Wear Website! Show off your GLA pride with our unique collection of spirit wear.

⚠ *Please note: This is not for purchasing uniforms.*

NOTE: This is spirit wear only and if worn during the school day will be considered out of uniform for scholars.

Sale Dates: Now through September 16, 2025

Special Offer: Use code SCHOOL25 at checkout for 25% off all merchandise

Bonus: Enjoy **FREE shipping** on orders of \$75 or more – delivered right to your door!

[Click here to shop now!](#)

Or scan the QR code on the flyer to start shopping.

We're thrilled to finally offer spirit wear to our GLA families – don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

Please reach out to Sheree Thunherst, sthunherst@glachicago.org, with any questions.



GLA Uniform T-Shirts – Pre-Order Now!

We're excited to offer GLA uniform t-shirts for pre-order! In addition to the GLA polos available in the front office, you can now pre-order:

- Short Sleeve Uniform T-Shirts – \$13
- Long Sleeve Uniform T-Shirts – \$16

Why Pre-Order?

Pre-ordering guarantees your scholar will receive their uniform t-shirts from our first shipment.

How to Order:

Please refer to the order form for available t-shirt options and sizing.

Don't miss out—pre-order now to make sure your scholar is fully prepared for the school year!

[Uniform Pre-order](#)

Please reach out to Sheree Thunherst, sthunherst@glachicago.org, with any questions.

GLA Polos Now Available!

GLA polos are now available for purchase at the GLA front office for just \$16 each. Available colors include light blue, navy, and yellow.

After-School Enrichment Programming

Wave One Sign-Ups - LAST DAY TO SIGN UP [CLICK HERE!](#)



The poster is titled "WAVE ONE AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT" and features a black and white patterned background with colorful stars and a smiley face. It lists two waves of enrichment programs: Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday. Each wave includes a list of programs and their respective instructors. A QR code is located at the bottom right, and a sign-up deadline of 08/19 is indicated at the bottom.

WAVE ONE
AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT
MONDAY, AUGUST 25TH - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

MONDAY/WEDNESDAY

- K-4th, Science Explorers with Ms. Gibbs
- 3rd-5th, Art Pros with Ms. Stuckert
- 3rd-5th, Homework Help with Ms. Hartman
- 4th-8th, Junior Chefs with Ms. Batchelor
- 6th-8th, Homework Help with Ms. Littleton
- 4th-8th, Goddess Mentoring with Ms. Scott
- 4th-8th, H.A.W.K.s Nest Male Mentoring with Mr. Hawkins

TUESDAY/THURSDAY

- K-2nd, Homework Help with Mrs. Montgomery
- K-3rd, Doodlers with Mr. Hawkins
- K-4th, Mini Elite Cheer with Coach Vicky
- 3rd-5th, Girls on the Run with Mrs. Ford
- 3rd-8th, Crossover Basketball with Coach Tolliver
- 4th-8th, How to Be a Millionaire with Mr. Z Ali
- 4th-8th, Voices on Film with Mr. Byers

SIGN UP BY 08/19



GLA will offer after-school enrichment programming that is instructor led by teachers, staff, and community partners. If you are interested in enrolling your scholar, [click here!](#)

Programs meet twice weekly on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday only. If you want your scholar enrolled Monday-Thursday, you will have to sign them up for two programs on the respective days. If you want two days, you will need to sign them up for only one.

Programs will only run in one wave, unless renewed and new programs will be offered each wave where you will have to re-sign up. The waves are as follows:

- Wave One: Monday, August 25th - Thursday, November 13th
- Wave Two: Monday, November 17th - Thursday, February 26th
- Wave Three: Monday, March 2nd - Thursday, May 28th

Sign ups will close on Tuesday, August 19th for Wave One. You will be notified if you get into the program by Wednesday, August 21st via letter and email.

All programs will run 3:15-5:00 pm. Cost: *\$175/each program/per wave.

