



The Weekly Wave

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

March 3, 2026

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Jasmine - School Social Worker

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

One of my favorite memories is the Black History Month Program for this school year, I love the opportunity to see our kids get on stage and be able to thrive and shine.

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

My proudest moments working in a school are always when I see my students thriving socially and emotionally. It always feels good that they were mindful of their choices and showing integrity despite the odds.

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

I wanted to work in a school because I believe that mental health is equally as important as academics. I believe that students cannot thrive academically if their social and emotional needs aren't met.

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

I'm from Chicago. I grew up in the Washington Heights area. What I loved is that everyone knew everyone. At the time, my community was close knit and it was always something fun to do.

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

My favorite memory from elementary school is when my 6th grade teacher and gym teacher pushed me to participate in the spelling bee because I did so well in spelling. Although I didn't make it past regionals, it was still a good memory and motivation to push myself.

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

My favorite way to unwind is by either doing some crafty, watching a good show/movie, and/or eating some good food (chipotle is a comfort food on a busy day).

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

My hidden talent would be that I'm a good writer. I like writing short stories and songs for fun.

What's your dream vacation?

My dream vacation is to go to Africa.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



GLA concluded our celebration of Black History Month with our K–4 Black History Month performances. Throughout the month, students and teachers prepared presentations, dances, songs, and poetry that honored and highlighted Black American history and culture. Our students were able to perform in a gym packed with family, friends, and staff! We sincerely thank all of the parents and family members who joined us and helped make the event so memorable for our students.

As a former history teacher, I believe deeply in the importance of commemorating and understanding history. While February has come to a close, we hope to carry this spirit of learning, reflection, and celebration forward as a school community.





Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS





Parent Teacher Conferences - Friday, Mar 13, 2026

Check your email for Parent Teacher Conference sign-up links. You will have a separate link for each student enrolled at GLA. Reach out to the Front Office with any questions, 773-530-3040.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save Up to \$25 on GLA Spirit Wear + Free Shipping!

Now is the perfect time to stock up on **Great Lakes Academy spirit wear** and save BIG!

-  **Save \$15 when you spend \$75**
-  **Save \$25 when you spend \$100**
-  **Use code: SPIRIT308 at checkout**
-  **PLUS get FREE shipping on orders over \$85!**

Don't miss out — grab your hoodies, tees, hats, and more while this deal lasts!

Shop now: <https://1stplace.sale/115856>

Thank you for supporting Great Lakes Academy!

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE



SAVE \$25 ON \$100
SPEND

SAVE \$15 ON \$75
SPEND



FREE Shipping on orders over \$85

SHOP NOW

SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/115856

Use Code: SPIRIT308

Inclement Weather Day - Calendar Change

- Because we had to cancel school on Friday, January 23rd, we are turning a non-school day into a school day to meet the state minimum number of in-session school days.
- **Thursday, April 30th, which was originally scheduled as a Wellness Day, will now be a school day.**

Great Lakes Academy's Uniform Expectations

Recently, we have seen an increase in scholars arriving to school out of uniform, and we want to ensure families are aware of expectations and next steps. [Uniform Policy](#) can be found here. Repeated out-of-uniform violations will result in scholars being ineligible for incentive events and referral documentation.

2026–27 Intent to Return

We are excited to announce that the **2026–27 Intent to Return form** is now available online! This replaces the paper forms used in past years.

To help us plan enrollment, **all families must complete an Intent to Return form for each currently enrolled student**, even if you do not plan to return.

Intent to Return emails are sent weekly, so please check your email for a **personalized snapcode link** and detailed instructions to complete the form.

All forms must be submitted **no later than Friday, March 6, 2026**.

If you need assistance, please contact **Ms. Thunherst at 773-530-3040** or **sthunherst@glachicago.org**.

Spring Sports Sign-Ups

Spring sports will be starting with Co-ed Track on 2/19, girls & boys flag football will be starting 3/9!

If you would like to sign your student-athlete up for either sport click [here](#). **The participation fee for each sport is \$150 per student-athlete.**

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

Spread the Word: GLA Spring Open House

Families, help us share the news! Great Lakes Academy will host our **Spring Open House on Tuesday, March 3rd, from 5:00–7:00 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. Additionally, applications are now open for the 2026-27 school year. Any applications completed by Wednesday, March 18th will be eligible for the March 19th lottery.



