



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

November 18, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Shanette Gaston - Kindergarten Teacher

Tell us one of your favorite memories from your time at GLA. If you're new to GLA, what are you most looking forward to in your role in the community?

I am looking forward to helping my students build strong academic skills, positive character traits, as well as building positive and memorable relationships with families, students, and staff

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of my proudest moments working in a school was my final Kindergarten graduation at Bronzeville Academy Charter School in 2024. The families, students, staff, and members of Rainbow Push staff shared their experience and love for all my hard work and dedication to students and to education. It was at

that moment I realized the difference I had made in so many people's lives. It was such an honor and a historical moment to have Rev Jessie Jackson speak about the work I had done as well as other prominent people speak about my impact. It was unexpected but I will forever honored and grateful for that experience

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

My desire and passion to make a difference in the lives of my students and families that I serve. I didn't want to just be a teacher but a teacher that years later students and families would remember as making a lasting mark/impact in their hearts/lives.

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

My mentor/dance teacher/gym teacher took the extra time to support me. She made me feel loved, valued, and understood without judgement

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

Spend time with my family. Every chance we get we celebrate together. We celebrate big and small moments of one another's lives including Holidays.

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

I love to dance.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

On the day of Quarter 1 Parent Teacher Conferences, we launched a survey through Possip to gain insights from families on their experience with GLA. So far, we have had 91 family members respond. We are thankful for those responses! This means that there are around 480 families from whom we have not heard a response. If you have not responded to our survey, we encourage you to respond. The feedback we get on this annual survey helps us make changes during the year and plan for next year to make our students' and families' experiences better. You can access the [survey here](#).

On another note, GLA's Fall Break begins Monday, November 24th, and I would like to take a moment to wish you all a very safe and restful break. Our students have been working hard since the start of the school year, and this time away is a wonderful opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy time together. Whether you are traveling, spending time at home, or taking part in seasonal activities, we hope the break is restorative, joyful, and refreshing for your family.

I look forward to welcoming our students and families back when classes resume on Monday, December 1st.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and the last name "Miller" clearly distinguishable.

Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Possip Family Survey - Closes Friday

As Principal Miller mentioned above, we want your feedback! The Possip Family Survey is closing this Friday, November 21st. If you've not yet done so, please take a few minutes to fill out the [survey here](#).

Math Parent Workshop



parent WORKSHOP

MATH FACT FLUENCY



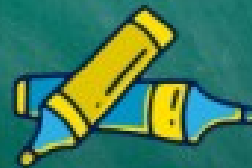
DECEMBER 2, 2025 & DECEMBER 4, 2025

5:00 PM -6:00 PM

LEARN QUICK, EFFECTIVE WAYS TO HELP YOUR
CHILD PRACTICE AT HOME:

- ENGAGING GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- STRATEGIES THAT TAKE JUST MINUTES A DAY
- FREE RESOURCES TAILORED TO YOUR CHILD'S GRADE LEVEL

JOIN US



Title IX Training

On January 24, 2013, Gov. Pat Quinn signed a new law, Erin's Law, into effect for all Illinois schools. Erin's Law requires schools to provide age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention education for all students, Pre-K - 12, on an annual basis. In accordance with state and federal law, all students in Pre-K through 12th grade will receive age-appropriate training from the District. The Office of Student Protections and Title IX has collaborated across several departments to create developmentally appropriate sessions that help students identify abuse and empower them to report any wrongdoing. The sessions have been broken down by grade and are approximately 30-45 minutes each. The training will take place on **Wednesday, November 19th, 2025**.

*This is an important learning opportunity for students. However, a parent or guardian may opt their child out of the training if they do not wish for them to participate. Complete this [GLA Title IX Training SY25-26 Opt Out Form](#) and return it to mstangl@glachicagho.org by **8:00 am Wednesday, Nov. 19th**.*

Join GLA's Student Voice Committee

We're excited to launch a new opportunity for K-8 students. Our Student Voice

Committee will give students a meaningful platform to contribute their perspectives, help guide school initiatives, and shape GLA. If your child is interested, please encourage them to apply [here](#) or use the QR code below. Applications are due Friday, December 5th.

**Introducing
STUDENT VOICE COMMITTEE**

Join the new Student Voice Committee!
Students in grades K-8 are invited to apply to help shape the GLA experience and share ideas that strengthen our school community.

