

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

October 20, 2026

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Last Tuesday, GLA hosted our second Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly with an incredible showcase of music, dance, and culture! Students enjoyed amazing performances by Mariachi Monumental de México and Son Monarcas & Nahui Ollin, an Aztec dance group. Students enthusiastically engaged with the performers and embraced the opportunity to experience these vibrant cultural traditions firsthand. The assembly offered a meaningful way for our school community to learn about Indigenous and Hispanic cultures while honoring the rich history and significance of Hispanic Heritage Month.

GLA has also put up an Ofrenda in our Link in celebration of Días De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). We welcome families to bring in a picture of a loved one to add to the Ofrenda. We can provide one frame max per family.

It has been an exciting Hispanic Heritage Month, and we are honored to be participating in Dias De Los Muertos with our entire community.







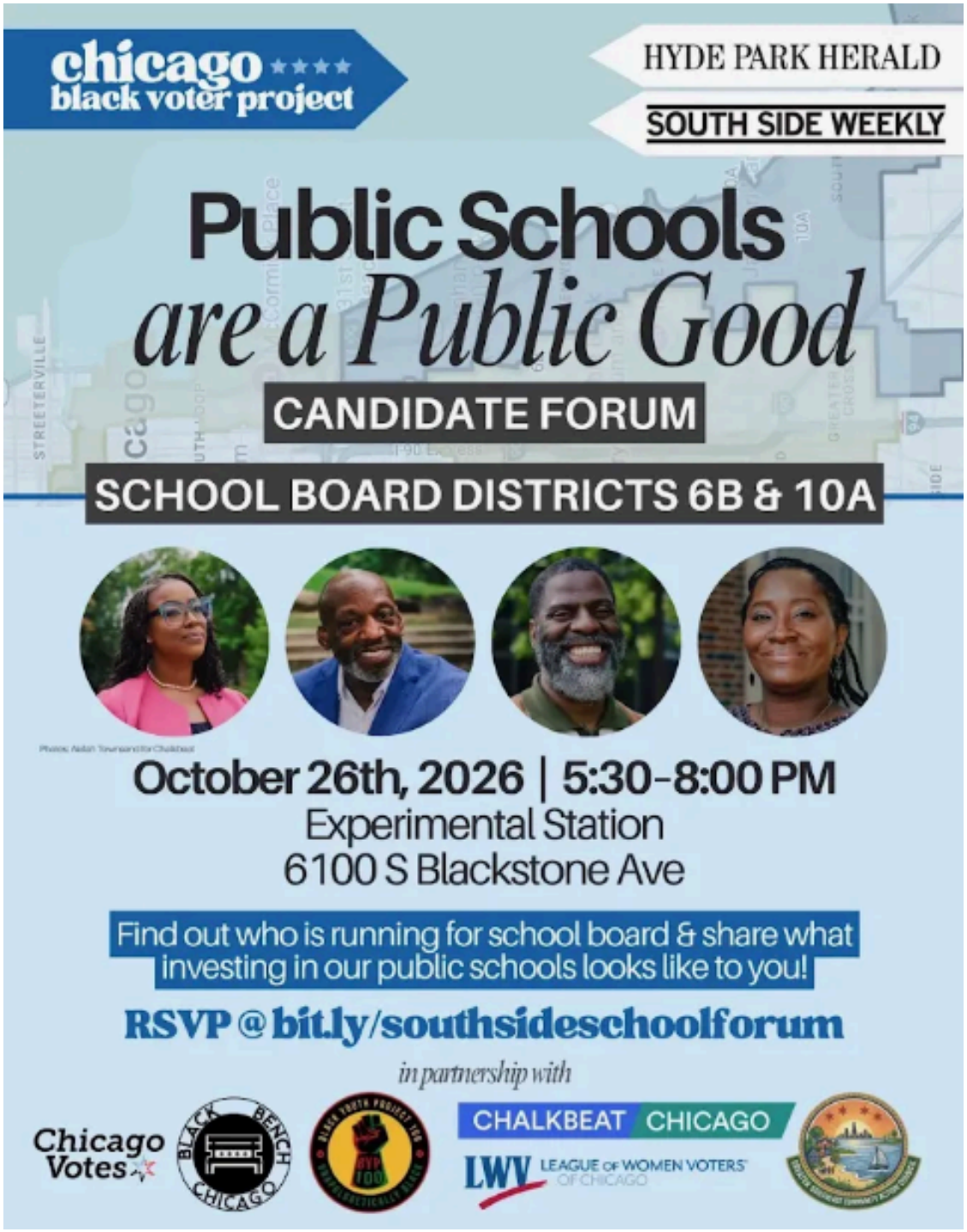


Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chicago Black Vote Project: Candidate Forum

The Chicago Black Voter Project is holding a candidate forum on Monday, October 26th from 5:30-8:00 pm at Experimental Station (6100 S. Blackstone Ave). School Board candidates from districts 6B & 10A will be present. If interested in attending, you can RSVP here.



Erin's Law Presentation/ Title IX

All students will receive the Chicago Public Schools Erin's Law/Title IX Presention that is broken down by grade and arel around 30-45 minutes. **The training will take place during Morning Meeting/Advisory on Wednesday, Oct. 28th.**

Parents have the right to opt-out of the Office of Student Protections and Title IX Student Training. If you choose to **opt your child out** please return the GLA Opt-Out Erin's Law Presentation/Title IX SY26-27to the front office or Ms. Melissa at mstangl@glachicago.org.

If you wish to teach your child this material yourself, you can access the videos to the sessions on the OSP website at www.cps.edu/osp.

Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee





GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Race to 10: Circle of Champions

Get ready for an exciting year of attendance, teamwork, and BIG rewards! Our Race to 10 program is leveling up, giving classrooms even more chances to celebrate great attendance, earn rewards and compete for an unforgettable end-of-year field trip. We are excited to launch our Race to 10: Circle of Champions initiative. Here are the rules:

