



The Weekly Wave

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

October 29, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Mr. Wadycki - 5th & 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher

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

I'm new to GLA but so far my favorite memory was on the day I interviewed and taught a demo lesson. The students did not want me to leave the classroom! Then on my way out to my car, I flagged down a parent in line at dismissal and I interviewed her about the school. She had such great things to say about GLA and I knew it was the right fit for me.

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

My proudest teacher moments have come from working with my small groups for reading intervention. I have had students begin the year reading well below grade level and finish the year on grade level or higher, catching up 2-3 grades. Opportunity starts with literacy and knowing that I was a part of building the skills that will open doors for my scholars is incredibly rewarding.

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

I am originally from Munster, Indiana and I still live there! I love the sense of community in my town and the dedication to our school system. If you ever visit, go to Munster Donuts. They're the best!

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

My favorite thing to do in Chicago is go to a Cubs game at Wrigley Field with my wife. I haven't attempted to bring my kids yet because I want to actually watch the game!

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

My favorite way to unwind from a stressful week of teaching is to play baseball on Sunday's. I am in a 40 and older baseball league! Somehow, I've managed to stay healthy and not pull any muscles.

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

Since I was 3 I've been an amazing whistler, but I can't do it in front of people because I'll smile and throw off my tone.

What's your dream vacation?

My dream vacation is a trip out west in an RV where we travel to several National Parks

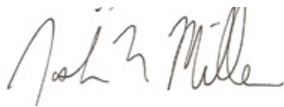
for the entire summer and go hiking, fishing, and kayaking.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Thank you to all of the parents that attended Parent-Teacher Conferences! Our staff were thankful to have the opportunity to discuss student academics and ways to strengthen the parent-teacher partnership. We met with over 486 of our student's parents, completing 85% of our conferences! We are always appreciative when parents take the time out of their busy schedule to come to GLA for events like Parent Teacher Conferences. For any parent who did not attend conferences, we encourage you to reach out to your student's homeroom teacher to schedule a makeup appointment as soon as possible.

Please mark your calendars early for our Quarter 3 Parent Teacher Conference which will take place on Friday, March 13th from 11am-7pm. We appreciate your partnership as we continue to cultivate a supportive learning environment for our students.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ashli Miller".

Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wave Two Enrichment Sign Ups: NOW OPEN

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

Wave Two

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

MONDAY/WEDNESDAY

K-3rd, Puppeteering	with Ms. Serini-T
K-4th, Dance	with Ms. Gaines
2nd-5th, Homework Help	with Ms. Hartman
4th-8th, Goddess Mentoring	with Ms. Scott
4th-8th, HAWKS Mentoring	with Mr. Fain
6th-8th, Homework Help	with Ms. Littleton
6th-8th, Advanced Art: iPad Creators	with Ms. Paull

TUESDAY/THURSDAY

K-2nd, Homework Help	with Mrs. Montgomery
K-2nd, Science Explorers	with Ms. Gaines
3rd-4th, Math Mansion	with Ms. Murphy
3rd-5th, Creative Me!	with Ms. Watson
4th-8th, Writing Club	with Mrs. Ford
4th-8th, Intro to Music Arts	with Mr. Contreras
6th-8th, Speed Conditioning	with Coach Ali

SIGN UP BY 11/11

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 25th - Thursday, November 13th
- **Wave Two: Monday, November 17th - Thursday, February 26th**
- Wave Three: Monday, March 2nd - Thursday, May 28th

Sign ups will close on Tuesday, November 11th for Wave Two. You will be notified if you get into the program by Wednesday, November 12th 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.; Goddess, HAWKS, etc.), will be marked accordingly* as they are \$200.