Programs hired externally and that will be coming into GLA (i.e.; SkyArt, PTDYA, etc.), will be marked accordingly* as they are \$200.

Please reach out to Caitlin O'Leary, coleary@glachicago.org with any questions!

Fall Sports!



GREAT LAKES ACADEMY ATHLETICS

FALL SPORTS SIGN UP!



SIGN-UPS CLOSE 9/1

Fall sports sign-ups are open, click [HERE](#) to join the action!

The sports offered this fall include:

- Co-ed cheer
- Girls volleyball
- Boys football

The sign-up deadline is Monday, September 1st. All student-athletes that wish to participate in sports must join our mandatory fall sports orientation meeting which will be held on Zoom this Thursday, August 21st at 7p.

Please reach out to Coach P (tperez@glachicago.org) with any questions or concerns.

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 a temporary living situation, 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 or 773-949-9721.



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 a temporary living situation, youth, and youth not living with a parent or guardian, applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by the Board.

A student is considered to be in a temporary living situation if he or she lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason;
- living in a motel/hotel, trailer park or camping ground, due to lack of alternative, adequate housing;
- living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting;
- abandoned in hospitals;
- migratory children living in one of the above settings;
- youth not in the custody of a parent/guardian (unaccompanied youth) of any age, in one of the above settings.

Students who temporarily reside outside of Chicago due to homelessness and attend their CPS school of origin receive transportation assistance as do students experiencing homelessness who live in the City of Chicago but attend a school of origin outside of CPS.

Dispute Resolution: When a school official denies a student in a temporary living situation enrollment, eligibility, school selection and/or transportation, the parent or student may file a complaint with the CPS STLS Department. The STLS Department will attempt to resolve the dispute in a timely manner. The STLS Department will refer you to free and low-cost legal services to help you, if you wish. During the dispute, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school with participation in school activities and/or provided transportation until the dispute is resolved. Every Chicago Public School, including charter schools, has an STLS Liaison who will assist you in making enrollment decisions, provide notice of the dispute resolution process, if needed assist you in completing the dispute resolution forms and refer you to low-cost legal assistance.

All STLS Students Have Rights To

Immediate school enrollment. A school must immediately enroll students even if they lack health, immunization or school records, proof of guardianship, or proof of residence. "Enrollment" means enrolled into the school, attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

Enroll in:

- the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled (school of origin).
- any school that permanently housed students living in the same attendance area in which the STLS student or youth is actually living are eligible to attend (attendance area school).
- Enroll in preschool.

Remain enrolled in his/her selected school for as long as they remains in a temporary living situation or, if the student becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year.

Access to charter schools, selective enrollment schools, magnet schools, and all other CPS programs in the same manner as students who are permanently housed and assistance with application process will be provided upon request.

Participate in tutoring services beyond those provided to all students; school-related activities; and/or receive other support services.

Receive free school meals, fee waivers, free uniforms, and low-cost or free medical referrals.

Transportation services: If parents/caregivers choose to continue their child's education in the school of origin and transportation is requested, CPS will provide transportation to and from the school of origin, and all school-related activities, for as long as the student is in a temporary living situation or, if the student becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year.

- Eligible students receive CTA transportation cards and adult caregivers of eligible students in grades PK-6 receive CTA transportation cards to accompany the student to/from school. Eligible students in grades PK-6 whose caregiver is unable to accompany them on public transportation due to a hardship may apply for yellow school bus service by submitting documentation or affidavit of their inability to transport the student.

Examples of a "hardship" situation are:

- Parent/caregiver employment, job training, or education program.
- Parent's/caregiver's mental and/or physical disability.
- Children need to be transported to and from schools at different locations.
- Court order, DCFS, or DCFS contract agent requires activities that do not enable parent/guardian to transport children to and from school.
- Rules of shelter or similar facility will not permit parent/caregiver to leave to transport children to and from school.
- Other good cause why parent/caregiver cannot use public transportation to transport children to and from school.

