



The Weekly Wave

WEEKLY GLA FAMILY NEWSLETTER: August 30th, 2022

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Last Friday, our staff and students had a blast during our first **Back to School Fest** ([see more pictures on Instagram](#)). Events like this are intended to build positive relationships between students and between students and staff. These events also create joy in school that leads to lasting memories. We look forward to holding more events like this in the coming months.



Parents, I highly encourage you to come to **Parent Go To School Night** next Friday,

September 9th. This event will provide you an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn more about what students will be learning and doing this year. Additionally, there will be special stations to learn about other programs in the school and a message from school leaders. More information is included below. I hope to see each of you there!

Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent Go To School Night:

GLA will be hosting parents for Go To School Night on Friday, September 9th. The event will run from 4:00-5:00 for K-4th grade and 5:00-6:00 for 5th-8th grade families. Doors will open at 3:45 for K-4th parent check-in and 4:45 for 5th-8th grade parent check-in.

Join us to:

- Meet your child's teachers
- Visit classroom(s)
- Learn more about what students are learning and doing in classes
- Hear from school leaders
- Buy some GLA swag (t-shirts and bumper stickers)

Morning Entry/Dismissal Updates:

I wanted to send a few reminders that will help ensure dismissal is quicker and continues to be safe:

- **Dismissal begins at 3:15 Monday-Thursday and 1:45 on Fridays.**

- **If you are picking up by car, please line up along Saginaw, 84th St., and down Marquette.**
 - 4th-8th graders will be with teachers on 84 St. and Marquette. Please talk to your students about watching for your car and walking to it when they see it.
 - K-3rd graders will be released to cars through the drive.
- **IMPORTANT: Cars picking up students should never enter the line on Saginaw. This means we did not get your student's name in the pick up line and your student will not be ready when you pull into the drive. You will have to wait longer to get your child than if you get in line.**
- Parents who are walking - the 84th St. gate will open at the start of dismissal. Please do not come to the main entrance drive if you are a walker.

Thank you in advance for following procedures.

Tardies:

Students that are not in the car line by 7:55 will be considered tardy. Parents **MUST** come inside to sign your students in to ensure that they are not marked absent. When pulling in the driveway please pull all the way forward to park. **Do not park** in front of the entrance in the driveway. All students **must be** accompanied and signed in by parent/guardian.

Tardy Policy

- **A student arriving one minute late will be considered tardy**
 - Students in K-8th grade must be at school by 7:55 am to be considered on time.
- Three tardies or early pick-ups equal one absence with respect to perfect attendance awards, etc.
- At ten tardies a parent/guardian conference may be required to put an Attendance Plan in place.
- If a child arrives after 10:00 a.m. the day will be considered a ½ day of absence.
- If a child arrives after 12:15 p.m., the day will be counted as an absence.
- Tardy students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and must sign-in at the main office.

Early Dismissal Policy

- At ten early dismissals, a parent/guardian conference may be required to put an Attendance Plan in place.
- If a child is picked up before 10:00 a.m., the day will be counted as an absence.
- If a child is picked up before 12:15 p.m. it will be considered a ½ day of absence.
- Children will not be dismissed early unless a parent/guardian visits the office in-person and signs the student out.

Pick Up Policy

We only release our students to authorized adults as indicated on a student's Emergency Contact form. Parents/Guardians may authorize additional individuals to pick up their student(s) by providing approval and contact information in writing via email or by completing necessary paperwork in our office. We also require ID upon pick-up.

Any changes to regular routines must be communicated to the school 1 hour prior to dismissal time or the child will not be released. This may include changes to bus transportation or your student not attending afterschool programming.

We never release students independently to rideshare services, including taxis, Uber, Lyft, etc.

If you need your scholar to walk home, a walker form must be completed every year in order for them to walk home. Please stop by the office to complete a form or you can [click here](#) and email it to mjimenez@glchicago.org. Older students will not be allowed to pick up younger siblings unless we have this form on file.

We also do not dismiss scholars 20 minutes before our normal dismissal time. If you need to pick up early, please plan to be here at least 20 minutes before dismissal.

Late Pick-Up Policy

Monday – Thursday: Students are expected to be picked up at 3:15 pm.

Fridays: Students are expected to be picked up at 1:45 pm.

Families who are persistently late in picking up their students will have a meeting with the Dean of Culture, Assistant Principal, Principal, or other designee of the principal to create a pick-up plan. Persistently late families may also run the risk of not being able to participate in schoolwide extracurricular events or afterschool activities, at the discretion of the Principal or Executive Director.

