



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter
March 4, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Jasmine Caston - K-4th School Social Worker

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

One of my favorite memories from GLA is the All-School Black History Month Assembly. Seeing how excited the students were was amazing to see.

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

One of my proudest moments was seeing one of my students grow socially and emotionally. She struggled a lot with her behavior when I first started at GLA. She was involved in constant conflicts with staff and students. She eventually started taking accountability for her actions and began making better choices. She

has continued to thrive almost 2 years later.

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

I wanted to work in a school because I believe social emotional learning is equally as important as academics. In order to be successful in school but eventually the world. I believe one of the best ways to assist children with receiving the foundation to be well-rounded and catering to the whole child is in school.

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

My favorite memory from elementary school is when I won first place in the spelling bee at school and went on to the regional placement. I didn't want to do the spelling bee, but my teachers believed in me and pushed me to do it.

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

I like going to new restaurants in Chicago and trying different activities.

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

I love doing different crafts. I enjoy going to a good restaurant/eating some good food.

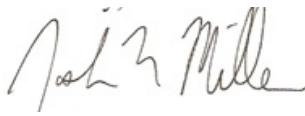
What are your hidden or surprising talents?

I'm a crafter. I make a variety of things and it puts me in my happy place.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

GLA wrapped up our celebration of Black History Month with our K-4th Black History Month Performances. All month long our students and teachers worked diligently on presentations, dances, songs, and poems that embodied Black American culture. Thank you to all of the parents and families who attended and made the event extra special for our students. We are so grateful for the time and effort students, teachers, and families put into being a part of this celebration of culture, history, and achievement.

We have had an amazing month full of special events and programming that helped us observe Black History Month. Although February has concluded, it is my hope that we can continue this momentum of learning and celebrating as a community.



NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

GoCPS High School Results: Release 03/14

On Friday, March 14th, High School results will be released on the [GoCPS](#) platform at 5pm. Please make sure you can log into the platform before then, as the platform will be closed from March 10th - March 14th at 4:59 pm.

If you have any questions or need support, contact Ms. O'Leary (coleary@glachicago.org) or Ms. Robinson (brobinson@cjaacademy.org).

GLA Parent Advocacy Meeting

- Join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, March 11th, from 4:30-6:00 pm. There will be a presentation from Natural Path Nutrition on easy food hacks and ideas with free samples.
- Google Meet joining info: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/pks-zgka-hqf> or dial: (US) +1 314-474-2565 PIN: 886 654 647 #



Great Lakes Academy

★ PARENT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Tuesday

March 11th 2025

4:30pm - 6:00pm

In person or Google Meet

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/pks-zgka-hqf>

Or dial: (US) +1 314-474-2565 PIN: 886 654 647#



**Natural Path Nutrition will present
healthy snack and drink ideas with free
samples!**

5th-8th Grade Spring Sports Sign Ups: NOW OPEN!

Sign ups for Spring sports are now open - [click here!](#)

Interested student-athletes must attend our athletic orientation with their parents/guardians in person on Thursday, February 27th at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be held on Zoom. The link will be provided upon sign up.

You MUST have a Sports/Athletic physical on file to participate in compliance with IESA.

The athletic fee per student is \$150/season, to be paid by Friday, April 4th.

Spring sports offered this year include:

