



## Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

February 21, 2024

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

On Friday, over 50 professionals came to GLA for our annual Career Day event! We were excited to expose our scholars to such a diverse set of careers. We had professionals representing many industries: finance, health care, education, hospitality, architecture and construction, information technology, engineering, communications, law enforcement, and more. We are grateful to everyone who volunteered to come speak with our students, including three of our parents, Ms. Brandon, Ms. Ogbor, and Ms. Smith.



The classrooms were buzzing with engagement. Each homeroom had the opportunity to engage with at least 3 professionals and learn about their careers. Many of our volunteers brought activities for scholars to do that are similar to what they do on their jobs. Our scholars asked great questions and learned a lot about many different careers.



Enrichment opportunities like career day are an important component of a school's educational program. It grounds students' academic work on purpose. It shows them why their academic development matters and where it can lead. Please continue conversations about careers at home and how they connect with school. Helping students create a vision for their future and giving them purpose is shown to lead to more successful outcomes for children.

We look forward to doing this again next year!

Principal Miller

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Math Resources

Here are some materials that can be used at home to [practice fluency skills](#) and [prepare your scholars for the upcoming IAR assessment](#). Below you will find a link to grade level work packets and answer keys for 3rd through 8th. Please reach out to Ms. Whaley or your scholar's teacher if you have any questions.

- [3rd Grade](#)
- [4th Grade](#)
- [5th grade](#)
- [6th grade](#)
- [7th grade](#)
- [8th grade](#)

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Late Pick Ups

We continue to have issues with parents picking up students late after dismissal. This is a problem that requires us to pay staff extra to supervise students who are left at GLA after pick-up time.

Effective today, February 21, 2024, we will begin charging families for late pick-ups according to the following schedule:

Late Pick-up Fee (Per Student)	Monday - Thursday	Friday
<b>\$10.00</b>	After 3:45 PM	After 2:15 PM
<b>\$20.00</b>	After 4:00 PM	After 2:30 PM

If you are having challenges picking up your child(ren) on time, we encourage the following:

- 1) Sign your child(ren) up for after-school enrichment programming, which runs to 5 pm.
- 2) Join the [Power Parent GroupMe](#) to connect with other parents who can support pick-up.

### Student Fees Payment & Enrichment Eligibility

Effective **today** February 21st, 2024, families with an outstanding student fee balance are no longer eligible to enroll in enrichment activities, including sports or after-school programming. Families enrolled in current and active payment plans for outstanding balances remain eligible for enrollment in enrichment programs.

### Family Communication Focus Groups **START TODAY!**

- GLA will be creating a brand new Parent Portal - a virtual hub designed to offer real-time insights into your student's progress. GLA Parents'/Guardians' thoughts and perspectives will play a crucial role in shaping this innovative platform.
- Your input is invaluable to us; please join us for one of our virtual Family Communication Focus Groups!

- There are four focus group options, **starting today!**
  - K-4th Grade Families (PM option) - **TODAY (2/21)** from 5:30-7:00 pm ([join here](#))
  - 5-8th Grade Families (AM option) - 2/22 from 8:00-9:30 am ([join here](#))
  - 5-8th Grade Families (PM option) - 2/22 from 5:30-7:00 pm ([join here](#))
  - K-4th Grade Families (AM option) - 2/23 from 8:00-9:30 am ([join here](#))
- All focus groups will be held virtually.

### Intent to Return Form - Due 3/1

To help us plan our enrollment for the 2024-25 school year, **please confirm if your scholar will return to Great Lakes Academy next year by filling out and returning the Intent to Return Form** (sent home with your scholar at the start of the month and linked [here](#)).

Families can send completed forms to school with their scholar or email them to [info@glachicago.org](mailto:info@glachicago.org). Please fill out one form per scholar.

### February Attendance Incentive

The top 3 homerooms with the highest attendance percentage will get a popcorn party!!  
*Be in school Every day On time.*



The top 3 Homerooms with the best Attendance for February will receive a popcorn party.





### K-4th Black History Month Performance



- Grades K-4th will be having a performance on Feb 29th at 1:00 pm!
- Each class, beginning with Kindergarten, will perform a poem, fun facts, song, presentation, etc.
- All scholars will be involved in the 5-6 minute performance.
- Families are welcome!

### Parent and Family Volunteers



## Current Opportunities:

  Arrival and Dismissal Support

Lunch and Recess Support  

  Classroom Support

## Upcoming Events:

 Library Support 

If you are interested in helping grow the GLA community and volunteering please complete [this form](#). You can reach out to Madaline Harlan, [mharlan@glachicago.org](mailto:mharlan@glachicago.org), with any questions.

### 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

## February 19th - March 15th, 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19 Presidents Day <b>School Closed</b>	20 Staff PD <b>No Classes</b> Office Closed	21 GLA Monthly Community Conversation 8:00-9:00 @ GLA and online Family Communication Focus Groups: K-4 Virtual PM Option: 5:30-7:00	22 Family Communication Focus Groups: 5-8 Virtual AM Option: 8:00-9:30 PM Option: 5:30-7:00	23 Family Communication Focus Groups: K-4 Virtual AM Option: 8:00-9:30 High School Results Released 8th Grade
26 8th Grade NAEP Testing First Day of Spring Athletics	27	28 GLA Community Outing to the Chicago Bulls 5:30-8:30 pm	29 Wave 2: Anchor After-school Program Ends K-4 Black History Month Class Performances 1:00-2:00 pm	1 First day of Women's History Month Intent to Return Forms <b>Due</b>
4 Q3 Assessments Begin Today Wave 3: Anchor After-school Programs Begin	5	6 Reclaiming Minds Therapy: GLA Parent Workshop 6:00-7:30 pm	7	8
11 5Essentials Survey	12 5Essentials Survey Trimester 2 Field Trips	13 2024-25 Lottery Q3 Assessments End Today	14 Staff PD <b>No Classes</b>	15 T2 Parent Teacher Conferences <b>No Classes</b> T2 Report Cards Emailed to Families GoCPS Accept/Decline Deadline 8th grade

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