



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

August 6, 2025

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents,

We are gearing up to welcome scholars back in less than two weeks! Our entire staff is back in the building and planning instruction and preparing classrooms for an exciting year. The first day of school for Kindergarteners and 1st Graders is Friday August 15th; 2nd-8th Graders will return on Monday, August 18th.

As we transition into the new school year, I wanted to highlight some changes for the 2025-26 school year. First, this is our highest enrollment ever with 75 kindergarteners and 1st graders and full enrollment in every grade level. GLA continues to be a school in high demand by families in our community! There have been upgrades to the building as well. We have a brand new student bathroom located in the K-1 hallway. In an effort to continuously increase school pride and visibility, we have added new signage and visuals internally and externally throughout the school. Lastly, two new GLA polo colors were introduced. Polos are now offered in navy, yellow, and light blue.

Despite the changes, one thing that is remaining constant is our quality education and commitment to empowering our students and community. Our phenomenal staff is ready to educate and lead students through a year of academic success. Parents, we are looking forward to partnering with you for another exceptional school year!

With Gratitude,

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Us for The Great Back to School Block Party!

We're kicking off the 2025–2026 school year with a celebration you won't want to miss. Come meet your child's teachers, enjoy delicious food, play games, and connect with our school community. This free event takes place on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025, from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM at 8401 S. Saginaw Ave, Chicago, IL 60617.**

RSVP today using the QR code on the flyer!

THE GREAT

BACK TO SCHOOL

BLOCK PARTY

RSVP

Meet your Teachers, Food, Games,
and it's **FREE!**

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

3:30P-5:30P

8401 S. SAGINAW AVE.
CHICAGO, IL 60617



Comer's Pediatric Medical Van is visiting GLA

Please reach out to Ms. Thunherst at the front office or at sthunherst@glachicago.org if you have any questions.

Does your scholar need a new school physical?

In partnership with Comer's Medical Van, GLA is providing no-cost, school physicals

Sign a consent form at the Front Desk to secure your appointment today!

Limited Seats Available

URGENT

September 24, 2025

Great Lakes Academy School Hours

Congratulations to Ms. Paull - MCA Teacher Institute Residency!

We are thrilled to announce that Ms. Kathryn Paull has been selected for the prestigious Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Teacher Institute Residency! This is a year-long professional development program specifically designed for art teachers, and it's a huge honor to be chosen. Ms. Paull will attend offsite sessions periodically through the year to learn new techniques and develop innovative ways to bring art education to our students. Congratulations, Ms. Paull!

8th grade HSAT Tutoring

GLA will be offering no-cost tutoring in conjunction with Test Prep Chicago to **8th grade students only** in preparation for the CPS HS Admission Test that is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th, 2025.

Scholars who participated in HSAT Test Prep at GLA scored an average of 70 points higher than scholars who did not participate. In order to enroll your scholar for this no-cost service, please fill out [this form](#). Contact Ms. O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org) for any questions!

Chicago Youth Opportunities

The YMCA of Metro Chicago is offering a 12-week Lifeguard Training & Swim Program at no cost to participants. Below are the program details:

- Program Length: 12 weeks
- Cost: Free
- Eligibility: Must reside in Illinois and be between the ages of 16–24
- Swim Attire: Provided to all participants
- Training: Includes swim instruction and lifeguard certification
- Stipend: Participants earn minimum wage while they train
- Job Opportunities: Possible job placement upon program completion



YMCA OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

WATER WORKS AT THE Y

WANT TO MAKE WAVES IN THE JOB MARKET AND GET PAID FOR IT?

Water Works dives into cool careers in and around water! From lifeguard to oceanographer and swim instructor to emergency responder, participants obtain first-hand discovery of a variety of water-related careers — all at no cost.

Water Works also includes:

- Swim lessons and training
- Industry-recognized certifications
- A minimum wage stipend, so you can “learn and earn”
- Career readiness for potential job placement post-program

DON'T KNOW HOW TO SWIM? NO PROBLEM. NO SWIMSUIT? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Water Works is for career-seekers **ages 16 to 24** who meet eligibility requirements.

APPLY NOW! Learn more at ymcachicago.org/waterworks.
Questions? Email waterworks@ymcachicago.org

LOCATIONS

LAKE VIEW YMCA

3333 N. Marshfield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657

SOUTH SIDE YMCA

6330 S. Stony Island Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

12- WEEK SCHEDULE

Sep. 6 – Nov. 22, 2025

- Lake View YMCA
Tues. – Fri. | 4 – 7 p.m.
- South Side YMCA
Mon. – Thurs. | 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Career exploration activities
every other Saturday from
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



**APPLY NOW
USING THE QR CODE!**



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

[2025-26 Student Walker Permission Form](#)



Scholars Must be in 5th-8th Grade in order to have permission to walk home. A new form must be completed and on file with the main office in order for your scholar to be released as a walker (**No Exceptions**). Please click [HERE](#) to complete this form and send it to Maria Jimenez at mjimenez@glachicago.org.

Please note the following:

- My student will be dismissed at 3:20 pm Monday-Thursday and 1:50 pm on Fridays to walk home and if they are picking up a younger scholar, they must come to the “Walker Side” to pick them up.
- GLA does not release students to rideshare services (eg. Lyft, Uber) and will not accept liability for any student walker who gets in a rideshare vehicle.
- If my 5th-8th grader is picking up their younger sibling, they cannot then join the car pick-up line (i.e. if I am picking up my students by car, K-3rd graders must be picked up in the GLA driveway only). Older students cannot take their younger siblings on Marquette to wait for their ride, they must start walking off the campus.
- If I plan to pick-up my student(s) from school instead, I must notify the front office no later than 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday.
- If the 5th-8th grade sibling is absent from school or is not walking home, the younger scholars will not be permitted to walk alone.

Start the Day Right with School Breakfast!

Did you know that a healthy breakfast helps fuel your child’s success? Great Lakes Academy offers nutritious and delicious breakfast options for all students **FREE OF CHARGE!** Whether it’s whole grains, fresh fruit, or protein-packed meals, school breakfast provides the energy your child needs to thrive.

Get breakfast in our school cafeteria daily from 7:00-7:40 am when school is in session.



Please note this [non-discrimination statement](#).

2025-26 School Calendar

The 2025-26 school calendar has been posted to GLA's website. Please [view it here](#).

2025-26 School Supply List

Here is the [school supply list](#). Please do not label any supplies with your students name, unless otherwise noted.

GLA Annual Fee: 2025-26

We will be sending out invoices for the 2025-65 annual fee soon. 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. • 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. 	<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. <p>Middle School Planner All 5th-8th grade students will be given an agenda planner to promote organization and responsibility.</p>

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 29th! 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.

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

Aug 4 - Aug 29, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Building Closed- All Staff PD	5 Building Closed- All Staff PD	6	7	8
11	12	13 K-8th Back to School Block Party 3:30-5:30	14	15 First Day of School K-1 Grade 8 am -1:50 pm
18 First Day of School - All 1:50 Dismissal K-1st Orientation 4:30-5:30 pm iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA	19 1:50 Dismissal- All Grades 2nd-4th Orientation 4:30-5:30 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA	20 1:50 Dismissal- All Grades 5th-6th Orientation 4:30-5:30 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA	21 1:50 Dismissal- All Grades 7th-8th Orientation 4:30-5:30 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA	22 Anchors Up! Event (during school hours for students) iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA
25 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	26 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	27 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	28 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)	29 iReady Diagnostics and SOY IRLA ARC IRLA Assessments (new students)

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