



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter
August 20, 2024

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024-25 Parent Orientation Zoom, 8.28.24

If you missed the in-person Parent Orientation at The Great Block Party on Wednesday, August 14th, we are holding a Zoom orientation on Wednesday, August 28th at 5:30 pm. Please login if able, for pertinent information about the school year!

Wednesday, August 28th at 5:30 pm

[Zoom Session](#)

SGA Sign Ups - NOW OPEN

GLA is starting a Genders & Sexualities Alliance (GSA) this year with advisor Mrs. Curtin! This will be a space for students to advocate, organize and build community with each other. Students that are interested can fill out the attached form. GSA is a program all across America and this year CPS is asking schools to start their own if they do not already have one. The GSA website goes into more details about what one of these clubs can look like.

The website states, "Genders & Sexualities Alliances, or GSAs for short, are student-run organizations that unite LGBTQ+ and allied youth to build community and organize around issues impacting them in their schools and communities. GSAs have evolved beyond their traditional role to serve as safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth in middle schools and high schools, and have emerged as vehicles for deep social change related to racial, gender, and educational justice."

[Sign Up Here!](#)

GLA Family Engagement Seminar Part Two/ Power Parents Meeting

Partner with GLA this school year. Please join us for the 2nd part of the GLA Family Engagement Seminar on Tuesday, August 27th from 4:30-6:00. This meeting will be *in person at GLA* and *via Zoom*- [GLA Zoom Link](#) We want to hear from you! Share your vision for the 24-25 school year.

OpenSeat (Middle School Students)

We are going into our third year with OpenSeat. OpenSeat provides 1:1 and small group short-term virtual wellness coaching to students to address a host of issues we know students may struggle with, such as anxiety, academic stress, motivation, sadness, or loss.

Through OpenSeat, your student will have access to:

- secure, virtual, 1:1 and small group access to OpenSeat's trained and supervised coaches via video or chat
- diverse wellness professionals with years of professional experience supporting students
- Short-term, flexible coaching available during the school day.

All 5th - 8th grade families will receive an email this week explaining OpenSeat along with an Opt Out Letter. *If you do not want your students to participate in OpenSeat please send back the Opt Out Form to the front office by Sept 3rd, 2024. See Ms. Melissa with any questions or concerns.*

After-School Enrichment Programming

Wave One Sign-Ups are now open! [CLICK HERE!](#)

GLA will offer after-school enrichment programming that is instructor led by teachers, staff, and community partners. If you are interested in enrolling your scholar, [click here!](#)

Programs meet twice weekly on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday only. If you want your scholar enrolled Monday-Thursday, you will have to sign them up for two programs on the respective days. If you want two days, you will need to sign them up for only one.

Programs will only run in one wave, unless renewed and new programs will be offered each wave where you will have to re-sign up. The waves are as follows:

- Wave One: Monday, August 26th - Thursday, November 14th
- Wave Two: Monday, November 18th - Thursday, February 27th
- Wave Three: Monday, March 3rd - Thursday, May 29th

Sign ups will close on Tuesday, August 20th for Wave One. You will be notified if you get into the program by Wednesday, August 21st via letter and email.

All programs will run 3:15-5:00 pm. Cost: ***\$175/each program/per wave.**

Programs hired externally and that will be coming into GLA (i.e.; SkyArt, PTDYA, etc.), will be marked accordingly* with a different price on the sign up form.

Please reach out to Caitlin O'Leary, coleary@glachicago.org with any questions!

Fall Sports Sign-Up

Fall sports are back in session at GLA, with the season kicking off September 2nd! Fall sports include girls volleyball and co-ed football.

Cost: \$150/ per student-athlete/per season.

All student-athletes must have an up to date sports physical (different from the standard physical), as well as attend the mandatory sports orientation on Wednesday, August 28th.

If you have an interested 5-8th grade scholar the sign-up form can be found [here](#). **Sign-ups for fall sports close Monday, September 2nd**

Please contact Coach P (tperez@glachicago.org) with any questions or concerns.