- Two Race to Ten Wins: Each classroom can win the traditional Race to Ten incentive up to two times during the school year by banking 10 qualifying attendance days.
- Graduate to the Champions Circle: After a classroom earns its second Race to Ten win, it moves into the Champions Circle. Each additional time that classroom banks 10 qualifying attendance days, it earns 10 raffle tickets toward the end-of-year grand prize.
- Champions Circle Grand Prize: At the end of the year, one Champions Circle classroom will be selected to receive a major field trip experience—either Great America or Immersive Gamebox. Each student in the winning classroom may also bring one parent or guardian on the trip

Attendance really makes a difference, so we encourage all families to help students be here every day and ready to learn as we work towards our school attendance goal of 93.7%!



How to become a Champion:

After two Race to 10 wins, homerooms graduate into the Circle of Champions. Every additional win would result in 10 entries into the Grand Prix Raffle.

Circle of Champions Grand Prix:

The Ultimate End of Year Field Trip Experience! One Circle of Champion Classroom will win:

- A trip to Immersive Game Box or Six Flags Great America
- 1 Parent or Guardian per student may attend at no extra cost
- Food and Transportation Provided

Monthly Reading Tips

LOWER SCHOOL FAMILIES READING TIP: Talk About What You Read

This month, encourage your child to become an active reader by talking about books at home. After reading, ask questions such as, **“What happened in the story?” “What was the most important part?” “What did you learn?”** or **“What was your favorite part?”** For younger readers, looking at the pictures and retelling what happened is a great way to build comprehension. For older students, encourage them to explain their thinking and support their ideas with details from the text. A simple conversation about a book can make a big difference in your child's reading growth.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES READING TIP: Read the news together.

Reading doesn’t have to stop when the book closes.

Choose a news story, headline, or current event to read together each week. Then, talk about it. Ask your child what they think, how the story connects to their world, and what evidence from the article shaped their thinking.