Co-ed Track & Field and Co-ed Football

Season dates: Monday, March 3rd - Saturday, June 7th

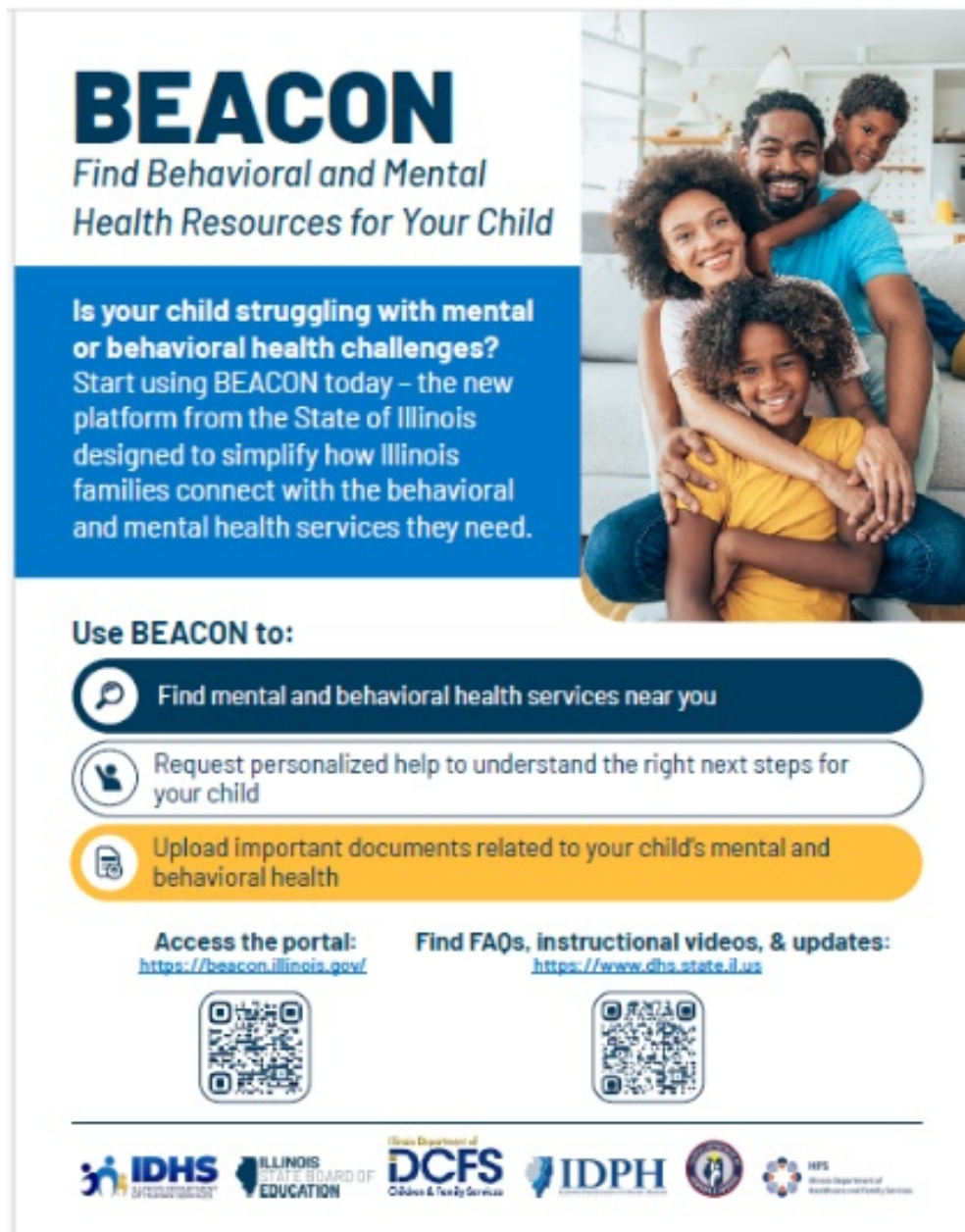
Practice Times: Football: Monday & Wednesday. Track: Tuesday & Thursday, 3:15-6:00 pm

There will not be any late sign ups! Sign ups close on Friday, March 7th.

NOTE: Athletics and after school programs run on a different schedule. These programs do not coincide and after school programs may be full post athletic season. There is no guarantee to be able to enroll in after school programming after the sports season ends.

RESOURCES




- BEACON is the state's new online portal designed to help Illinois families connect to behavioral health resources. It streamlines the process of finding and accessing behavioral health services to help ensure that every child in Illinois can receive the support they need. BEACON INFO FLYER



BEACON
Find Behavioral and Mental Health Resources for Your Child



Is your child struggling with mental or behavioral health challenges?
Start using BEACON today – the new platform from the State of Illinois designed to simplify how Illinois families connect with the behavioral and mental health services they need.







