



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter
August 13, 2024

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

GLA Families,

It is hard to believe that the first day of school is just around the corner. Over the last week and a half, our entire staff has been in the building preparing to receive and educate our incredible students for the 2024-25 school year. We are excited to see our students for the first days of school (**August 16th for Kindergarten and 1st Grade; August 19th for 2nd-8th Grade**)!

We have a phenomenal staff of educators returning to GLA, and a new staff that are committed to making each students' school experience great. I encourage you to come out to **The Great Block Party** tomorrow, August 14th from 3:30-5:30. There will also be two parent orientation sessions held during that time where parents will learn more about the coming school year.

We hope to see all of you tomorrow. For returning students and families, we miss you! For new students and families, we are looking forward to meeting you!

Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Engagement Seminar

Reminder!! The GLA Family Engagement Seminar via Zoom **is today** from 4:00 to 5:30. [Join the meeting here](#). We want to partner with you and hear your ideas. Please join us!

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!

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.



Paid for with public funds

Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence

Empowering children with education today to change the world tomorrow!

773-530-3040

8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL 60617

glachicago.org

Mobile Food Distribution

MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

BRING BAGS WITH YOU

AUG 17

BEGINS AT 10:00 AM

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES HIGH SCHOOL
10155 S. EWING AVE

**ALL ITEMS ARE
FIRST COME
FIRST SERVE**



Roni-Nicole Facen

1h · 📷



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!

Save the Date!

The start of school is just around the corner. We have important opportunities for family engagement in the next 4 weeks. More details will be in the Weekly Wave and sent out in the coming weeks:

- August 13th: Family Engagement Seminar (virtual) with partner Developing Capacity Coaching, 4:00-5:30 pm (Session one)
- August 14th: Back to School Block Party and Parent Orientation, 3:30-5:30 pm



The Great Block Party

August 14, 2024
3:30pm-5:30pm

- Orientation
- Meet your teacher
- Free food
- Games/Raffles
- Community Partners

8401 S. Saginaw Ave.
Chicago, IL 60617

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>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 | <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.

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- 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

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 16TH

100%
COTTON



\$18.90

Great Lakes Academy
Long Sleeve T-shirt

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.

Summer Office Hours

This summer, the front office will be opened daily at the following times:

- August 12th-16th: 8:30-4:00 pm (7:30-2:00 pm on Friday the 16th)

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 13th - September 6th, 2024

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 Summer Office Hours 8:30-4:00 pm | 13 Summer Office Hours 8:30-4:00 pm Save the Date! Family Engagement Session with Developing Capacity, 4:00-7:00 | 14 Summer Office Hours 8:30-4:00 pm Save the Date! Back to School Block Party and Parent Orientation, 3:30-5:30 pm | 15 Summer Office Hours 8:30-4:00 pm | 16 Summer Office Hours 7:30-2:00 pm First Day of School-Kindergarten and 1st grade, 1:50 dismissal |
| 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) |

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