Applications are due December 5, and our first meeting is Friday January 9th, 2pm - 3pm

APPLY BY DEC 5TH

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/GLASVC](https://tinyurl.com/GLASVC)

Contact Ms. Durham for more information at edurham@glachicago.org

PAC Meeting

Join us for our Parent Advocacy Committee meeting tomorrow, November 19th at 5pm. Refreshments and child care will be provided. If you can't make it in person, scan the QR code for the virtual meeting link.



Great Lakes Academy

PARENT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Parent Advocacy Committee is a space where families can use their voices to strengthen and support our school community. Together, we share ideas, discuss needs, and advocate for resources that help every child succeed. Join us to partner with Great Lakes Academy in shaping the best experience for our scholars.



November 19, 2025

All meetings start at 5pm-6:30pm.
In person or ZOOM

Refreshments will be served & Child care provided!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Sports Sign-ups. OPEN NOW!

This winter GLA will be offering girls and boys basketball and co-ed cheer!

CLICK HERE if your student-athlete is interested in joining a team. There are several requirements to be a part of GLA athletics. All details will be explained during the winter sports orientation.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Coach P (tperez@glachicago.org)

Spread the Word: GLA Alumni Friendsgiving

We are hosting our very 1st GLA Alumni Friendsgiving! If you have an alumni or know



The Great Lakes Academy Holiday Season Sale!

We're launching brand-new designs and fresh garments that make perfect gifts for your families this holiday season. Below you'll find everything you need to easily get the word out!

Holiday Sale Details:

- Sale Dates: November 3rd – December 10th
- Guaranteed Delivery by December 23rd
- 20% Off Sitewide
- Friday Flash Sales

Holiday Sale General Promotion Materials:
Store Link: <https://1stplace.sale/115856>



After-Care

Running late and need aftercare? Please use the link below or QR code to pay for your scholar's. Be sure to include your scholar's name and the date before checking out.

Aftercare Hours:
3:30-5:00 Monday - Thursday
2:00-4:00 Friday

<https://glachicago.revtrak.net/r1#/v/after-care->



Race to 10 is On!

A huge congratulations to Illinois for racing to 10 and winning Heat 2! 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 started 10/20. Let's keep up the momentum and continue working together to make everyday count! Attendance matters.



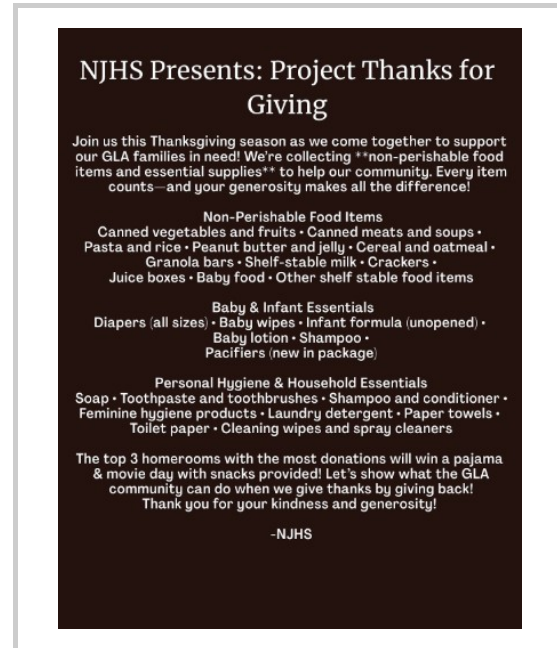
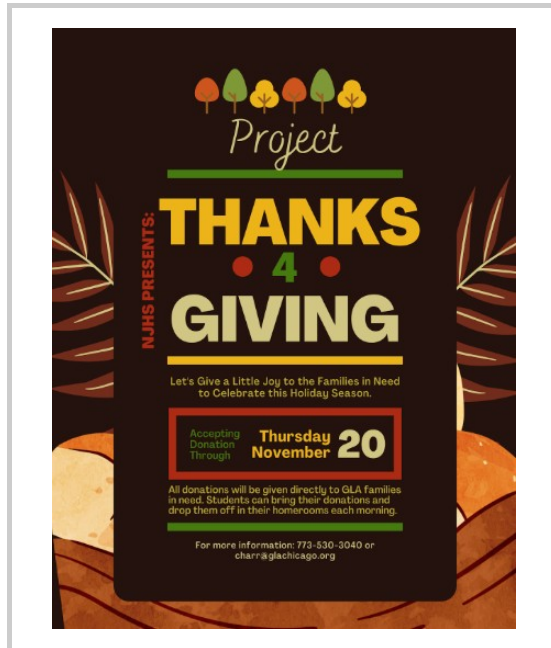
Thanks for Giving

Our Great Lakes Academy National Junior Honor Society is excited to kick off Project *Thanks for Giving* — a schoolwide food and necessity drive running from November 3rd to November 20th!

