



The Weekly Wave

Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

October 21, 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Anthony Contreras - Custodian

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

My favorite moment so far was the Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly.

Tell us one of your proudest teacher moments.

Performing for the scholars of GLA

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

Seeing how much teachers, custodians do for kids and me when I was little seemed like a good way of helping, encouraging and shaping young kids' lives because

teachers and staff of schools is who I remember the most growing up.

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

South East Side Native

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

Learning how to play an instrument in 3rd grade

What's your favorite thing to do in Chicago?

Lollapalooza

What are your hidden or surprising talents?

Can play over 4 instruments including Saxophone, guitar, bass , piano

What's your dream vacation?

New Zealand

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

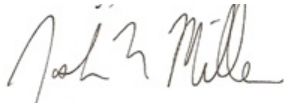
Parents, Parent-Teacher Conferences are **this Friday, October 24, 2025 from 11am - 7pm**. These conferences **will be held in person**, and we ask that you RSVP for a meeting time. Parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers and learn more about their scholar's academic progress. This is a great time to ask any questions you may currently have and explore ways to continue supporting scholars' growth. There will also be informational

tables for school resources and programs.

For those planning to attend, please view the email sent on Friday, October 17th or Monday, October 20th with your child's homeroom's unique Sign Up Genius link. There you will sign up for a 15 minute conference slot in advance.

We hope to see you there!

With Gratitude,



Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Principal Month



Join us in celebrating National Principal Month and acknowledging our very own Principal Josh Miller. He serves as the heart of our school, guiding students, supporting teachers and staff, and building strong connections with families and the broader GLA community. Principals do so much more than manage day-to-day operations. Principal Miller fosters safe and inclusive environments, champions academic excellence, encourages innovation, and nurtures a culture of growth and resilience. His dedication, vision, and heart makes GLA a place where scholars and staff truly thrive.

Thank you Principal Miller for the many hats that you wear and the positive impact you make on the entire GLA community!

Picture Day – Thursday, October 23rd!

Picture Day is coming to Great Lakes Academy! All students will have their photos taken this **Thursday, October 23rd**. If you **do not** wish for your student's photo to be taken please contact the front office before October 23rd. Order forms were sent home last week. Additional order forms are available at GLA.

Please return completed order forms and payment by October 23rd.

Families can pay online at <https://picture-day.hhimagehost.com/gla> or by returning the envelope with cash, check, or credit card info.

Make-up Day: November 13th

Photo Delivery: December 11th

Students may dress out of uniform but must follow GLA's dress code guidelines. Please avoid clothing with inappropriate messaging, rips, short hems, or hoodies. Questions? Contact Picture Day at support@picture-day.com or **773-276-4588 (option 1)**.

Parent Right to Know Letter

Please take the time to read [this letter](#) regarding your right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers.

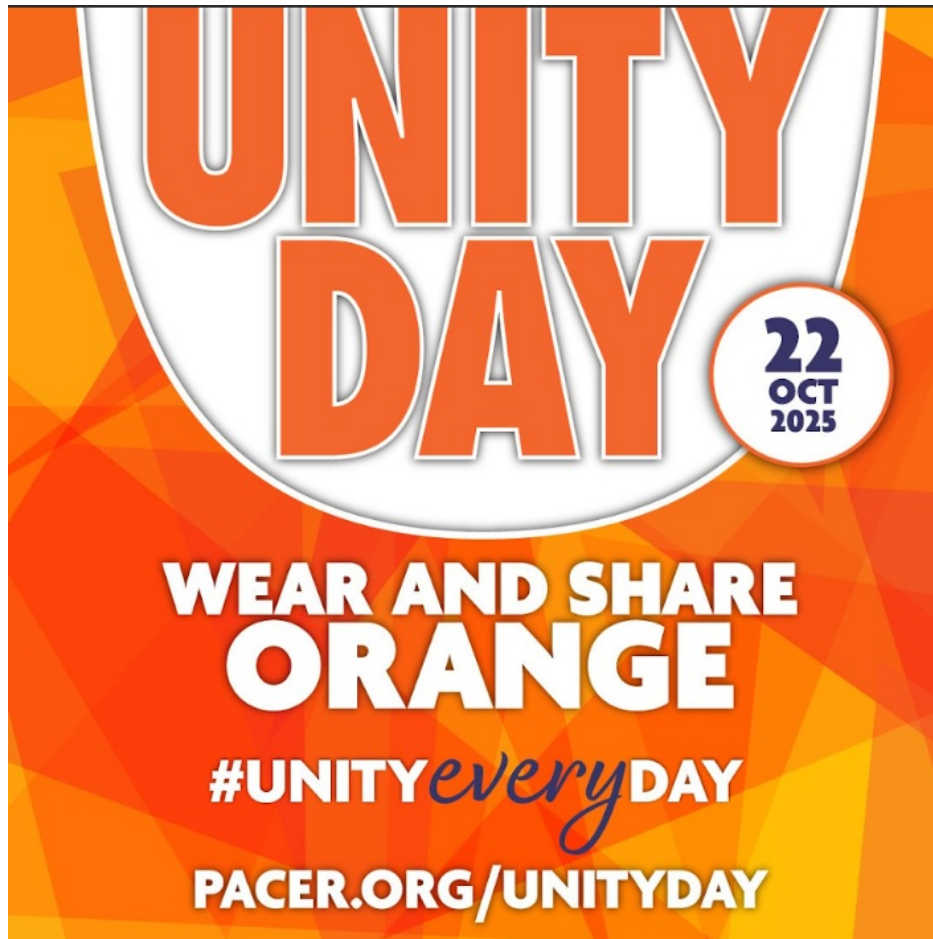
GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lost and Found

The lost and found is over flowing! If your student is currently missing a jacket, sweater, lunch box, water bottle, or back pack please remind them to check the lost and found. All remaining items after PTC on 10/24 will be donated.

