



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

November 12, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. K - 1st Grade ELA Teacher

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

My favorite memories being at GLA are going to the LITPIT! I love being able to have fun with my students and have some fun and friendly competition with the other classrooms!

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

My proudest moments working in a school was bringing my kindergarteners from the red zone to the green zone in our school wide testing! I loved being able to put in that one-on-one work with my students and get them to reach a goal!

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

I come from a long-line of educators; principals, deans, daycare owners and more, so working with children was always in the books for me! I am so happy it was because I honestly can't see myself doing anything else!

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

The students; my students are the BEST!

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

I am from Chicago, born and raised SOUTHSIDE! I love being from Chicago because of the culture and most importantly the food! We have the best food!

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

Shopping and doing activities around the city!

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

I love shopping, hanging out with family and friends, and binge watching TV shows!

What's your dream vacation?

Paris!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Families,

As we approach our fall break and the season of gratitude, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you. This time of year invites us to pause and reflect on the many things we are thankful for and at the top of that list is our incredible school community. Great Lakes Academy is one of the best elementary schools in Chicago, and I appreciate all of our students, family members, and staff that make it such a special place.

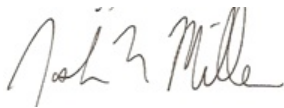
I am so proud of the strong, positive culture we've built together. It is one rooted in respect, collaboration, and a shared commitment to preparing every child for a future of their choice. Our students continue to flourish not only academically, but also as kind, curious, and capable individuals. This growth is a direct reflection of the strong partnership we share with our families. Your support, involvement, and trust truly make all the difference.

I am also deeply grateful for our dedicated staff, whose passion and creativity fill our classrooms with meaningful learning every day. Together, our students, staff, and families have created something special, and I'm thankful to be part of such a caring and inspiring community.

One of the most meaningful ways we are helping students practice gratitude is by sharing what we have with those who may have less. Our National Junior Honor Society is putting this lesson into action by hosting a food drive to support GLA families in need. Students are leading the effort by collecting non-perishable food items to give back to the community. Donations will be accepted until November 20th, and all contributions will go directly to GLA families who could use a little extra support this season. More information on the NJHS Food Drive is provided below.

As we approach our upcoming fall break, I hope you find time to rest, reflect, and celebrate with loved ones. Thank you for all you do to make GLA a place where every student can thrive.

with gratitude,



Principal Miller

NEW 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



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

GLA ALUMNI FRIENDSGIVING CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER

22

12pm-3pm

LUNCH . MUSIC . FUN GAMES

Great Lakes Academy

8401 S. Saginaw Ave. Chicago, IL

Scan the QR code to RSVP!



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLA Parent/Guardian Possip Survey

We want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete our Parent/Guardian Survey. Your feedback helps us make Great Lakes Academy even better for students and families. Click here to share your thoughts:

<https://www.weeklypossip.com/surveys/cxyg8x?position=1>

The Great Lakes Academy Holiday Season Sale starts this week!

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>

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

Holiday Sale
Spirit Wear Gifts

20% OFF
SITEWIDE

DELIVERY BY
GUARANTEED
DEC. 23RD

SHOP NOW

SHOP AT: [1STPLACE.SALE/115856](https://1stplace.sale/115856)

1ST PLACE
Spiritwear

Get The BEST DEALS
From Your Official Store

- T-shirts
- Hoodies
- Polos
- Headwear
- Backpacks
- Drinkware
- And More...

FREE
SHIPPING
ORDERS OVER
\$75

SCAN HERE
TO ORDER

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->

AFTER-CARE

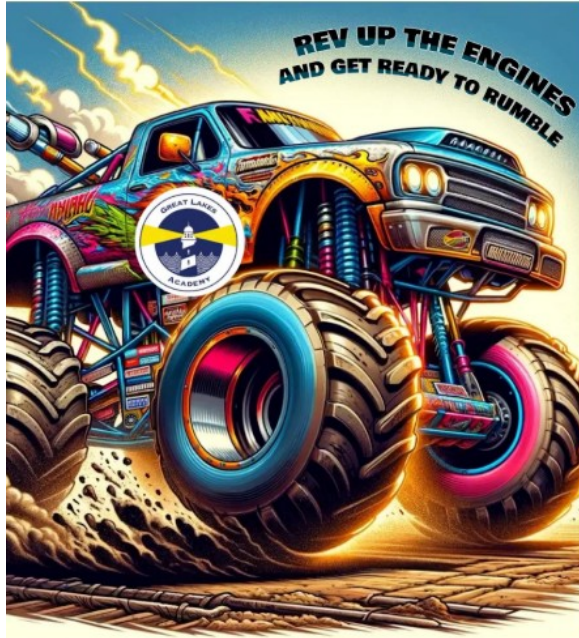
Scan to Pay



**INCLUDE SCHOLAR NAME &
DATE OF ATTENDANCE**

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!



