



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter
December 3, 2024

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Mrs. Robertson (Sparks) - 3rd Grade ELA Teacher,
2nd-4th Grade Cluster Engagement Lead**

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

One of my favorite memories from GLA so far was two years ago at our "Taki Tasting". Students work hard as a class to earn scholar points. Once they earn a certain amount of scholar points, we have a party to celebrate! Two years ago we decided to do a Taki party. Students got to try three different flavors of Takis, describe them, and rank them in order of least favorite to favorite. We even did a blind taste test! It was such a blast!

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

The students and the staff keep me coming back each day! Like everything in life, there are good days and not so good days. No matter what the day brings, I can always count on the close relationships with staff members and the hard work and hugs from current and former students to keep me going.

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

I am originally from Otsego, Michigan, but lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan before I moved to Chicago. I have been in Chicago for almost four years now and have loved every minute of it! I currently live in South Loop!

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

My favorite things to do in Chicago are explore all the neighborhoods and try different restaurants!

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

My favorite way to unwind after a long day is snuggling on the couch with my dog and watching a movie! Good snacks also always help!

What's your dream vacation?

My dream vacation used to be Italy, but I went there on my honeymoon this

summer! Now my dream vacation is anywhere warm, on a beach. :)

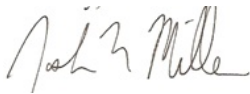
PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Chicago winter weather is here already. We are hearing this winter will be colder and snowier than the last couple of winters. I wanted to provide a couple of weather-related reminders as we navigate the rest of this winter:

- Always assume GLA will be open unless you receive communication from us that we will be closed due to bad weather. We will notify families no later than 7am but usually, in practice, we will notify families much earlier.
- We typically follow Chicago Public Schools' decision on school closures. However, we reserve the right to make our own decision on whether we close or remain open.
- If you send students to school in snow boots, please send a pair of shoes in backpacks so students change once they get to school.
- When school is in session, we are required by law to take attendance. Attendance always counts when GLA is open.

Attendance typically slips in the winter. I know that travel is more challenging when the weather is cold or snowy but it is important to make sure your child is here everyday. Each day of absence means your child missed instructional time. This creates or adds to gaps in learning that build over time. Every day of attendance matters!

Principal Josh Miller



NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be here December 2nd-6th!

Parents and Families are invited to attend Tuesday, 12/3 3:30-4:30pm.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

5th-8th Winter Ball 12/13/24

We are excited to roll out our first dance of the year for 5th-8th grade! Our Winter Ball will be held on Friday, December 13th from 5:30-7:30 PM. This dance is a Silent Disco and is a "dress your best" occasion.

**INAUGURAL
GLA SILENT
DISCO**

**FRIDAY
13
DECEMBER**

**5:30PM-7:30PM
5TH-8TH GRADE
SNACKS
2 LIVE DJ'S**

REQUIREMENTS

**0 REFERRALS < 2 ABSENCES
< 2 RESETS < 2 TARDIES TO CLASS
NO PHYSICAL FIGHTS < 4 TARDIES TO SCHOOL**

We ask that no other students outside of GLA and 5th-8th grade attend, as there will be a check-in area. There will be snacks and drinks available by ticket for free. Additionally, there are behavior expectations for December 3rd-December 13th that must be upheld to be able to attend:

- Zero (0) Referrals
- Less than two (2) resets
- Less than two (2) absences
- Less than two (2) tardies to class
- Less than four (4) tardies to school
- No physical altercations

Each scholar has been notified of these expectations in morning advisory along with signage around the building and via parent/guardian emails.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Dr.. Stephanie Beck, sbeck@glachicago.org, or Ms. Jleese Williams, jwilliams@glachicago.org.

Winter Spirit Week: 12/16-12/20

Scholars may be out of uniform to dress up for the following Spirit Day themes:



The poster features a winter-themed background with a smiling sun, clouds, and snow-covered trees. At the top left, a teal speech bubble contains the dates 'MON. 12/16 THRU FRI. 12/20'. At the top right, another teal speech bubble contains 'K-8'. The main title 'WINTER SPIRIT WEEK' is written in large, bold letters, with 'WINTER' in teal and 'SPIRIT WEEK' in yellow. Below the title, a large teal speech bubble contains the word 'REQUIREMENTS' in yellow, followed by a list of rules: '0 REFERRALS', '< 2 TARDIES TO CLASS', '< 2 RESETS', '< 4 TARDIES TO SCHOOL', 'NO PHYSICAL FIGHTS', and '< 2 ABSENCES'. Below the requirements, the days of the week and dates are listed: 'MON. 12/16', 'TUES. 12/17', 'WED. 12/18', 'THURS. 12/19', and 'FRI. 12/20'. At the bottom, five vertical panels describe the daily themes: 'PJ DAY' with a pink pajama set; 'SNOW DAY' with winter gear like a scarf, goggles, and mittens; 'CRAZY HATS' with a top hat and a colorful party hat; 'SEM. 1 FIELD TRIPS' with a sign that says 'DRESS DOWN IF ATTENDING' and 'LET'S GO ADVENTURE'; and 'CEL-E-BRATE' with a sign that says 'DRESS WHAT YOU CELEBRATE (W/ WINTER FEST EX: HOLIDAY, VALUE CULTURE, ETC.)' and a party hat.