Try asking:

- What is the most important idea in this story?
- What do you think about it? Why?
- What evidence supports your thinking?
- What questions does this story make you wonder about?

These simple conversations help middle schoolers become stronger readers, thoughtful citizens, and confident thinkers. Even ten minutes of thoughtful reading and discussion can make a difference!

📸 Picture Day Is Coming Soon!

We are excited to announce that **Picture Day is Thursday, October 22nd!**

Picture Day is a great opportunity to capture a special moment in your scholar's school year. **Pre-order forms will be sent home with students next week.**

📸 Do Not Want Your Scholar Photographed?

If you **do not want your scholar's photo taken**, please contact the GLA Front Office at **773-530-3040** or email **Ms. Thunherst at sthunherst@glachicago.org** no later than **Wednesday, October 21st**.

Picture Day Dress Code Reminder

Students **may dress out of uniform for Picture Day**, but all outfits must still follow GLA's school dress code guidelines.

When choosing your scholar's Picture Day outfit, please remember that the following are **NOT allowed**:

- Clothing with profane, inappropriate, or offensive messaging
- Visible undergarments or clothing worn as outerwear
- Midriff-exposing tops
- Hems shorter than **three inches above the knee**
- Hoodies or hooded shirts — these must be placed in lockers before class

Important: Students who do not follow the dress code will receive a referral and **will not be permitted to have their picture taken**.

Thank you for helping us make Picture Day a fun and successful day for all of our scholars!



Illinois Charter School Family Coalition Parent Trainings

Families, please consider participating in two upcoming training sessions to help build up your organizing and advocacy skills to make change in our democracy. Our partner organization, INCS, is hosting a zoom training on Wednesday, October 15 (6:30 – 8:00 pm) and an in-person training on Saturday, November 7 (9:30 am to 3:00 pm). Breakfast and lunch served. Don't miss this opportunity. Sign up here.

Familias, les invitamos a participar en una próxima capacitación presencial para fortalecer sus habilidades de organización y defensa de causas, y así impulsar cambios en nuestra democracia. Nuestra organización asociada, INCS, ofrecerá esta capacitación el sábado

7 de noviembre (de 9:30 a. m. a 3:00 p. m.). No dejen pasar esta oportunidad. Inscríbanse aquí.



Fall Fest + Fall Spirit Week (10/26-10/30)



In order to participate in Fall Fest during school hours on Friday, October 30th scholars must meet the following expectations:

Marking Period: 10/19-10/29
0 Referrals
< or = 2 Resets
< or = 2 Absences to School

Families will be notified on Thursday, October 29th if their scholar cannot participate.

Join GLA's Student Voice Committee
We're excited to kick off this year's Student Voice Committee, which gives 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 Monday, October 19th.