Project

NJHS PRESENTS:

THANKS

• 4 •

GIVING

Let's Give a Little Joy to the Families in Need
to Celebrate this Holiday Season.

Accepting
Donation
Through

**Thursday
November 20**

All donations will be given directly to GLA families
in need. Students can bring their donations and
drop them off in their homerooms each morning.

For more information: 773-530-3040 or
charr@glachicago.org

NJHS Presents: Project Thanks for Giving

Join us this Thanksgiving season as we come together to support our GLA families in need! We're collecting ****non-perishable food items and essential supplies**** to help our community. Every item counts—and your generosity makes all the difference!

Non-Perishable Food Items

Canned vegetables and fruits • Canned meats and soups • Pasta and rice • Peanut butter and jelly • Cereal and oatmeal • Granola bars • Shelf-stable milk • Crackers • Juice boxes • Baby food • Other shelf stable food items

Baby & Infant Essentials

Diapers (all sizes) • Baby wipes • Infant formula (unopened) • Baby lotion • Shampoo • Pacifiers (new in package)

Personal Hygiene & Household Essentials

Soap • Toothpaste and toothbrushes • Shampoo and conditioner • Feminine hygiene products • Laundry detergent • Paper towels • Toilet paper • Cleaning wipes and spray cleaners

The top 3 homerooms with the most donations will win a pajama & movie day with snacks provided! Let's show what the GLA community can do when we give thanks by giving back!
Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

-NJHS

New Payment Option Now Available

We are excited to announce that our school now offers a new, convenient way to pay student fees online through **RevTrak**, available directly in the **PowerSchool Parent Portal**.

With RevTrak, you can securely pay for fees such as enrichment, technology, and other school-related costs using a credit or debit card—all from your existing PowerSchool account.

How to Access RevTrak:

- Log in to your **PowerSchool Parent Portal**.
- Click on the **Balance** tab.
- Select the applicable fee(s) and complete your payment.

To make payments more convenient, PayPal will no longer be available for online transactions. All balances and payments will now be accessible in one place through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. In addition, in-person payments will continue to be accepted at the Front Office.

Please note: Outstanding balances not secured by a payment plan will result in ineligibility to enroll in future programs.

If you had a balance due, a statement was included in the Parent/Teacher Conference folder you received on Friday 10/24. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact our front office.



Great Lakes
Academy

Attention Families!



RevTrak

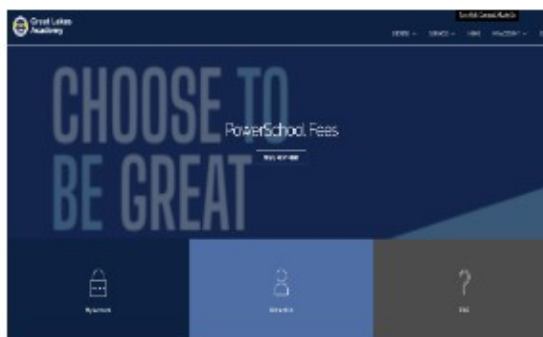
Great Lakes Academy is now taking payments online!

Pay when it's most convenient for you with a computer or mobile device at
<https://gla.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

This district web store is now fully integrated with PowerSchool! Save time and be confident that your payment makes it where it needs to go.

You can pay any assigned student fee or payment online with eCheck, debit, or credit cards.

Use the QR code or click the link to get started! For payment setup instructions, see p. 2 of this document.



Visit <https://gla.chicago.revtrak.net/> to pay fees online.

Make Online Payments Straight from PowerSchool



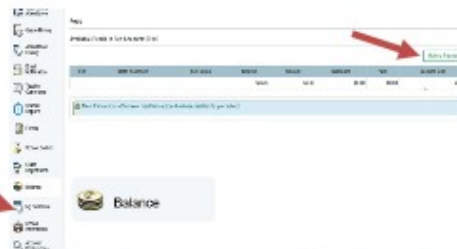
RevTrak & PowerSchool:
A Powerful Partnership

You can now pay PowerSchool fees online via our new district web store.

- 1 Log into PowerSchool via internet browser (not the app).
<https://glapowerschool.com/public/home.html>



- 2 Click "**Balance**" from the menu on the left-hand side of the screen.



- 3 Click the green "**Make a Payment**" button on the right-hand side of that screen.

- 4 You will then be taken straight to your district's web store. You will need to confirm your email address, and an account will automatically be created for you.

You have successfully signed in with PowerSchool. Please enter the email address you would like to use for

- 5 Review your students' fees, click add to card and check out. You will have the option to change between an e-check or a Credit/Debit card. Order history can be viewed under 'My Account.'



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!

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!

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 10 - December 5, 2025

10	11 Veteran's Day- No School	12 Girls Volleyball vs. Parent Game, 4:00 pm	13 Picture Retake Day!	14 GoCPS Application Closes
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	3 Shelter in Place Drill	4	5

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