Anchor's Up! Field Trip 08/23

GLA scholars will be starting the year strong by attending their first field trip on Friday, August 23rd! Grades 3rd through 8th will participate in team building programs outside of the building at ClimbZone and Intentional Sports! Kindergarten through 2nd grade will build relationships with staff and peers right here at GLA. We can't wait to pull our Anchor's Up!

If you have a 3rd or 4th grade scholar, [complete this waiver](#) (print or email to coleary@glachicago.org) or [create an account here to complete](#) by Thursday, August 22nd in order for your scholar to participate.

Limited Kindergarten Seats Available

Limited Kindergarten seats are still available at GLA! If you or someone you know is interested, please contact our main office today.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN APPLY TODAY AT: GLACHICAGO.ORG

SCHOOL TOURS AVAILABLE DAILY! CALL TODAY: 773-530-3040

Great Lakes Academy

Commendable school in the top 20% of Illinois Schools

- ✓ Free, Public, & Open to all.
- ✓ Free 7am before school drop off.
- ✓ Full-day Kindergarten (4-year-old early entry available).
- ✓ 40% of the Class of 2024 accepted to CPS Selective Enrollment.
- ✓ State of the art campus with enrichment center and full athletic facility and turf field.

Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence
Empowering children with education today to change the world tomorrow!

Paid for with public funds

773-530-3040 8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL 60617 glachicago.org

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free 8th Grade HS Admission Test Prep Tutoring

GLA will be offering free tutoring in conjunction with Test Prep Chicago to 8th grade students only in preparation for the CPS HS Admission Test that will be on Wednesday, October 9th, 2024. In order to enroll your scholar for this free service, please fill out [this form](#).

The meeting dates will occur on the following days from 3:15-5:00 pm at Great Lakes Academy:

Tuesday, August 27 (diagnostic test)*

Tuesday, September 3

Tuesday, September 10

Tuesday, September 17
 Thursday, September 19
 Tuesday, September 24
 Tuesday, October 1
 Thursday, October 3 (final practice test)*

**On practice test days, dismissal may be delayed in order for scholars to complete the practice tests.

Behavior and Attendance Requirements:

Attendance to every session is mandatory and any unexcused absence will have your scholar dropped from the program. The following behaviors will cause removal from the program, without re-entrance:

- Use of electronics (phones, watches, earbuds, etc.)
- Off-task behaviors and/or disruptions of class (talking back, verbal disagreements, etc.)
- Unprepared for session (no pencil, homework, etc.)
- Disengaged from session (not working on quizzes/practice problems, etc.)
- Constant redirections

And any other behavior that is disruptive and does not follow school protocol. Please reach out to Stephanie Beck, sbeck@glachicago.org, or Caitlin O'Leary coleary@glachicago.org with any questions!

Medical and Dental Exam Van Visits!

If your scholar needs to be seen by the dentist, eye doctor, and/or a medical professional (school physical/sport physical) we are excited to announce that the mobile dentist, mobile eye doctor and Comer Pediatric Medical Van will be at GLA throughout the 2024-25 school year!

***Scholars will not be seen without completed consent forms.**

Please contact Ms.Thunherst at sthunherst@glachicago.org to start the process now!

GLA Annual Fee- 2024-25

Invoices for the 2024-25 annual fee have been sent via email. The annual fee is \$90. For clarity, we wanted to define what this fee covers for each scholar during the school year:

Lower School (K-4)	Middle School (5-8)
<p>Access to Technology All students will have access to Chromebooks to support personalized learning, provide quick feedback, and track student progress over time with data-driven insights.</p> <p>Student Platform and Software Licenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GoGuardian: Student safety and security platform. • i-Ready: Math and reading platform that targets individual student needs. 	<p>Access to Technology All students will have access to Chromebooks to support personalized learning, provide quick feedback, and track student progress over time with data-driven insights.</p> <p>Student Platform and Software Licenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GoGuardian: Student safety and security platform. • i-Ready: Math and reading platform that targets individual student needs.

- Wayfinder: Social Emotional Learning Curriculum.
- ANET: Assessment platform used to monitor student progress and ensure students are on-track.
- ARC: ARC Core helps meet the literacy needs of all students in any learning environment.