Unity Day- Wednesday, October 22

We will be celebrating **Unity Day** on Oct. 22nd this year. Unity Day is an annual event held during National Bullying Prevention Month in October, promoting unity and creating healthier communities through kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. **We urge all students and staff to wear Orange on Wednesday, Oct. 22nd.**



Beacon Dash Pass - October Requirements

Earn your Dash Pass privileges by meeting ALL requirements from October 1-30:

- **Behavior:** Less than 2 referrals and less than 3 resets
- **Attendance:** No more than 1 absence (excused or unexcused)
- **Punctuality:** No more than 2 tardies to class (Middle School)
- **Yondr Policy:** No more than 3 violations (Middle School)
- **Dress Code:** 1 or less uniform violations

Rewards for qualifying scholars:

- Dress down pass for 10/31 (costumes or favorite fall wear)
- Fall treat
- Fall art activity during LIT PIT

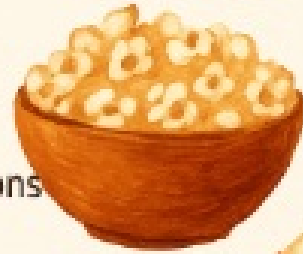


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- Dress down pass for 10/31 (costumes or favorite fall wear)
- Fall treat
- Fall art activity



Spread the Word: GLA Fall Open House

Families, help us share the news! Great Lakes Academy will host our **Fall Open House on Saturday, November 8th, from 12:00–2:00 PM**. This is a chance for prospective families to tour our campus, meet our staff, and see why GLA is one of the top schools in Illinois.



Empower children today to change
the world tomorrow!

APPLY ONLINE!

GREAT LAKES ACADEMY

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

What We Offer

- ✓ Free and Open Admission to ALL
- ✓ Free 7AM 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 HERE



The Best in Your Backyard!

40% of the Class of 2024 was accepted to
CPS Selective Enrollment



<https://glachicago.org>



8401 S. Saginaw St., Chicago, IL



(773) 530-3040

PAID FOR BY PUBLIC FUNDS

Keep Warm in Style – Get Your GLA Crewneck Sweater Today!

GLA Crewneck Sweaters are here—perfect for cooler weather and approved as part of the GLA uniform!

Why grab yours now?

- Stay warm and comfortable during chilly mornings.
- Show your GLA pride in style.
- Available at the low price of just \$20 each!

How to purchase:

- Order online through the [GLA Uniform Store](#)
- Or purchase directly at the GLA Front Office
- Monday–Thursday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Don't wait—these sweaters are sure to go quickly!

New Payment System Coming Soon!

- **View Outstanding Fees:** Parents will soon be able to see any outstanding fees directly through the **PowerSchool Parent Portal**.

- **Access Statements & Receipts:** You'll be able to **view statements and see or print receipts** at your convenience.
- **Payment Plans Available:** Flexible **payment plans** will be available to help families manage their fees.
- **Easy Access:** Don't have access to PowerSchool yet? Please call the front office—we're happy to help you get set up.
- **Convenient Payment Options:** Fees can still be paid through the main office, either **by phone or in person.**

We look forward to making fee management easier and more convenient for all families!

Visitor ID Scanning Began October 6

Starting Monday, October 6, all visitors - including parents and guardians - will be required to scan a government-issued ID to enter the school building. The scan conducts background checks against Sex Offender Registries, Criminal Databases, and Government Watch Lists. Once your ID has been scanned, you will not need to do so again for future visits.

These measures are in place to help keep our students, staff, and community safe. Please note that individuals who do not pass the screening may be denied entry.

CPS Family Income Information Form

We are strongly encouraging all families to complete the CPS Family Income Information Form for the 2025–2026 school year. This form is required annually and helps determine school funding, which supports important programs at GLA, including our free lunch program.

- ✓ Only **one form per household** is needed
- ✓ Takes just **2–3 minutes** to complete

Forms were sent home last week. If you did not receive one, please contact the front office to have a form emailed to you, sent home with your scholar, or stop by the office to complete one today.

Completed forms may be:

- Sent back with your scholar, or
- Emailed to sthunherst@glachicago.org

Thank you for your prompt attention and continued support of GLA!

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

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October 20 - November 14, 2025

20 IA#1 ANet	21 IA#1 ANet	22	23 Picture Day!	24 Parent Teacher Conferences, No Classes
27 Wellness Day, Building Closed	28 Staff PD, No Classes	29	30	31 Dia de Los Muertos Celebration (Observing)
3	4	5 Fire Evacuation Drill #2	6	7 2026-27 Application Launch
10	11 Veteran's Day- No School	12	13 Picture Retake Day!	14 GoCPS Application Closes

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