Use BEACON to:

-  Find mental and behavioral health services near you
-  Request personalized help to understand the right next steps for your child
-  Upload important documents related to your child's mental and behavioral health

Access the portal:
<https://beacon.illinois.gov/>

Find FAQs, instructional videos, & updates:
<https://www.dhs.state.il.us>

Anti-Bullying Message

Parents, we have noticed an increase in harmful and inflammatory language use among our students, which can lead to bullying and hurtful behaviors. Language

plays a vital role in shaping how students interact with each other, and fostering positive communication at home and school is key to creating a supportive environment.

We encourage you to help your child understand the impact of their words by modeling respectful language, setting clear expectations for kindness, and reinforcing the importance of empathy at home. It is our goal to teach students how to verbally express themselves without hurting others. At school, we are working to create an inclusive atmosphere, but we need your support. Together, we can guide students toward becoming more compassionate communicators, both at school and at home.

As always, students who repeatedly use language that is harmful to others in our community will be issued increasingly severe consequences according to our Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, parents will be invited to conference with school leaders to discuss how they will address the inappropriate language their students are using. Thank you for your partnership in this effort.

Parents: We Need Your Feedback - Deadline Extended to 2/28!

Your voice matters! Help us continue building a thriving school community by sharing your thoughts in our brief survey. It only takes a few minutes, but your feedback makes a big impact!

<https://www.weeklypossip.com/surveys/survey-20250121-72d4?position=1>

If you've not yet done so, please click the link above to take the survey before Friday, February 28th. Thank you for partnering with us to support all students!

Open House

We are hosting Open House for the 2025-26 school year. Help us spread the word!



The poster for Great Lakes Academy's Open House features a blue and yellow color scheme. At the top left is the school's logo, a circular emblem with a lighthouse and the text 'GREAT LAKES ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL'. To the right, it says 'CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE' and 'APPLY ONLINE!'. The main title 'GREAT LAKES ACADEMY' is in white, followed by 'OPEN HOUSE' in large, bold white letters. Below that, it states 'SATURDAY, MARCH 8th' and '12:00 PM - 2:00 PM'. A yellow section titled 'What We Offer' lists five bullet points: 'Free and Open Admission to ALL', 'Free TAM Drop-off and Daily Meals Provided', 'Full-Day Kindergarten (4-Year-Old Early Entry Available)', 'State-of-the-art campus featuring an Enrichment Center', and 'Full Athletic Facility and Turf Field'. To the right of this list is a QR code with 'APPLY ONLINE' written below it. At the bottom left, a photo shows two children looking at a tablet. To the right of the photo, it says 'The Best in Your Backyard!' and '40% of the Class of 2024 was accepted to CPS Selective Enrollment'. The footer contains contact information: 'Website: https://glachicago.org', 'Campus Location: 8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL', and 'Telephone: (773) 530-3040'. At the very bottom, it says 'PAID FOR BY PUBLIC FUNDS'.

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
APPLY ONLINE!

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, MARCH 8th
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

What We Offer

- ✓ Free and Open Admission to ALL
- ✓ Free TAM 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 ONLINE


The Best in Your Backyard!
40% of the Class of 2024 was accepted to
CPS Selective Enrollment

Website:
<https://glachicago.org>

Campus Location:
8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL

Telephone:
(773) 530-3040

PAID FOR BY PUBLIC FUNDS



CELEBRANDO 10 AÑOS DE EXCELENCIA
¡APLICA EN LINEA!


GREAT LAKES ACADEMY

Día de Puertas Abiertas

SÁBADO, 8 DE MARZO
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM


Lo Que Ofrecemos


- ✓ Admisión gratuita y abierta para todas
- ✓ Puertas abren a las 7, sin costo, y se provee comida diariamente
- ✓ Kinder de día completo (Inscripción Temprana Disponible para Niños de 4 Años)
- ✓ Instalaciones modernas con centro de enriquecimiento
- ✓ Instalaciones deportivas y camino de césped artificial




APPLY ONLINE

¡Lo Mejor en Tu Patio Trasero!
El 40% de la Clase de 2024 fue aceptado en el Programa de Inscripción Selectiva de CPS.