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

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

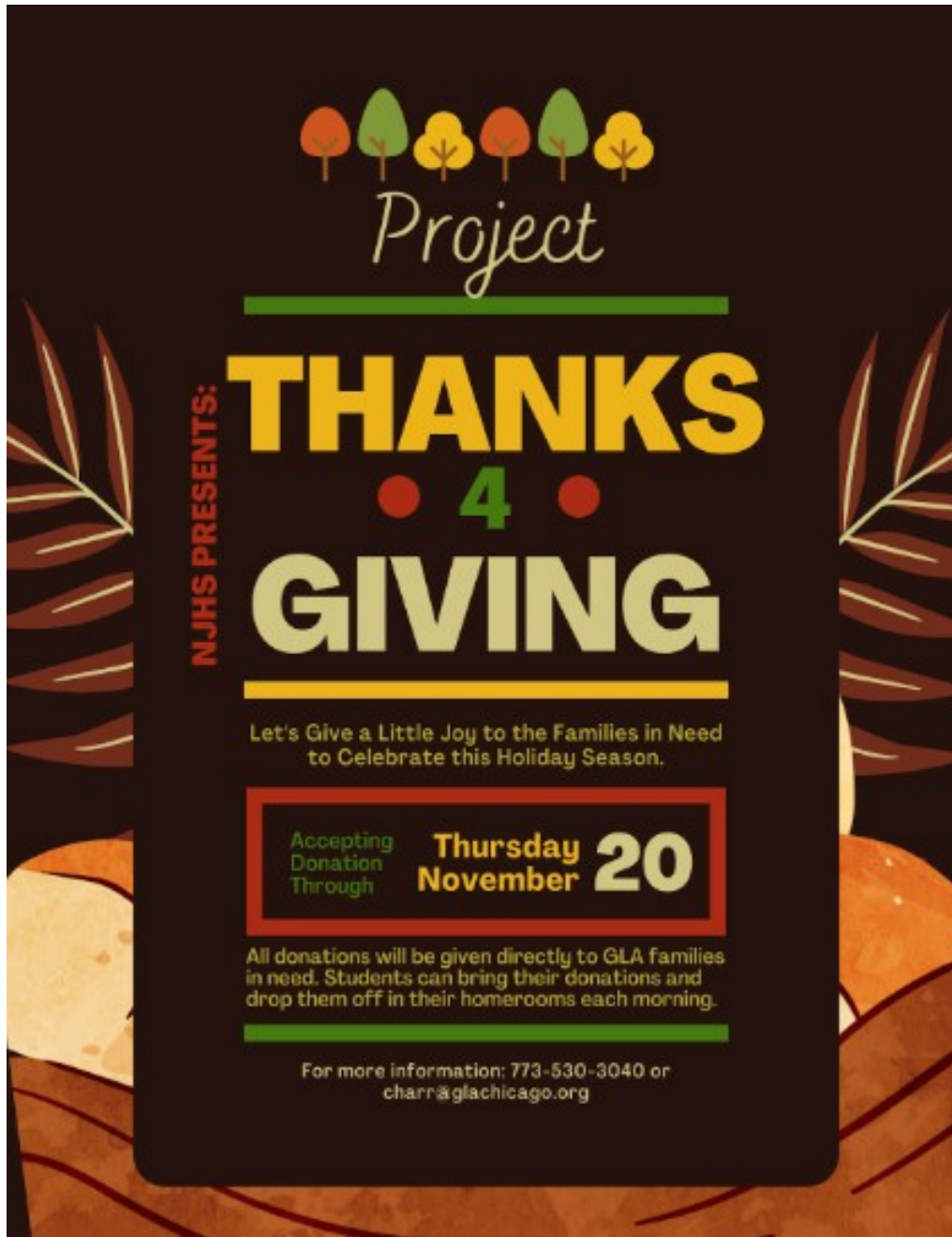
Thanks for Giving

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!



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

Thank You for Fundraising with PAC!

Thank you to all of the families that participated in the Parent Advocacy Committee Taffy Apple fundraiser. Your involvement has made a significant impact on their efforts. Students and families raised a whopping \$7114.00! These funds will be used to support GLA Student Activities. This success would be absolutely impossible without your continued support to the GLA community. We greatly appreciate your participation and look forward to partnering with you for future endeavors.



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

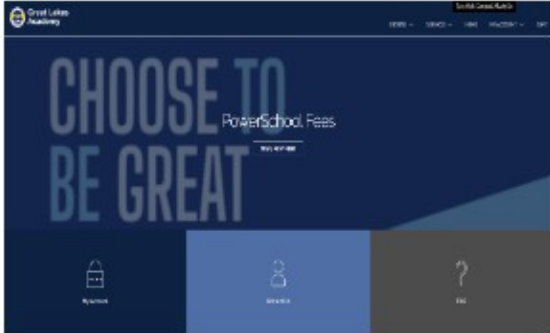
Great Lakes Academy is now taking payments online!

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://glachicago.revtrak.net/> to pay fees online.

Make Online Payments Straight from PowerSchool



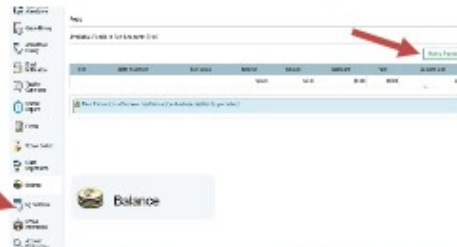
RevTrak & PowerSchool:
A Powerful Partnership

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

- 1 Log into PowerSchool via internet browser (not the app).
<https://glc.powerschool.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.'



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beacon Dash Pass - October Requirements

Earn your Dash Pass privileges by meeting ALL requirements from October 1-30:

- **Behavior:** Less than 2 referrals and less than 3 resets
- **Attendance:** No more than 1 absence (excused or unexcused)
- **Punctuality:** No more than 2 tardies to class (Middle School)
- **Yondr Policy:** No more than 3 violations (Middle School)
- **Dress Code:** 1 or less uniform violations

Rewards for qualifying scholars:

- Dress down pass for 10/31 (costumes or favorite fall wear)
- Fall treat
- Fall art activity during LIT PIT



Spread the Word: GLA Fall Open House

Families, help us share the news! Great Lakes Academy will host our **Fall Open House on Saturday, November 8th, from 12:00–2:00 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.



Empower children today to change
the world tomorrow!

APPLY ONLINE!

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

What We Offer

- ✓ Free and Open Admission to ALL
- ✓ Free 7AM Drop-off and Daily Meals Provided
- ✓ Full-Day Kindergarten (4-Year-Old Early Entry Available)
- ✓ State-of-the-art campus featuring an Enrichment Center
- ✓ Full Athletic Facility and Turf Field



APPLY HERE



The Best in Your Backyard!

40% of the Class of 2024 was accepted to
CPS Selective Enrollment



<https://glachicago.org>



8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL



(773) 530-3040

PAID FOR BY PUBLIC FUNDS

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!

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

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October 27 - November 21, 2025

27 Wellness Day, Building Closed	28 Staff PD, No Classes	29	30	31 Dia de Los Muertos Celebration (Observing)
3	4	5 Fire Evacuation Drill #2	6	7 2026-27 Application Launch
10	11 Veteran's Day- No School	12	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

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