- Wayfinder: Social Emotional Learning Curriculum.
- ANET: Assessment platform used to monitor student progress and ensure students are on-track.

Middle School Planner

All 5th-8th grade students will be given an agenda planner to promote organization and responsibility.

This year, we will be offering sibling discounts and early payment incentives! Please see the table below for sibling/household discounts. Natural, step-siblings, and members of the same household are eligible.

Scholars Enrolled	Discount	Fee Price Per Scholar	Due by August 30
ONE	0%	\$90	\$90
TWO	10%	\$81	\$162
THREE	20%	\$72	\$216
FOUR	30%	\$63	\$252
FIVE	40%	\$54	\$270
SIX	50%	\$45	\$270

In addition to sibling/household discounts, we are happy to offer early payment incentives, including a free GLA polo if payment is made in full and submitted by August 30th! **No payment plans are accepted for this incentive.**

Please pay with the PayPal invoice provided at the front office or by phone as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please call our front office at 773-530-3040.

NEW! Great Lakes Academy After-Care Services

In response to parent feedback, we are eager to announce the implementation of an after-care service at Great Lakes Academy for the 2024-25 school year! After-care is a supervision space for scholars to receive supper and complete homework in a safe environment until dismissal. This service is only available to enrolled GLA scholars.

Please note: The after-care service is separate from the enrichment programming.

The after-care service will operate on attendance days only from August 19th - June 6th, the final day of the 2024-25 school year. However, the first and final weeks of school are drop-in days and rates only.

Beginning on August 26th, families will have the option to pay a daily drop-in rate

(which must be notified the day prior to dismissal and paid with cash or credit card), a bi-weekly rate, a semester rate, or a full-year rate. All payments must be made in full prior to the first day of enrollment.

The after-care service times are as follows:

Monday - Thursday	3:20-5:00 pm
Friday	1:50-4:00 pm

Rates for after-care service:

Daily Drop-In	\$10
Bi-Weekly	\$80
Semesterly	\$680
Yearly	\$1520

There are **NO REFUNDS** for this service.

If you are interested in after-care for your scholar(s), please fill out [THIS](#) form for enrollment and information.

We are looking forward to providing more assistance for our parents and community this year! Please contact Stephanie Beck at sbeck@glachicago.org if you have any questions!

Great Lakes Academy Uniform Store

We have a virtual school store where updated uniform items may be purchased. Details about our school store and updated dress code policy are [here](#) on our website.

All school store orders will be completed in cycles. That means:

1. Visit our virtual storefront [here](#) to make a purchase
2. Based on the cycle "Order Window" you've made your purchase during, your order will be ready for pick-up at GLA in the corresponding "Pick-up Window" (cycles are listed [here](#) on our website).

Lastly, as noted on our website, the school store does not contain our short-sleeved GLA polos. Those can be directly purchased in our front office at any time (summer hours are 8:00-2:30 pm Monday-Friday).

If you have any questions, please call our front office at 773-530-3040.

