



# The Weekly Wave

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter  
January 20, 2026

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



This year marks a historic milestone: the 100th celebration of Black History Month. Black History Month is an important time to honor the achievements, resilience, and contributions of Black individuals past and present, while deepening our understanding of the history that has shaped our nation. Celebrating this month as a community allows us to learn together, reflect together, and uplift Black voices and stories. The national theme for this centennial year is “A Century of Black History Commemorations,” and GLA is proud to honor this meaningful moment through shared learning, creativity, and celebration.

Throughout the month, students will engage in meaningful curriculum that highlights Black history, culture, excellence, and contributions that continue to shape our world. GLA will also celebrate with creative student performances during community celebrations. Last year, we hosted a schoolwide BHM assembly that included performances and presentations by GLA dancers, Divine 9 Sororities and Fraternities, and the Butler College Prep Majorettes and Drumline. Similarly, we will host another school-wide assembly focused on Black music, excellence, and impact.

We warmly invite parents and families to join us for our K–4th grade Black History Month performances on Thursday, February 26, from 1:30–2:30 PM. We look forward to

celebrating together as our students showcase their learning and voices during this special centennial year.



Principal Miller

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to GLA's Charter Student Voice Committee participants on becoming the founding members of the district's first Charter Student Voice Committee! We had a great first meeting filled with thoughtful ideas and enthusiastic discussion. Our Student Voice Committee will give students a meaningful platform to contribute their perspectives, help guide school initiatives, and shape GLA. **We still have 4 spots available for 5th-8th grade students.** If your child is interested, please encourage them to apply [here](#) and attend our next meeting on February 6th.



**Introducing**  
**STUDENT VOICE COMMITTEE**

**Join the Student Voice Committee!**  
We have four spots still available for 5th-8th students. This is a great opportunity to help shape the GLA experience and share ideas that strengthen our school community.

Join us for our next meeting on Friday,  
February 6th, 2pm - 3pm

**APPLY BY FEB 6TH**



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

Contact Ms. Durham for more information at [edurham@glachicago.org](mailto:edurham@glachicago.org)

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Family Curriculum Night](#)



# Family Curriculum

## NIGHT

Join us for an exciting evening of hands-on learning and family fun! Explore what your child is learning through interactive activities like math challenges, literacy games, science experiments, and creative projects. Connect with teachers and enter to win raffle prizes throughout the night!

JAN. 30, 2026

FRI

2:30P-4:30P

Refreshments will be served  
from 2:10-2:30

SEE YOU THERE!

### **Kids First Chicago Invites You to Join the Conversation: The CPS Black Student Success Plan**

Join Kids First Chicago on Tuesday, January 20th (English) & January 21st (Spanish) from 6 pm to 7:30 p.m. for an interactive session on the Chicago Public Schools Black Student Success Plan (BSSP), a district-wide strategy focused on creating the systemic conditions for Black students to thrive. BSSP Director Eugene Robinson, Chicago Public Schools, and colleague Damaris Alvarado, Chicago Public Schools, will share progress on the plan and discuss how your roles and lived experiences align with this five-year path forward. We encourage you to attend to learn more about the Black Student Success plan and progress made since the launch of the Black Student Success Plan. Click [here](#) to RSVP

### **Career Day at GLA**

Great Lakes Academy's Career day is Friday, February 6th from 8:30 am-11am. Scholars will have the chance to meet real-world professionals, ask meaningful questions, and see firsthand the possibilities their futures can hold. Our future is calling, and our scholars

need you to show up for them! Your presence helps our students dream bigger, stay motivated, and understand the many paths available to them as they grow.

If you are interested in participating as a Career Day presenter, please RSVP here by Friday, 1/23: <https://forms.gle/9xrdpPg7N1Um8AMp7>



**Great Lakes Academy**

# OUR FUTURE IS CALLING!

**SHOW UP FOR THEM!**



**Friday, February 6, 2026  
8:30am – 11:00am**

**Join us for Career Day at Great Lakes Academy on Friday, February 6, 2026! We're bringing real world careers to our kids. Come inspire the next generation. Complete the attached form to RSVP by January 23, 2026.**

**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](http://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>**



### **PAC Meeting**

Families are invited to be part of the conversation at our next Parent Advocacy Committee meeting on February 18, 2026, from 5:00–6:30 PM. This is a space for parents and caregivers to share ideas, discuss needs, and advocate for resources that support our scholars and strengthen our school community. Attend in person or via Google Meet. Refreshments and childcare will be provided. Scan the QR code to join us!