Students are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items and other essentials such as diapers, wipes, baby formula, hygiene products, and cleaning products to their homerooms. All donations will go directly to GLA families in need, helping us share the spirit of gratitude and community this Thanksgiving season.

As a fun incentive, the top three homerooms with the most donations will earn a Pajama & Movie Day — complete with snacks!

Let's come together to make a difference and show what it means to give thanks by giving back!



Helpful Community Resources: Food Pantries

We want to make sure families know about local food pantries available in our community. Here is a list of organizations, their locations, and hours of operation so you can easily access support when needed. If you need more options, please visit www.findhelp.org.

Food Pantry Resources



Trinity Ressurrection United
9046 S Mackinaw
773-768-9645
Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30 am
Service Area: Cook County

King of Glory Tabernacle
2253 E 83rd St
773-375-3537
Thursdays, 4-7pm
Fridays, 10am-1pm

Giving Others Dreams
8832 S Commercial Ave
Mondays, 4-6pm
Tuesdays, 11am-1pm
Service Area: 60617

Christ Life Church
8927 S Houston Ave
773-936-1348
Saturdays, 10am-12pm
Service Area: 60617, 60633

Pilsen Wellness Center, Inc
2938 E 89th Street
312-217-1831
Wednesdays, 3-6pm
Thursdays, 11-2pm
Service Area: 60617

Christ Bible Church of God
7877 S Coles
773-734-2933
Saturdays, 10am-2pm
Service Area: Cook County
Bring Photo ID!



Need more options? Visit: www.findhelp.org

Additionally, Aldi has created a promotion that provides dinner for 10 for \$40. See what is included below.



- Whole Turkey
- Chicken Broth
- Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Evaporated Milk
- Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
- Miniature Marshmallows
- Cut Green Beans (x2)
- 100% Pure Canned Pumpkin
- Shells & Cheese (x2)
- Brown Gravy Mix (x3)
- Poultry Spices & Herbs
- French Fried Onions
- Pie Crust
- Chicken or Cornbread Stuffing (x2)
- Whipped Dairy Topping
- Yellow Onions (3 lbs.)
- Baby Peeled Carrots
- Celery
- Cranberries
- Sweet Potatoes (3 lbs.)
- Russet Potatoes (10 lbs.)

Free Homework Help through the University of Chicago

The University of Chicago is offering free Homework Help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6pm. This program is designed to support K-12th grade students with their schoolwork in a welcoming, collaborative environment. Tutoring is provided by UChicago students and covers all core subjects areas. The sessions are in person with few virtual sessions available. If interested, sign up for a 30-minute time slot via the QR code below.



STUDENTS K-12
MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL

HOMEWORK HELP

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 4PM-6PM

HOW TO JOIN:
Students will need to register using QR Code to secure their time & tutor.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
Tutoring is provided by UChicago students, covering all core subject areas



STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN MATERIALS

SIGN UP HERE

APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GOD
6320 SOUTH DORCHESTER AVE CHICAGO, IL 60637



UNIVERSITY CHURCH
5655 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60637

LIMITED VIRTUAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE

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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**November 17 - December 5, 2025**

17 Girls Volleyball vs. Parents Game, 4:30 pm	18	19 Lockdown #2 Parent Advocacy Meeting, 5:00 pm	20 Fall Sports Celebration, 4:30 pm	21
24 Fall Break, No School	25 Fall Break, No School	26 Fall Break, No School	27 Fall Break, No School	28 Fall Break, No School
1	2 Math Parent Workshop 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	3 Shelter in Place Drill	4 Math Parent Workshop 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	5
8 Winter Book Fair	9 Winter Book Fair	10 Winter Book Fair	11 Winter Book Fair	12 Winter Book Fair 5th-8th Grade Winter Ball 5:30 - 7:30 PM

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