Immediate Kindergarten Enrollment

We have an exciting update! Great Lakes Academy currently has five open Kindergarten seats available for immediate enrollment! If you know a family looking for a high-quality, supportive learning environment for their child, this is a great opportunity to join the GLA community. Feel free to share this message and flyer with friends, neighbors, and anyone you know who might be interested. Let's bring more amazing families into our GLA family!



Great Lakes Academy

Looking for a high-quality, supportive learning environment for your child?
Great Lakes Academy has five kindergarten seats open for immediate enrollment!



Why Choose GLA?

- ✓ Free and open admission to all
- ✓ Full-day kindergarten with early entry for 4-year-olds
- ✓ Free 7AM drop-off and daily meals provided
- ✓ State-of-the-art campus featuring an enrichment center
- ✓ Full athletic facility and turf field

8401 S. Saginaw Ave. Chicago, IL 60617
(773)530-3040 | www.glachicago.org



Parent Advocacy Committee Meeting



PARENT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024
4:30PM-6:00PM

Great Lakes Academy is hosting its **Parent Advocacy Committee Meeting** on **Tuesday, December 10, 2024, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM**. This is a wonderful opportunity to stay engaged and advocate for our school community.

The meeting will take place **in person** at the school, with a **Zoom option** for those

who prefer to join virtually.

Zoom Details:

- Meeting Link: [Join Here](#)
- Meeting ID: 834 0726 2516
- Passcode: 524232

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to make a difference!

[Join us on our next Community Outing!](#)

JOIN US!

COMMUNITY OUTING

CHICAGO BULLS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH GAME

TICKETS AS LOW AS
\$66

CHICAGO BULLS VS **DETROIT PISTONS**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025
UNITED CENTER
PRE-SHOW: 5:45 PM
TIP-OFF: 7:00 PM

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT:
[HTTPS://FEVO-ENTERPRISE.COM/EVENT/GROUPLAKESACADEMY](https://FEVO-ENTERPRISE.COM/EVENT/GROUPLAKESACADEMY)





Scan the QR code or click here [Purchase Bulls Tickets Here!!!](https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/grouplakesacademy)

6th- 8th Grade Family Scavenger Hunt

Join us on **Friday, December 6, 2024, from 5 PM - 7 PM** for an exciting evening of family fun and adventure at Great Lakes Academy! **Important:** All students must attend with a parent or guardian.

RSVP today! Scan the QR code on the flyer to register and secure your spot.

We can't wait to see you there for an evening of exploration and excitement! Let's make this a night to remember!

6th- 8th Grade

FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT



Friday, December 6, 2024
5pm-7pm

RSVP TODAY:



Must attend with
parent/guardian

Career Day

We are excited to host our Career Day Friday, February 7, 2025. Please share with your networks.

The poster features a central illustration of a young woman with brown hair, wearing a pink jacket and blue pants, sitting on the floor with her legs crossed, using a laptop. She is surrounded by various icons representing career and education: a signpost with arrows, a calculator, a stack of books, a stack of money, a globe, and a bookshelf. The background is a vibrant blue with yellow and white geometric shapes. In the top right corner, there is a circular logo for Great Lakes Academy Beacons, featuring a lighthouse and the text 'GREAT LAKES ACADEMY BEACONS'.

CAREER CHOICE

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY BEACONS

CAREER DAY 2025

SAVE THE DATE

Friday February 7th

8401 S SAGINAW AVE

[HTTPS://GLACHICAGO.ORG](https://glachicago.org)

@GLA_CHICAGO 773-530-3040

JOIN US



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

December 2 - January 3rd, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Winter Book Fair Boys Varsity Basketball @ Russell Square Park League, 5:45 pm	3 Winter Book Fair Shelter in Place Drill #1 Book Fair open to Parents, 3:30-4:30 pm Boys JV and Varsity Basketball @ Morgan Park Academy, 5:00/6:00 pm	4 Winter Book Fair Girls Basketball @ Morgan Park Academy, 5:00 pm	5 Winter Book Fair	6 Winter Book Fair Family Scavenger Hunt (6th-8th grade), 5:00-7:00 pm
9 iReady MOY Assessment	10 iReady MOY Assessment Parent Engagement Meeting, 4:30-6 pm	11 iReady MOY Assessment IA #2 (4th Grade)	12 iReady MOY Assessment IA #2 (4th Grade) IA #2 (Kinder)	13 iReady MOY Assessment 5th-8th Winter Ball, 5:30-7:30 pm IA #2 (Kinder)
16 GLA Community Conversation, 8:00 am iReady MOY Assessment	17 iReady MOY Assessment	18 iReady MOY Assessment	19 Semester 1 Field Trips! iReady MOY Assessment	20 End of Q2- Report Cards iReady MOY Assessment
23 Winter Break, No School	24 Winter Break, No School	25 Winter Break, No School	26 Winter Break, No School	27 Winter Break, No School
30 Winter Break, No School	31 Winter Break, No School	1 Winter Break, No School	2 Winter Break, No School	3 Winter Break, No School

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