- **Students who are not picked up by 3:35 on Monday-Thursday or 2:05 on Fridays or days with shortened schedules will be placed in the Late Room for supervision.**
- If a student is not picked up by 3:35 pm (or by 2:05 pm on Fridays), Great Lakes will take the following steps:
 - Attempt to contact the parent/guardian and emergency contacts.
 - If unanswered, Great Lakes staff will leave a message with all contacts stating, "If the parent, guardian, or emergency contact does not come to the school to pick up [student name(s)] by **4:30pm (M-Th)/3:30pm (Fri)**, the school will be obligated to call the Chicago Police Department and the Department of Child and Family Services hotline to report child neglect."
 - If nobody has come to pick up the student by that time, Great Lakes staff will call the DCFS hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE (252-2873 to report child neglect
 - **Great Lakes Academy will:**
 - contact the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and
 - call CPS Student Safety Center at 773-553-3335 to explain that a student is stranded and provide the student's emergency contact information.
- At that point, Great Lakes staff will follow the direction of CPS's Office of Safety and Security, which may include contacting 911 and/or transporting the child to the nearest police station to place the child in their protective custody.

In order to coordinate a safe, orderly pick-up, the school **will not permit early dismissal of students** after 2:55 pm Monday–Thursday and after 1:25 pm on Fridays. There will be no exceptions.

2022-23 Student Religious Accommodation Policy

Guiding Philosophy

GLA is a public charter school, under the authorization of the Chicago Public Schools district and the Illinois State Board of Education. As a public school, we will provide accommodations for student religious practices provided that such practices can be accommodated in a manner that does not violate the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, and to the extent that the accommodation does not place an undue burden on the school.

Student Religious Accommodation Policy

Students are entitled to excused absences for the observance of religious holidays. Students who are absent for the observance of a religious holiday will be given an opportunity to make up any missed work, examination, or assignment.

GLA will attempt to make reasonable accommodations for students who have particular religious needs if requested in writing by a parent/legal guardian to the principal. GLA is not required to accommodate a religious request if granting such a request would place an undue burden on the school.

To the extent possible, students should fulfill their religious obligations during lunch or a free period. If a student must fulfill a religious obligation during class time, the principal should grant an excused absence for a limited, defined time. Students who are excused from class for religious needs will have an opportunity to make up any work, assignment or test missed as a result of the absence.

The use of staff time, including making curriculum modifications, to accommodate students' religious needs is both a burden to the school and support for a particular religious practice which is in violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, no staff time shall be required to monitor or supervise a student's religious activities nor provide an alternative curriculum. Requests for accommodations that would require staff supervision or additional time will be denied.

In order to be granted religious accommodation, a student's parent or legal guardian must submit a written request to the principal. **The written request must state: (a) the specific accommodation requested; (b) why the accommodation is needed and (c) the time and duration of the accommodation.**

Courtyard

We would like students and parents to be cautious when in the courtyard area between the Link and the 84th St. gate. When picking up student walkers or using the courtyard, please monitor your children to ensure they are not engaging in play behaviors that put them at risk.

Enrichment

With sign ups being sent out last week, we have had a lot of responses and some programs are even full! **There is a lot of buzz and excitement** around these before and after school programs and I hope you and your scholars had the opportunity to be a part of the new program formats. Below you will find athletics, On Deck (morning), and Anchor (after school) sign ups. **Sign ups are closed for after school programming, but please reach out to Stephanie Beck, sbeck@glachicago.org to see if the program you are interested has openings! On Deck enrollment will always be open.**

Fall Athletics

We are excited to announce that athletic programming will begin at GLA Fall 2022! Programming will be for student-athletes in 5th-8th grade only and will take place directly after school from 3:30-5:00 pm.

Athletic Fee: \$150/season/student

Sports offered this year: boys soccer and girls volleyball in the fall, boys and girls basketball and co-ed cheerleading in the winter, co-ed track, girls soccer and boys volleyball in the spring.

There will be a mandatory orientation on September 7th at 5:30 pm via zoom. You will be emailed the link.

If you have a student-athlete that might be interested in the announced fall sports, please fill out the interest [form](#).

*Please note: sports could overlap with any after school programming that we offer for 5th-8th grade.

Please reach out to Athletic Director, Titus Perez tperez@glachicago.org with any questions!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Before School Programming:

We are excited to offer On Deck before school programming again at GLA this year!

This program will run every day, Monday - Friday, before school from 7:00-7:45 am. Fees will be collected on a monthly basis, due by the first of the month of service. Invoices will be sent via PayPal (no account is needed), and enrollment and un-enrollment will be on a rolling basis.

Please note: Drop-ins are available for a \$10/day cash, regardless of the time dropped off.

SY23 On Deck Fees:

1 student, \$80/month

2 students, \$140/month

3 students, \$200/month

The form is currently closed, but as enrollment is ongoing, please send a quick email to sbeck@glachicago.org to get signed up! When signing up, you will automatically be enrolled and billed for programming. If plans change, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to another great year with you and your family!