GREAT LAKES ACADEMY



2026-2027

OPEN HOUSE

Our mission is to empower children today to change the world tomorrow.



**Tuesday,
March 3, 2026**

5pm-7pm

8401 S. Saginaw Ave.
Chicago, IL 60617

- ✓ Tour the school
- ✓ Meet staff
- ✓ Learn about our academic, enrichment and student support
- ✓ Ask questions



For more info:

773-530-3040



Visit us:

www.glachicago.org

2026-27 Applications are now open!

You're invited: Great Lakes Academy Kindergarten Prom

Calling our future and current scholars! Celebrate with us on Saturday, March 7th as we create a magical day for our Pre-K AND current Kindergarten stars! Put on your best formal fit and walk the red carpet like the royalty you are! Dancing, memories, and unforgettable moments await. [RSVP](#) today and let's make it a day to remember.



Great Lakes Academy

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

Kindergarten Prom

For grades Pre-K- Kindergarten

Formal attire encouraged!

FREE

SATURDAY, March 7, 2026

12pm- 3pm

Great Lakes
Academy

8401 S. Saginaw Ave

RSVP:

<https://bit.ly/3LjhGaE>



K-3rd grade Spring Fest

Spring is in the air at Great Lakes Academy!

Join us for our **K-3 Spring Fest** on **Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 12PM-3PM** at 8401 S. Saginaw Ave. This family-friendly celebration will include music, snacks, fun, and games for our youngest scholars.

We can't wait to see our K-3 families come out, connect, and celebrate the season together. Be sure to RSVP using the QR code and mark your calendars for an afternoon full of springtime fun!



Race to 10 is On!

A huge congratulations to UIC for racing to 10 and winning Heat 4! They will be going on a free field trip of their choice. Also, congratulations to the two parents who won our gas raffle. Race 5 started on 2/10.

As a reminder, the first homeroom to achieve 100% attendance 10 times will win a free field trip. Parents will also have the chance to win raffled gas or Uber gift cards as an added bonus. Our fourth race started Friday, December 5th and all homerooms were reset to 0 days. The Race to 10 tracker shows our progress and highlights the top 5 homerooms as of February 3rd. Let's keep working together to make every day count! Attendance matters!



RACE TO 10



Swim Classes - [sign up here](#)

DEEPLY ROOTED

Where Culture Meets the Water




FREE Swim Classes


SPRING 2026


Culturally affirming, beginner-friendly swim lessons for families in Chicago.





- Anticipated Start Dates:
- Wed, March 4 at 6PM (Adults 18+)
- Saturdays, March 7 at 11:20AM (Youth & Parent+Child)

 6-Week Program | South Side YMCA
6330 S. Stony Island Ave, Chicago, IL

LEARN MORE & COMPLETE OUR INTEREST FORM 

LINK IN BIO | SPOTS LIMITED! 

 872-216-1276

 theinfinitebloom.com
[@TheInfiniteBloom](https://www.instagram.com/TheInfiniteBloom)

TheInfiniteBloom1@gmail.com

in partnership with



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

March 2 - March 27, 2026

2 Women's History Month → Wave 3 Enrichment Begins	3 Spring Open House, 5:00-7:00 pm	4	5	6 8th Grade: GoCPS High School Results Round 1 Acceptance Offer Deadline
9 ANet & Navigator IA#3 Assessments Spring Athletics Begins	10 ANet & Navigator IA#3 Assessments	11 ANet & Navigator IA#3 Assessments	12 ANet & Navigator IA#3 Assessments End of Quarter 3	13 No School, Parent Teacher Conferences
16 Wellness Day, Building Closed	17 Staff PD, No School	18 Q4 Begins	19 2026-27 Lottery	20
23 Spring Break, Building Closed	24 Spring Break, Building Closed	25 Spring Break, Building Closed	26 Spring Break, Building Closed	27 Spring Break, Building Closed

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](#)



Try email marketing for free today!