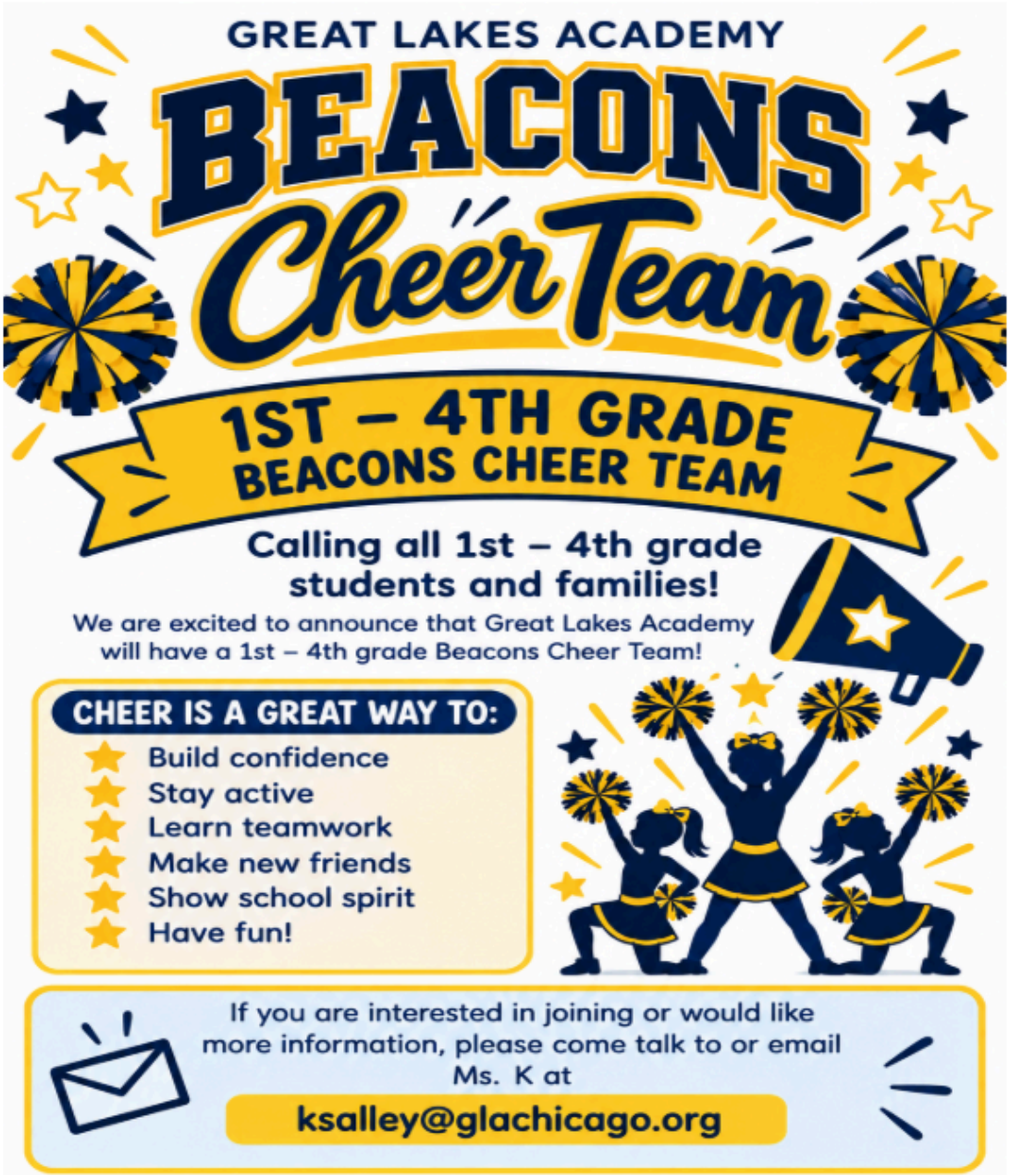
1st–4th Grade Cheer

Beacon Tykes cheer is here!

If you have a student-athlete in 1st-4th grade that is interested in cheerleading, please sign-up today! Interested student-athletes must attend our athletic orientation with their parents/guardians in person. Orientation will be Monday, 11/2 and will start at 6p.

The athletic fee per student will be $150. All student-athletes must have a sports physical on file to participate in GLA athletics. Any outstanding balances must also be settled before joining GLA athletic teams. Sign-up sheet can be found here.

Please keep in mind if the sign up exceeds 30 student-athletes we will be added on a first come, first serve basis.



5th–8th Grade Winter Athletics

Is basketball your scholar's favorite sport? Time to sign them up so they can dribble up and down the court!!

Winter sports season is approaching fast. Sign-ups are open now!

Winter season sports offered: Co-ed cheer, Girls basketball & Boys basketball.
The athletic fee per student will be $150/season.
If you have a student-athlete who might be interested in any winter sports, please fill out the interest form.
All student-athletes must have a sports physical on file to participate in GLA athletics. Any outstanding balances must also be settled before joining GLA athletic teams.
Please reach out to Coach P (tperez@glachicago.org) with any questions!

