



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter  
January 14, 2025

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Mrs. Montgomery - Kindergarten Teacher**

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

One of my favorite memories was the Jamboree in October! The kids had a great time dressing up, listening to music, and playing games. It was so nice to see my students and parents there!

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

One of my proudest moments at GLA is when my class gets excited passing their tests or exit tickets. It is good to see the growth daily and the hard work they put in.

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

I wanted to become a teacher because I love making a change in the lives of my students. I want my students to receive love and compassion daily. I want to help them in all aspects of their lives and mold them to become successful in their future. I see so much in my students and I want to pour into them and give them the best!!!

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

I am originally from 47th and Michigan. SOUTH SIDE!!!! I loved being able to walk with my neighbors and play outside and go to the corner store for snacks!

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

My favorite memory from elementary school is when my Kindergarten Teacher made us Green Eggs and Ham from Dr. Seuss book.

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

My favorite thing to do is spend time with my children, shop, and eat at different restaurants.

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

To go out and have fun with my friends and family.

**What's your dream vacation?**

To go back to Maui, Hawaii!!

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Hello GLA Parents! Family Fitness Night is just two days away! Join us on Thursday, January 16th from 4-6 pm for a night of fitness fun. Activities will include relay races, dodgeball, jump rope, basketball, soccer, and much more. All exercises and activities will be led by our two expert fitness teachers, Coach Ali and Coach Perez. We welcome all fitness levels and levels of participation, so grab your best workout gear and get ready to move. Come get fit with your GLA family!



Looking ahead, I want to remind you of our GLA Community Outing to the Chicago Bulls "Black History Month Game" on Tuesday, February 11th. Last year we had a blast watching the game, electrifying performances, and capturing memories together! There are still tickets available for purchase. My family and I will be in attendance and we hope to see you there! Please see the flyer below for more information.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Ashli Miller".

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Parent Advocacy Committee Meeting

- **Tuesday, Jan. 14, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM.** This is an excellent opportunity to stay engaged and advocate for our school community.

The meeting will be held in **person** at the school (*with snacks*). Zoom is available for those who prefer to join virtually.

Zoom Details:

- **Meeting Link:** Join [Here](#)
- **Meeting ID:** 834 0726 2516
- **Passcode:** 524232

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to make a difference!

**Save the Date: 2nd Annual Sneaker Ball**



Kindergarten through 4th Grade scholars are invited to attend GLA's Sneaker Ball on Friday, January 31st from 4:00pm-6:00pm! Each scholar must have a guardian (18 years old+) present in order to attend. In addition, please see the participation requirements for attending:

- Reporting Period: 01/20-01/31
  - 0 referrals
  - < 2 resets
  - 0 physical altercations
  - < 2 Absences
  - < 4 Tardies to School

#### GLA Family BINGO Night

Join us for our first family event of 2025! Mark your calendars for Friday, February 21, 2025. Students must attend with a parent or guardian. See you there!

**BINGO**

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY  
Family Night

Come for an evening of GLA family, fun, food, and lots of prizes! We will even be offering school tours Scan the QR code  
**RSVP TODAY!**

**FRIDAY,  
FEBRUARY  
21, 2025**

**5:00PM  
-  
7:00PM**

**8401 S. SAGINAW  
AVE.  
CHICAGO, IL  
60617**

**MUST HAVE A PARENT  
OR GUARDIAN PRESENT**

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Middle School Sexual Education

Great Lakes Academy will start its sexual education curriculum this week Wednesday, January 8th for grades 5-8th. If you would like to opt your scholar out of this course please contact Coach P ([tperez@glachicago.org](mailto:tperez@glachicago.org)). Scholars will be sent home with a subject letter on Tuesday, January 7th that will outline all topics covered. No communication is required for your scholar to be opted in.