For more information about the rights of STLS students in Chicago Public Schools, call the STLS program at (773) 553-2242, fax at (773) 553-2182, email at STLSinformation@cps.edu, go to www.cps.edu/STLS, or visit the STLS policy at www.cps.edu/STLSpolicy.

Anchor's Up! Field Trip 08/22

GLA scholars will be starting the year strong by attending their first field trip on Friday, August 22nd! Grades 3rd through 8th will participate in team building programs outside of the building at ClimbZone and Windy City Fieldhouse! Kindergarten through 2nd grade will build relationships with staff and peers right here at GLA. We can't wait to pull our Anchor's Up!

→ If you have a 3rd or 4th grade scholar, complete this waiver by Wednesday, August 20th in order for your scholar to participate.

Please reach out to Caitlin O'Leary, coleary@glachicago.org with any questions!

BEACON LEADS (Student Leadership Jobs)

Great Lakes Academy is excited to launch our Beacon Leads Program for the 2025–2026 school year! This program gives scholars the opportunity to take on leadership roles within our school community, build responsibility, and develop important life skills.

We ask that parents partner with us by assisting scholars in accurately completing their Beacon Leads application and helping them understand the importance of this opportunity. If selected, please note that this is a year-long commitment and scholars will be expected to consistently fulfill their responsibilities.

Visit the Culture & Climate Team table at the block party for an application. Your support will help our scholars take pride in their work and grow as leaders!

WIDA Screeners

Ms. Harr and Ms. Gonzalez will be administering the 2025-2026 WIDA Screener during the week of August 25–29. This assessment helps identify Multilingual learners who are eligible for services in the MLL program. Students who have been identified as needing to be screened will be pulled from class briefly to complete the screening. Thank you for your support as we ensure all students get the services they need to succeed!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Kindergarten & 6th Grade Families!

Medical Compliance Deadline: Monday, October 13th

If your scholar still needs a **school physical and/or immunizations**, don't wait—sign up for Comer's Pediatric Medical Van, visiting **GLA on Wednesday, September 24th!**

This is a **free service** for families.

‡ **Only 12 scholars** can be seen—spots are limited!

Consent forms are required and available now at the **GLA front office**.

To secure your scholar's appointment, **complete your consent form as soon as possible**.

- For questions or more information, please contact: Sheree Thunherst at sthunherst@glachicago.org



Does your scholar need a new school physical?



In partnership with Comer's Medical Van, GLA is providing no-cost, school physicals

Sign a consent form at the Front Desk to secure your appointment today!

Limited Seats Available



September 24, 2025

Great Lakes Academy School Hours

8th grade HSAT Tutoring

GLA will be offering no-cost tutoring in conjunction with Test Prep Chicago to **8th grade students** only in preparation for the CPS HS Admission Test that is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th, 2025.

Scholars who participated in HSAT Test Prep at GLA scored an average of 70 points higher than scholars who did not participate. In order to enroll your scholar for this no-cost service, please fill out this form. Contact Ms. O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org) for any questions!

Chicago Youth Opportunities

The YMCA of Metro Chicago is offering a 12-week Lifeguard Training & Swim Program at no cost to participants. Below are the program details:

- Program Length: 12 weeks
- Cost: Free
- Eligibility: Must reside in Illinois and be between the ages of 16–24
- Swim Attire: Provided to all participants
- Training: Includes swim instruction and lifeguard certification
- Stipend: Participants earn minimum wage while they train
- Job Opportunities: Possible job placement upon program completion



YMCA OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

WATER WORKS AT THE Y

WANT TO MAKE WAVES IN THE JOB MARKET AND GET PAID FOR IT?

Water Works dives into cool careers in and around water! From lifeguard to oceanographer and swim instructor to emergency responder, participants obtain first-hand discovery of a variety of water-related careers — all at no cost.