FOOD & LUNCH REMINDERS

- No food sharing between scholars; this will result in a consequence.
- **K–4 only: Classroom treats/snacks must be approved by the teacher in advance.**
- Please do not send large bags of chips, cookies, candy, etc. for sharing.
- Please do not send multiple small bags of snacks for scholars to pass out.

- If sending lunch from home, we **encourage families to provide a full lunch rather than just snacks**.
- These expectations help us support **food safety, allergies, and a safe lunch environment**.

CPS Family Income Information

GLA families, please complete the **CPS Family Income Information Form, linked below, for the 2026–27 school year**. Only **one form per household** is needed, and it takes just **2–3 minutes** to complete.

This form helps determine school funding that supports important programs at GLA, including our **free lunch program**.

Completed forms can be:

- Dropped off to the GLA front office
- Emailed to **sthunherst@glachicago.org**

Paper forms are also available in the front office for families who are unable to complete the form electronically.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this important form and for your continued support of GLA!

English Form
Spanish Form

🦷👓 **Mobile Dental & Vision Visits – 2026–27**

GLA is happy to announce that our **mobile dental and vision providers will be returning during the 2026–27 school year** to provide services to our students! Mobile dental providers are scheduled to visit GLA **Monday, January 26th through Wednesday, February 3rd** to provide dental services to students who sign up.

Vision providers will be scheduled once we have enough students registered for the service. **A minimum of 30 students must sign up before we can schedule a vision provider.**

In order for your student to be seen during these visits, a **completed consent form (front and back)** must be on file. Consent forms can be completed in either of the following ways:

- **Online: Complete the form and email it to sthunherst@glachicago.org**
- **In Person: Complete the form at the GLA Front Office, Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–2:30 PM**

Please note the following **Illinois state requirements**:

- **Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, and 6th Grade: An updated Illinois Dental Exam is required.**
- **Kindergarten: A completed Illinois Vision Exam Form is required.**

We encourage families to complete the required forms as soon as possible so students are ready to participate when the mobile dental and vision providers visit GLA.

Thank you for helping us keep our students healthy and ready to learn!

Dental - English Dental - Spanish
Vision - English Vision-Spanish

2026-27 School Calendar

The 2026-27 school calendar is posted on 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
Access October's Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper menus here (these are also linked on our website's Parent and Student Resource Page)

October 2026

Great Lakes Academy
Breakfast

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 • WG Buttermilk Biscuits • Turkey Sausage • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**2** • Danimals Strawberry Banana yogurt • WG Goldfish Graham Crackers • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk
5 • WG Trix Cereal • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**6** • Turkey Sausage Egg and Cheese Sandwich WG • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**7** • WG Double Chocolate Chip Muffin • WG Goldfish Graham Crackers • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**8** • French Toast Sticks • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**9** • WG Cinnamon Bagelful • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk
12  Indigenous Peoples Day	**13** • Pancake sausage on a Stick WG • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**14** • Apple Cinnamon Breakfast Round • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**15** • WG English Muffin • Turkey Sausage • Sliced American Cheese • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**16**  PTC
19  Wellness Day	**20**  Professional Development Day	**21** • WG Blueberry Muffins • WG Goldfish Graham Crackers • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**22** • Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**23** • Raspberry Yogurt • WG Honey Grahams • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk
26 • Honey Cheerios WG • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**27** • Pancake Bites WG • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**28** • WG Apple Cinnamon Muffin • WG Goldfish Graham Crackers • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**29** • Breakfast Pizza WG • 100% Juice Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk	**30** • Cherry Frudel WG • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Chocolate Low Fat Milk • Strawberry Milk

