



The Weekly Wave

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

March 10, 2026

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. Montgomery - Kindergarten Teacher

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of my proudest moments at GLA is when my class gets excited passing their tests or exit tickets. It is good to see the growth daily and the hard work they put in.

What made you want to become a teacher (or what made you want to work in a school)?

I wanted to become a teacher because I love making a change in the lives of my students. I want my students to receive love and compassion daily. I want to help them in all aspects of their lives and mold them to become successful in their future. I see so

much in my students and I want to pour into them and give them the best!!!

What keeps you coming back to GLA every day?

I come back everyday for my class, when they go home I think about how they are doing and if they are okay non stop. It is good to see their faces come in every morning to brighten my day!

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

I am originally from 47th and Michigan. SOUTH SIDE!!!! I loved being able to walk with my neighbors and play outside and go to the corner store for snacks!

What's your favorite memory from elementary/middle school?

My favorite memory from elementary school is when my Kindergarten Teacher made us Green Eggs and Ham from Dr. Seuss book.

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

My favorite thing to do is spend time with my children, shop, and eat at different restaurants.

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

To go out and have fun with my friends and family.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Parents, Parent-Teacher Conferences are **this Friday, March 13th from 11am - 7pm**. These conferences **will be held in person**, and we ask that you RSVP for a meeting time if you have not already done so. Parents will have the opportunity to learn more about their scholar's academic progress and what to expect for Quarter 4. This is a great time to ask any questions you may currently have and explore ways to help scholars finish the year strong. There will also be informational tables for school resources and programs.

For those planning to attend, please view the email sent on **Monday, March 9th** with your child's homeroom's unique Sign Up Genius link. You will sign up for a 15 minute conference slot with that link.

We hope to see you there!



Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent Teacher Conferences - Friday, Mar 13, 2026

Check your email for Parent Teacher Conference sign-up links. You will have a separate link for each student enrolled at GLA. Reach out to the Front Office with any questions, 773-530-3040.

NJHS Candygrams

ShamROCK the IAR!
NJHS Good Luck Candygrams
Send a little luck before test day!

NJHS is selling St. Patrick's Day Good Luck Candygrams to help build excitement and encouragement leading up to state testing!

Each candygram includes:

- Assorted themed candy
- Fun St. Patrick's Day stickers
- A "To/From" tag to personalize and give to a friend.

PRICING	WHO CAN BUY?	SALES DATES	DISTRIBUTION DATE
\$3 each 4 for \$10	All GLA students K-8	March 9th - March 20th	April 3rd (Friday of GLA Madness - just before Testing begins!)

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE
8th Grade Trip to Atlanta!
 Send luck. Support leadership.
♥ ShamROCK the IAR!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inclement Weather Day - Calendar Change

- Because we had to cancel school on Friday, January 23rd, we are turning a non-school day into a school day to meet the state minimum number of in-session school days.
- **Thursday, April 30th, which was originally scheduled as a Wellness Day, will now be a school day.**

Great Lakes Academy's Uniform Expectations

Recently, we have seen an increase in scholars arriving to school out of uniform, and we want to ensure families are aware of expectations and next steps. [Uniform Policy](#) can be found here. Repeated out-of-uniform violations will result in scholars being ineligible for incentive events and referral documentation.

Spring Sports Sign-Ups

Spring sports will be starting with Co-ed Track on 2/19, girls & boys flag football will be starting 3/9!

If you would like to sign your student-athlete up for either sport click [here](#). The participation fee for each sport is \$150 per student-athlete.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Coach P (tperez@glachicago.org).

K-3rd grade Spring Fest

Spring is in the air at Great Lakes Academy!

Join us for our **K-3 Spring Fest** on **Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 12PM-3PM** at 8401 S. Saginaw Ave. This family-friendly celebration will include music, snacks, fun, and games for our youngest scholars.

We can't wait to see our K-3 families come out, connect, and celebrate the season together. Be sure to RSVP using the QR code and mark your calendars for an afternoon full of springtime fun!

A promotional poster for the K-3 Spring Fest at Great Lakes Academy. The poster features a circular logo in the top left corner with a lighthouse and the text "GREAT LAKES ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL". The main title "K-3 Spring FEST" is written in a mix of purple, pink, and blue fonts, surrounded by various colorful flowers like daisies and hibiscus. Below the title, a blue banner contains the date and time: "SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026 12PM-3PM". Underneath the banner, the text "MUSIC | SNACKS | FUN | GAMES" is displayed. The address "8401 S. Saginaw Ave. Chicago, IL 60617" is listed below. At the bottom, it says "RSVP here:" followed by a QR code.

Great Lakes Academy

**K-3
Spring
FEST**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
12PM-3PM**

MUSIC | SNACKS | FUN | GAMES

8401 S. Saginaw Ave. Chicago, IL 60617

RSVP here: 

Race to 10 is On!

Our Race to 10 is heating up, and Heat 5 is very close to having a winner! Each day your student arrives at school and on time, their class moves one step closer to winning a free field trip of their choice. Attendance really makes a difference, so we encourage all families to help students be here every day and ready to learn.

Parents can win too! Families whose students participate will be entered into a parent raffle for two \$50 gas cards. Thank you for helping your student and their class stay in the race!



RACE TO 10



Laps Completed					
100% Attendance Days					
10					
9					
8					
7					
6					
5					
4					
3					
2					
1					
	U Chicago	UIC	Duke	Purdue	MS

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

March 9 - April 3, 2026

9	10	11	12	13
ANet & Navigator IA#3 Assessments Spring Athletics Begins	ANet & Navigator IA#3 Assessments	ANet & Navigator IA#3 Assessments	ANet & Navigator IA#3 Assessments End of Quarter 3	No School, Parent Teacher Conferences
16	17	18	19	20
Wellness Day, Building Closed	Staff PD, No School	Q4 Begins	2026-27 Lottery	
23	24	25	26	27
Spring Break, Building Closed	Spring Break, Building Closed	Spring Break, Building Closed	Spring Break, Building Closed	Spring Break, Building Closed
30	31	1	2	3
GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week	GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week	GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week Start of Month of Kindness, Autism Acceptance Month	GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week	GLA Madness Staff & Student Spirit Week

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