Water Works also includes:

- Swim lessons and training
- Industry-recognized certifications
- A minimum wage stipend, so you can “learn and earn”
- Career readiness for potential job placement post-program

DON'T KNOW HOW TO SWIM? NO PROBLEM. NO SWIMSUIT? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Water Works is for career-seekers **ages 16 to 24** who meet eligibility requirements.

APPLY NOW! Learn more at ymcachicago.org/waterworks. Questions? Email waterworks@ymcachicago.org

LOCATIONS

LAKE VIEW YMCA

3333 N. Marshfield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657

SOUTH SIDE YMCA

6330 S. Stony Island Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

12- WEEK SCHEDULE

Sep. 6 – Nov. 22, 2025

- Lake View YMCA
Tues. – Fri. | 4 – 7 p.m.
- South Side YMCA
Mon. – Thurs. | 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Career exploration activities
every other Saturday from
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



**APPLY NOW
USING THE QR CODE!**



2025-26 School Calendar

The 2025-26 school calendar has been posted to GLA's website. Please [view it here](#).

2025-26 School Supply List

Here is the [school supply list](#). Please do not label any supplies with your students name, unless otherwise noted.

GLA Annual Fee: 2025-26

We will be sending out invoices for the 2025-65 annual fee soon. The annual fee is \$90. For clarity, we wanted to define what this fee covers for each scholar during the school year:

Lower School (K-4)	Middle School (5-8)
Access to Technology All students will have access to Chromebooks to support personalized learning, provide quick feedback, and track student progress over time with data-driven insights.	Access to Technology All students will have access to Chromebooks to support personalized learning, provide quick feedback, and track student progress over time with data-driven insights.
Student Platform and Software Licenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GoGuardian: Student safety and 	Student Platform and Software Licenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GoGuardian: Student safety and

- security platform.
- i-Ready: Math and reading platform that targets individual student needs.
 - Wayfinder: Social Emotional Learning Curriculum.
 - ANET: Assessment platform used to monitor student progress and ensure students are on-track.
 - ARC: ARC Core helps meet the literacy needs of all students in any learning environment.

- security platform.
- i-Ready: Math and reading platform that targets individual student needs.
 - Wayfinder: Social Emotional Learning Curriculum.
 - ANET: Assessment platform used to monitor student progress and ensure students are on-track.

Middle School Planner

All 5th-8th grade students will be given an agenda planner to promote organization and responsibility.

This year, we will be offering sibling discounts and early payment incentives! Please see the table below for sibling/household discounts. Natural, step-siblings, and members of the same household are eligible.

Scholars Enrolled	Discount	Fee Price Per Scholar	Due by August 30
ONE	0%	\$90	\$90
TWO	10%	\$81	\$162
THREE	20%	\$72	\$216
FOUR	30%	\$63	\$252
FIVE	40%	\$54	\$270
SIX	50%	\$45	\$270

In addition to sibling/household discounts, we are happy to offer early payment incentives, including a free GLA polo if payment is made in full and submitted by August 29th! No payment plans are accepted for this incentive.

Please pay with the PayPal invoice provided at the front office or by phone as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please call our front office at 773-530-3040.

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

Aug 18 - Sept 12, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18 First Day of School - All 1:50 Dismissal K-1st Orientation 4:30-5:30 pm iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA	19 1:50 Dismissal- All Grades 2nd-4th Orientation 4:30-5:30 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA	20 1:50 Dismissal- All Grades 5th-6th Orientation 4:30-5:30 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA	21 1:50 Dismissal- All Grades 7th-8th Orientation 4:30-5:30 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA	22 Anchors Up! Event (during school hours for students) iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA
25 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	26 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	27 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	28 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	29 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)
1 Suicide Awareness Month → Labor Day- Building Closed	2 ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	3 ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	4 ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	5 ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)
8	9	10	11	12 Family Curriculum Night, 2:30-4:30 pm

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