October 2026

Great Lakes Academy

Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 • Chicken Alfredo • Steamed Broccoli • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**2** • Cheesy Breadstick WG • Zesty Marinara • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
5 • Bosco Sticks • Zesty Marinara • Fresh Broccoli Bites • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**6** • Beef Taco • **Hard Taco Shell WG** • Shredded Cheddar Cheese • Chopped Romaine • Golden Corn • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**7** *Crispy Chicken Slider* • Breaded Chicken Breast Fillet • Slider Bun WG • Sliced American Cheese • Curly Fries • Fresh Celery Sticks • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**8** • Cheese Lasagna Roll-Up WG • Seasoned Green Beans • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**9** • Turkey Hoagie • WG Sub Bun • Baby Carrots • WG Chips • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
12  Indigenous Peoples Day	**13** • Beef Burrito • Golden Corn • Refried Beans • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**14** • WG Chicken Sticks • Fresh Celery Sticks • Hummus • WG Dinner Roll • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**15** • WG Cheese Pizza • Romaine Garden Salad • Grape Tomatoes • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**16**  PTC
19  Wellness Day	**20**  Professional Development Day	**21** • Crispy Chicken Patty • Spicy Chicken Patty • WG Burger Bun • Fresh Carrot Sticks • Fresh Cucumber Slices • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**22** • White Cheddar Mac & Cheese • Steamed Broccoli • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**23** *Surf Burger* • Cod Fish Patty • WG Burger Bun • Sliced American Cheese • Tasty Tots • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
26 • Turkey Pepperoni Pizza WG • Fresh Cucumber Slices • Grape Tomatoes • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**27** • Walking Taco • Turkey Taco Meat • Nacho Cheese • WG Fritos • Golden Corn • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**28** • Boneless Chicken Wings WG • WG Dinner Roll • Fresh Celery Sticks • Hummus • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**29** • Beef Spaghetti • Fresh Broccoli Bites • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**30** • **Sloppy Joe on a Bun** • WG Burger Bun • Tater Tots • Baby Carrots • Seasonal Fruit Milk & Condiments • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk

October 2026

Great Lakes Academy
Supper

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
			1 • Philly Beef Steak Club Roll Shredded Cheddar Cheese • Oven Fries • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
5 • Chicken Drumstick • WG Dinner Roll • Corn on the Cob • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**6** • Cheese Beef Slider • Slider Bun WG • Oven Fries • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**7** • Meat Loaf • Mashed Potatoes • WG Dinner Roll • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**8** • Turkey Sausage Pizza WG • Romaine Garden Salad • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
12  Indigenous Peoples Day	**13** • BBQ Meatballs • Mashed Potatoes • WG Dinner Roll • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**14** • Beef Spaghetti • Green Beans • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**15** Jerk Chicken Pita Melt • Pulled Chicken • Pita WG • Oven Fries • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
19  Wellness Day	**20**  Professional Development Day	**21** • Turkey Sausage Pizza WG • Mixed Veggies • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**22** Chicken Caesar Salad • Chopped Romaine • Diced Chicken • WG Garlic Toast • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk
26 • Cheese Quesadilla WG • Corn on the Cob • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**27** • Chicken Jambalaya • WG Dinner Roll • Baby Carrots • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**28** • **Beef Mostaccioli** • WG Garlic Toast • Green Beans • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk	**29** Chicken & Waffles • Chicken Tenders • WG Buttermilk Waffles • Tater Tots • Seasonal Fruit Daily Milk • Fat Free Milk • Milk 1%, low fat, 8 fl oz. • Strawberry Milk • Chocolate Low Fat Milk

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

October 19 - November 13, 2026

19 Wellness Day **No School**	20 Staff PD **No School**	21	22 Picture Day Girls JV/Varsity Volleyball Game (HOME) 4:30 - 7:30 pm	23
26 Staff and Student Spirit Week	27 Staff and Student Spirit Week	28 Staff and Student Spirit Week	29 Staff and Student Spirit Week	30 Staff and Student Spirit Week K-8th Fall Fest (during school hours) Dia de Los Muertos Celebration (Observing)
2	3 Election Day Building Closed	4 BAC Parent Meeting 5:00 - 6:00 PM	5	6
9 Fall Sports Celebration, 3:30 pm	10	11 Staff PD, No Classes	12 Picture Day Makeups	13 8th Grade GoCPS Application Closes

Follow Us on Social Media!

Share This Email | Share This Email | Share This Email

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

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!