 Sitio web:
<https://glachicago.org>

 Ubicación del Campus:
8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL

 Teléfono:
(773) 530-3040

FINANCIADO CON FONDOS PÚBLICOS

Pre-K & Kindergarten Prom – This Friday!

We can't wait to see our youngest scholars and future scholars shine at the GLA Pre-K & Kindergarten Prom on Friday, March 7, from 5-8 PM! Join us for an evening of dancing, games, and fun — plus food, all for FREE! Formal attire is encouraged. Don't forget to [RSVP today!](#)



Pre-K & Kindergarten Prom

Join us for
an early evening of
dancing, games, fun, and
food for Pre-K &
Kindergarten!
Best of all it's FREE!

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

5:00PM- 8:00PM

RSVP TODAY

Great Lakes Academy
8401 S. Saginaw Ave.
Chicago, IL 60617



Dress code:
Formal attire encouraged

● WWW.GLACHICAGO.ORG
● 833-40-BEGREAT

Paid for by public funds

Great Lakes Academy Spring Benefit

Join us for a night of fun, networking and FUNraising! The 10th Annual I Be Great Spring Benefit will be held Thursday Apr 3, 2025 from 6pm- 10pm. We are excited to have our GLA families come celebrate with us. Use the promo code GLAFamily25 for your discounted ticket of \$100

Great Lakes Academy
10th Annual Be Great Benefit

IMPACT BEYOND 10

Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence

COCKTAIL RECEPTION • SILENT AUCTION • DINNER • PROGRAM

THURSDAY,
APRIL 3, 2025
6:00PM-10:00PM

CITY HALL RECESS
838 W. KINZIE ST.
CHICAGO, IL

FOOD & DRINKS BY **BRONZEVILLE
WINERY**

2025 BE GREAT LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREE

Larissa Silberberg

BENEFIT CHAIR

Brad Karsh

BENEFIT SPONSORS

BEACON

Andrews
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

ANCHOR

Just A Dash
CATERING

HARBOR

**BULLEY &
ANDREWS**

S Seyfarth

SAIL


FIFTH THIRD

ORBA
Accounting | Tax | Advisory

 Growth Point
Consulting Inc.

2025 BE GREAT BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Christine Chen
Ebonie Durham

Aniyah Fisher
Zoe Hughes

Lisa Karsh

Yana Long
Katie McClay

Larissa Silberberg
Kirsten Villers

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Calendar Change

- Since we had to cancel school due to cold weather on Tuesday, January 28th,

we must make up a day of school as we have the minimum number of attendance days required by the state.

- We have changed the “Wellness Day” scheduled for May 1st to a student attendance day. Though it is a Thursday, we will follow a Friday schedule with a 1:50 dismissal. We will only run after-care until 4:00 pm this day. There will be no athletics or enrichment.
- The following day, Friday, May 2nd will remain a “Wellness Day.”
- Please plan to have your students here on Thursday, May 1st.

Intent to Return 2025-26

- To help us plan our enrollment for the 2024-25 school year, we ask all families to confirm if their scholar(s) will be returning to Great Lakes Academy next year by filling out our annual Intent to Return Form.
- This year, the form will be completed online in the platform “Powerschool Enrollment”.
- You should have received an email with instructions; if you have any questions, please contact the 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

March 3 - March 28, 2025

Monday 3	Tuesday 4	Wednesday 5	Thursday 6	Friday 7
			IA #3 (4th-8th grade)	IA #3 (4th-8th grade) 2025-2026 Intent to Return Due Pre-K Prom, 5:30-7:30 pm
10 5Essentials Survey Comer Med Van Visit	11 5Essentials Survey IA#3 (4th Grade) Parent Advocacy Meeting, 4:30 pm	12 IA#3 (4th Grade)	13 End of Q3- Report Card Distribution	14 Parent Teacher Conferences, No School 8th Grade GoCPS: High School Results Released
17 Wellness Day, No School	18	19 GLA: Community Conversation, 8:00 am	20	21 2025-2026 Lottery
24 Spring Break, No School	25 Spring Break, No School	26 Spring Break, No School	27 Spring Break, No School	28 Spring Break, No School

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