GLA UNIFORM STORE



Purchase through
The Loop Branding Boutique

ALL ITEMS AVAILABLE IN
YOUTH & ADULT SIZES

MACHINE
WASHABLE



\$ 46

GLA
Cardigan



\$ 15

GLA
Flagship T-shirt

NAVY
OR
GRAY



\$ 15

GLA
T-shirt

100%
POLYESTER
MOISTURE-
WICKING



\$ 24

GLA Quarter Zip
Long Sleeve Shirt

SOFT
NON-PILL
FINISH



\$ 34

GLA
Fleece Jacket

100%
COTTON



\$ 21

GLA
Long Sleeve T-shirt

PILL-
RESISTANT



\$ 26

GLA
Crewneck Sweatshirt

50%
COTTON &
50%
POLYESTER



\$ 22

GLA
Sweatpants

GLA UNIFORM STORE



Purchase through
The Loop Branding Boutique

PROMO SALE

AUGUST 17TH -
SEPTEMBER 14TH

50%
COTTON &
50%
POLYESTER



\$19.80

Great Lakes Academy
Sweatpants

GLA Uniform Store

**ORDER ONLINE &
PICK-UP AT GLA**



Cycles	Ordering Dates	Delivery Dates	GLA Pick up Window	PROMOS - PER CYCLE ITEM
	May 13 - May 30 - EOY SALE	June 6 - June 7	June 7	EOY SALE 5 Core Items, GLA flagship shirt, LS Shirt, Sweatshirt, Sweatpants, Cinch bag
Cycle 1	June 1 - June 30	July 20 - July 21	July 22 - July 24	GLA Flagship T-Shirt Navy
Cycle 2	July 1 - July 19	August 10 - August 11	August 12 - August 14	Great Lakes Cursive T-Shirt Navy
Cycle 3	July 20 - August 16	September 7 - September 8	September 9 - September 11	GLA Long Sleeve T-Shirt
Cycle 4	August 17 - September 14	October 5 - October 6	October 7 - October 9	GLA Sweatpants
Cycle 5	September 15 - October 31	November 23 - November 24	November 25 - November 27	GLA Crewneck
Cycle 6	November 1 - November 30	December 16 - December 17	December 18 - December 20	GLA Qtr Zip
Cycle 7	December 1 - January 10	February 2 - February 3	February 3 - February 5	GLA Fleece
Cycle 8	January 11 - February 14	March 8 - March 10	March 10 - March 12	GLA Cardigan
Cycle 9	February 15 - March 31	April 19 - April 20	April 21 - April 23	GLA Flagship T-Shirt Grey
Cycle 10	April 1 - April 30th	May 19 - May 20	May 21 - May 23	Great Lakes Cursive T-Shirt Grey

GLA Communication: SMS Text Opt-In

Great Lakes Academy newly utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "Y" or

“Yes” to our school’s short code number, 67587.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “Stop.”

We recommend saving this short code and Caller ID to the contacts on your phone. This will help prevent any 3rd party call blocking systems from interfering with your receipt of important messages sent by the school or district.

**Opt-In from
your mobile
now!**



**Just send “Y”
or “Yes” to
67587.**

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages.

If you have any questions, please give our front office a call at 773-530-3040.

2024-25 School Calendar

We are sharing our 2024-25 academic calendar. There are a couple of important items to note:

1. The first day of school for our K-1st students will be on Friday, August 16th. The first day of school for our 2nd-8th grade students will be Monday, August 19th. **This is a different start date than CPS district schools.**
2. Our last day of school will be June 6th, a week earlier than CPS district schools.
3. We are pushing back our school start time to 8:00 am this school year. Doors will still open for breakfast beginning at 7:00 am just like last year. Dismissal times will be 3:20 pm on Monday-Thursday and 1:50 pm on Friday.
4. **NEW** We have added “Wellness Days” to our calendar that are non-holidays where school will not be in session (March 17th, April 18th, and May 1st and 2nd).
5. **NEW** GLA will resume in-person report card pick up this school year on November 1st and March 14th. Times will be communicated at a later date along with sign up information.

Click [HERE](#) to download a PDF version of the calendar.

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

August 19th - September 13th, 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19 First Day of School 2nd-8th grade, 1:50 dismissal	20 Student Orientation Week, 1:50 dismissal	21 Student Orientation Week, 1:50 dismissal	22 Student Orientation Week, 1:50 dismissal	23 Student Orientation Week, 1:50 dismissal
26 iReady Diagnostics and IRLA ARC IRLA Assessment (new students)	27 iReady Diagnostics and IRLA ARC IRLA Assessment (new students)	28 iReady Diagnostics and IRLA ARC IRLA Assessment (new students)	29 iReady Diagnostics and IRLA ARC IRLA Assessment (new students)	30 iReady Diagnostics and IRLA ARC IRLA Assessment (new students)
2 Labor Day No School Building Closed	3 ARC IRLA Assessment (new students)	4 ARC IRLA Assessment (new students)	5 ARC IRLA Assessment (new students)	6 ARC IRLA Assessment (new students)
9	10	11	12 Family Curriculum Night, 5:00-6:00 pm	13

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