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.



February 18, 2026

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

Refreshments will be served & Child care provided!

LIMITED EDITION: Kinder-Fourth Grade Sneaker Ball!

**K-4TH** Limited Edition

# SNEAKER BALL

FRIDAY  
**JAN 23**  
4:00-6:00 PM



## Requirements

0 Referrals < 3 Absences to School  
< 2 Resets Guardian (18+) at Event

Marking Period: 01/12-01/22

CANDY BAR & PRICE RAFFLE!



Mark your calendars for Friday, January 23rd from 4:00-6:00pm for the annual Kinder-Fourth Grade Sneaker Ball! Each scholar must have a guardian (18 years old+) present in order to attend. In addition, please see the participation requirements for attending:

- Marking Period: 01/12-01/22
  - 0 Referrals
  - < 2 Resets
  - < 3 Absences to School

## Culture & Climate Incentives

Scholars who maintain **zero** Resets and Referrals from January 6–January 9 will be rewarded with a Dress Down Pass on January 16!

**JANUARY**

**BEACON DASH PASS**

**BE GREAT**

**Jeopardy LIVE!**

**Eligibility Window: January 6 - January 28, 2026**

**HOW TO QUALIFY:**

- ✓ Less than 3 absences (Excused or Unexcused)
- ✓ Less than 2 referrals
- ✓ Less than 3 resets
- ✓ Less than 3 uniform violations

**QUALIFY & EARN A CHANCE TO WIN THESE AWESOME PRIZES!**

**\$50 ADDED TO YOUR PAYCHECK!**

**Dress Down PASS!**

**FREE SNACK!**

**GAME SHOW FUN! ELA • MATH • SPORTS • ENTERTAINMENT**

**WORK HARD. BE GREAT!**

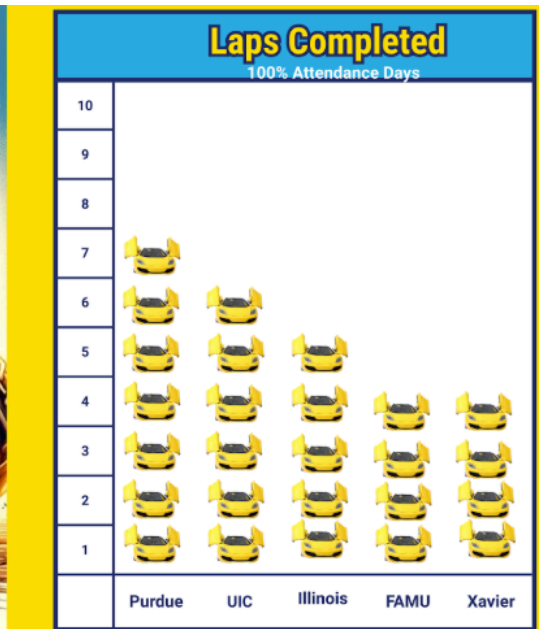
Gratitude • Respect • Excellence • Accountability • Truthfulness

### **Race to 10 is On!**

GLA's Race to 10 Attendance Initiative started on August 25th. In four months, we have awarded three homerooms with a field trip of their choice and have had six parent raffle winners. **Purdue** visited Up Your Alley for Esports, **Illinois** took a trip to Navy Pier's Winter Wonderfest, and **Howard** spent today at Ninja Kidz Action Park.

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 January 12th. Let's keep working together to make every day count! Attendance matters!



**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

January 19 - February 13, 2026

19 MLK Day School Closed	20 JV and Varsity Boys Basketball HOME vs. Chicago Lab, 4:30 & 5:30 pm	21	22	23 K-4th Sneaker Ball 4:00-6:00 PM
26	27	28	29	30 K-8th Family Curriculum Night 2:30 - 4:30 PM
2 Black History Month → JV and Varsity Boys Basketball AWAY @ Chicago Lab, 4:30 & 5:30 pm	3	4	5 100th Day of School! NJHS Induction Ceremony, 6:00 pm	6 Career Day
9	10	11	12	13 8th Grade: GoCPS High School Results Round 1 Release

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