



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

September 30, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Crisantos - 4th Grade ELA

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

One of my favorite memories from my time at GLA has been the karaoke community celebration in Stanford!

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of the proudest moments I have as a teacher continues to be when students are excited to show me their work. Students show so much enthusiasm to demonstrate their academic growth.

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

I enjoyed joining different after school clubs. I loved the artistic and gardening clubs the most!

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

I enjoy trying new restaurants around the city!

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

I enjoy self care by trying out new hobbies. Some that I have tried recently include pottery and sewing.

What's your dream vacation?

My dream vacation includes going to Mexico to spend time relaxing with family!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Parents, save the date! Parent-Teacher Conferences are Friday, October 24, 2025 from 11am - 7pm. These conferences **will be held in person**, and we will ask you to RSVP for a meeting time. Parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers and learn more about their scholar's academic progress. This is a great time to ask any questions you may currently have and explore ways to continue supporting scholars' growth. There will also be informational tables for school resources and programs.

For those planning to attend, please be on the lookout for an email on Friday, October 10th with your child's homeroom's unique Sign Up Genius link. There you will sign up for a 15 minute conference slot in advance.

We hope to see you there!

With Gratitude,

Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!



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!

Lockdown Drill- Thursday, October 2, 2025

The safety of students, staff, and visitors is a top priority for GLA. To support this commitment, GLA conducts emergency preparedness drills on an annual basis, in line with the Illinois School Safety Drill Act.

The goal of these safety drills is to improve our ability to respond in the event of an emergency in an effective and efficient manner.

The Illinois School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/), requires a Hard Lockdown Drill be conducted annually.

This year that drill is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 2nd, subject to the availability of the Chicago Police Department who will be present to run the drill with us.

We appreciate your partnership as we work to ensure we are prepared to respond effectively and efficiently in the event of an actual emergency.

Please reach out to the main office at 773-530-3040 if you have any questions or concerns.

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.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Know Your Rights/Conosca Sus Derechos

Know Your Rights Card

This card explains that you are exercising your Constitutional rights. You have the right to remain silent and the right to ask to speak to an attorney.

Print this card at home and put it in your wallet. You can fold it on the center line.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS	To: Immigration or Other Officer
If you are stopped by immigration or the police, hand this card to the agent and remain silent.	- I am exercising my constitutional rights under the 4th and 5th Amendment. - I am exercising my right to remain silent. - I refuse to sign any documents without speaking to a lawyer first. - I do not give you permission to enter my home.
If immigration comes to your home, slip this card under the door or hold it up to the window.	
Do not open the door. Do not sign any documents without speaking to a lawyer first.	

We know that recent events in Chicago, including heightened federal enforcement activity, have created concern and uncertainty for some families. At GLA, our commitment is unwavering: our school will remain a safe haven for every student, regardless of their background, nationality, or immigration status. At GLA, our mission is not only to educate but also to protect and support every child and family in our care. We are grateful for your trust and partnership as we continue to ensure that our school is a safe and welcoming place for all. We have put together additional resources for your convenience and feel free to reach out to Maria Jimenez if you have any questions or need more resources at mjimenez@glachicago.org.

Cook County Public Defender:
<https://www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/>

National Immigration Justice Center: <https://immigrantjustice.org/for-immigrants/know-your-rights/ice-encounter/>

Latinos Progresando:
<https://latinospro.org/>

Illinois Legal Resource Center:
<https://www.ilrc.org/>

Career Opportunities

The Revolution Institute is excited to invite you to an **Informational Session on Career Opportunities!** This event is designed for individuals who are seeking a fresh start and want to build stable, rewarding careers in Manufacturing, Aviation, and Technical Trades through three outstanding training programs.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: 639 East 87th Street (Inside Seaway Bank), Lower Level Floor, Chicago, IL 60619

Training Programs Highlighted

Electrical Maintenance Training Program – Daley College

- Starts October 7 (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

- 8-week program
- **Perks:** \$1,500 completion stipend, direct connections to hiring manufacturing companies, and justice-involved friendly employers

Electrical Charging Station Repair – Olive Harvey College

- Gain high-demand skills

Rivian Technical Trades Program – Olive Harvey College

- Prepare for careers in cutting-edge technical trades (**Paid Training**)

Additional Information

- Refreshments will be provided
- Attendees can ask questions and take their first steps toward life-changing careers

RSVP & Contact

REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WORKSHOP

We are excited to invite you to an Informational Session on Career Opportunities presented by Revolution Institute! This event is designed for individuals looking to jumpstart their careers in Manufacturing, Aviation, and Technical Trades through three outstanding training programs.


Wednesday
 October 1, 2025


Time
 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM


 639 East 87th Street, (Inside Seaway Bank) Lower Level Floor, Chicago, IL 60619


773-558-9614


Diante@therevolution.institute

Registration options
<https://forms.gle/N3GxLft8PYTyDUZb9>






GoCPS High School Admissions Application - Now Open

The GoCPS High School Admissions Application is now open! The application will remain open until Friday, November 14th at 5pm. Please [click here](#) to create an account and begin working on the application. For any questions, please email

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!

Save the Date: GLA High School & Scholarship Fair

GLA is excited to invite Chicago High Schools and Scholarship organizations into the building to meet with the 6th-8th grade scholars!

On October 1st, 6th-8th grade scholars will have dedicated time during the school day to explore high schools, meet representatives, and learn more about the opportunities available to them.

GLA families are invited to participate in the event from 3:30-4:30 in the gym.



HIGH SCHOOL FAIR

✓ Connect with HS Counselors ✓ Learn About Scholarships ✓ Discover Programs	WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1st 1:30–4:30pm SAVE THE DATE
MORE INFORMATION ✉ coleary@glachicago.org	🌐 glachicago.org

Please reach out to Ms. O’Leary, coleary@glachicago.org, for any questions.

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.



Fall Jamboree

Join us for Great Lakes Academy's annual Fall Jamboree on **Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 12–3 PM** at our campus (8401 S. Saginaw Ave). Families with children ages 0–9 are invited to enjoy a free afternoon of fun with a petting zoo, pony rides, games, and more!



GREAT LAKES ACADEMY

FALL JAMBOREE

PETTING ZOO - PONY RIDES - GAMES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

12:00PM - 3:00PM

THIS EVENT IS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-9,
&

PARENTS GET TO COME ALONG TOO!

THIS EVENT IS FREE!!!

RSVP



8401 S. SAGINAW AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60617

773-530-3040

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

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Sept 29 - October 24, 2025

29	30 Boys Football JV HOME @ 4:30 pm	1 High School Fair, 1:30-4:30 pm	2 Lockdown Drill Boys Football JV HOME @ 4:30 pm	3
6	7	8	9 Boys Football JV HOME @ 4:30 pm	10
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

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Great Lakes Academy Charter School | 8401 S. Saginaw Ave | Chicago, IL 60617 US

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