### Middle School Yondr Pouch Policy

This is a reminder that all 5th - 8th-grade scholars must use a Yondr pouch if they bring a cell phone or other technology to school. Each scholar received a Yondr pouch at the start of the school year. If your scholar no longer has their pouch, please do not allow them to bring their device to school. Bringing a device without an operable Yondr pouch will result in a referral.

To replace a lost or damaged pouch, please pay the \$30 replacement fee at the front office. Once the fee is paid, your scholar will be issued a new pouch. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Williams at [jwilliams@glachicago.org](mailto:jwilliams@glachicago.org).

### Save the Date! Join us for Family Curriculum Night!

Come explore your child's educational journey! You'll have the opportunity to:

- Learn strategies to support learning at home
- Get important information about upcoming state testing (IAR)
- Discover valuable educational resources for families

- Connect with other parents in our school community

Plus, don't miss your chance to win exciting prizes, including gift cards and gift baskets!



### Immediate Kindergarten Enrollment

We have an exciting update! Great Lakes Academy currently has five open Kindergarten seats available for immediate enrollment! If you know a family looking for a high-quality, supportive learning environment for their child, this is a great opportunity to join the GLA community. Feel free to share this message and flyer with friends, neighbors, and anyone you know who might be interested. Let's bring more amazing families into our GLA family!



# Great Lakes Academy

Looking for a high-quality, supportive learning environment for your child?

**Great Lakes Academy has five kindergarten seats open for immediate enrollment!**



## Why Choose GLA?

- ✓ Free and open admission to all
- ✓ Full-day kindergarten with early entry for 4-year-olds
- ✓ Free 7AM drop-off and daily meals provided
- ✓ State-of-the-art campus featuring an enrichment center
- ✓ Full athletic facility and turf field



8401 S. Saginaw Ave. Chicago, IL 60617  
(773)530-3040 | [www.glachicago.org](http://www.glachicago.org)



## Career Day


We are excited to host our Career Day Friday, February 7, 2025. Please share with your networks.






# CAREER DAY 2025

## SAVE THE DATE

**Friday February 7th**

 8401 S SAGINAW AVE

 [HTTPS://GLACHICAGO.ORG](https://glachicago.org)

 @GLA\_CHICAGO  773-530-3040

JOIN US



Chicago Bulls Black History Family Outing

JOIN US!

CHICAGO BULLS  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH GAME

TICKETS AS LOW AS

\$66



VS



CHICAGO BULLS

DETROIT PISTONS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025  
UNITED CENTER

PRE-SHOW: 5:45 PM

TIP-OFF: 7:00 PM

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT:

[HTTPS://FEVO-ENTERPRISE.COM/EVENT/GROUPLAKESACADEMY](https://FEVO-ENTERPRISE.COM/EVENT/GROUPLAKESACADEMY)



**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**



## January 13 - February 7th, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13	14	15	16	17
HOME Girls Basketball Game vs. Morgan Park, 5:00 pm  HOME Cheer Game, 5:00 pm	Parent Advocacy Meeting, 4:30-6:00 pm	GLA Community Conversation, 8:00-9:00 am	Family Fitness Night, 4:00-6:00 pm	
20	21	22	23	24
<b>MLK Day, Building Closed</b>			IA #3 (Kinder)	IA #3 (Kinder)  Comer Pediatric Medical Van
27	28	29	30	31
IA #3 (2nd Grade)  HOME Boys Basketball Game vs. Chicago Lab (JV & V), 4:30 pm  HOME Cheer Game, 4:30 pm  AWAY Girls Basketball Game vs. Chicago Lab, 4:30 pm	IA #3 (2nd Grade)  IA #3 (3rd Grade)	IA #3 (3rd Grade)	Family Curriculum Night, 4:00-5:00 pm	K-4th Sneaker Ball, 4:00-6:00 pm
3	4	5	6	7
IA #3 (1st Grade)  AWAY Girls Basketball Game vs. Chicago Jesuit Academy, 5 pm	IA #3 (1st Grade)	AWAY Boys Basketball Game @ CJA (JV & V), 5 pm		Career Day

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