



## Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

April 15, 2025

### STAFF SPOTLIGHT



#### **Dwana Gaines - Flex Teacher**

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

My favorite memories of GLA are family night bingo and the kindergarten prom night.

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

My proudest teaching moments were when I taught first grade Social Studies and my coworker Kelly - Ann told me that I'm doing a great job and that I 'll be a good teacher.

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

I started off volunteering working with the youth in my church for twenty years. I realized my passion was kids. I always had a mind frame of wanting to work with kids that struggle with substance abuse or be an advocate for an all girls group. I started my career and graduated with a degree in Sociology. I began to work with DCFS for 9 years. While working with DCFS I facilitated lots of groups. I was promoted to move into the schooling part of the building and that's where I became a Paraprofessional. At that moment I knew my calling was teaching and continuing to be surrounded by kids.

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

I am originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Then I became a kid that was raised up on the south side of Chicago in a neighborhood called Roseland. I visited my hometown for three years and when I say I loved it back home , I mean I loved it there!!! I love that it doesn't snow and it's hot down there. I loved the hot weather. I loved the food there as well. I loved that Louisiana is only four hours away from Florida.

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

My favorite thing from elementary school is that my second grade teacher brought the class a Parakeet Bird. I loved it because it literally talked to my class throughout the day.

**What are your hidden or surprising talents?**

I love praise dancing.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Last week, GLA celebrated National Assistant Principal Appreciation Week. Parents, please join us in applauding and appreciating our very own Assistant Principal of Operations and Programs, Dr. Stephanie Beck and Assistant Principal of Academics, Ms. Meagan Johnson! Assistant Principals are critical leaders to the operational and academic success of a school, and GLA has two of the best. AP Beck and AP Johnson juggle a million responsibilities and do it with a level of commitment, enthusiasm, and competence that is unmatched. They play an integral role in GLA's success, and we appreciate everything they do for our staff, students, and families!

Also, a huge shoutout to our Deans on GLA's School Leadership Team. Their department leadership is valued, and we appreciate the work each of them do to make GLA a special place for students.

The entire GLA community thanks our school leaders for all they do!



With Gratitude,

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

## 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 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](mailto: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

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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 14 - May 9, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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>
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

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