After School Programming:

We are pleased to offer after school programs that are teacher and student-led. These after school programs will run Monday-Thursday and will vary each trimester, with some new offerings for each grade.

These programs are only for trimester one, Tuesday, September 6th - Thursday, November 10th. All programs will run from 3:15 - 5:00 pm.

You will have the opportunity to sign up your child for programming that will run Monday and Wednesday and/or Tuesday and Thursday. Each program will hold a max capacity for students and enrollment will end on Wednesday, August 24th. **You will be notified if you get into the program by Wednesday, August 31st via letter and email.**

The prices for these programs are **\$150 each, per trimester**, unless otherwise marked.

*Please note: these programs could overlap with any athletic practices/intersquad games that we offer for 5th-8th grade.

These programs are closed and you will receive an acceptance email and paper letter this week for verification.

Please reach out to Stephanie Beck, sbeck@glachicago.org to see if the program you are interested in has slots available.

Uniforms:

We have learned that GLA families are having issues again this year getting uniform orders fulfilled in a timely fashion through Schoolbelles. Effective immediately, GLA will be allowing navy blue polo shirts that do not have the GLA branded logo. This change to the uniform policy will stay in effect for the rest of this school year.

School Start & End Times:

The table below reflects the student schedule for the upcoming school year. Based on family feedback, we made some minor adjustments. Please note GLA building hours are 7am - 6pm. There will still be optional before school programming beginning at 7am for this school year (more information to come).

Grade Level	Monday - Thursday			Friday		
	Doors Open	Instruction Starts	Instruction Ends	Doors Open	Instruction Starts	Instruction Ends
K-4	7:45 AM	7:55 AM	3:15 PM	7:45 AM	7:55 AM	1:45 PM
5-8	7:30 AM	7:55 AM	3:15 PM	7:30 AM	7:55 AM	1:45 PM

PAST DUE: 22-23 Annual Registration Forms for Returning Students:

- If you have not been able to complete the registration, please stop by the front office, we have a printed paper copy for your convenience, we have registration help available Monday - Friday from 9 am - 2 pm.
- You are also able to log into Schoolmint to complete the registration online. (<https://glachicago.schoolmint.net/signin>).

Breakfast and Lunch Menu:

- To view the breakfast and lunch menu for the upcoming month, please [click here](#).

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

August 22-26: Student Orientation Week; 1:45 Dismissal

August 26: Back 2 School Fest

August 29th: Normal schedule resumes (M-Th = 3:15 dismissal; F 1:45 dismissal)

September 5: Labor Day: No Classes

September 9: Parent Go to School Night

August 29 - September 30, 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30	31	1	2
5 LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL	6	7	8	9 Parent Go to School Night 4:00 PM KG-4th 5:00 PM 5th-8th
12	13	14	15	16

COVID Vaccination Information for Scholars

GLA is currently reviewing our COVID policies for the upcoming school year. Information for the 2022-23 school year will be shared in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we advise all of our families to consider vaccinating their Scholars.

This week and beyond, there are many ways for children to get vaccinated across the city:

- Family health care providers – CDPH recommends families first reach out to their pediatrician or family medical provider to see if appointments are available.
- CPS sites – CPS’ regional vaccination clinics and mobile school-based events will offer the Pfizer vaccine for ages 5 to 11 starting on Wednesday, November 10th.
 - Use [this link](#) to view the schedule for the clinics.
 - Use [this link](#) to view the schedule for mobile events.
 - Visit cps.edu/vaccinations for more information and vaccine opportunities
- Local pharmacies – Across the city, many pharmacy locations already have vaccines and more will receive doses in the coming weeks. Each has their own registration.
 - Walgreens: [Register online](#), call your local Walgreens or 1-800-WALGREENS (1-800-925-4733)
 - CVS: [Register online](#), call your local CVS or 1-800-679-9691
 - Mariano's: [Register online](#)
 - Walmart: Call 833-886-0023, Option 1

- Chicago Costco Pharmacies: Register online for an appointment or call a pharmacy directly
- Select children's hospitals will host pediatric vaccine events – check hospital websites for dates and more information.

CDPH will host family vaccination clinics at City Colleges of Chicago. These events will offer pediatric COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines, as well as Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines and booster doses to all Chicagoans. Patients must be 18 or older to receive a J&J vaccine. All clinics will be open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is required and open now at www.chi.gov/YouthVax.

Starting November 15, CDPH's in-home vaccination program, Protect Chicago At Home, will also offer pediatric vaccination for all children ages 5 to 11. Make an at-home appointment at Chicago.gov/AtHome or by calling (312) 746-4835.

Standing CDPH immunization clinics will also offer pediatric COVID-19 vaccines by appointment only. This includes:

- Greater Lawn WIC located at 4150 W. 55th St. (call 312 745-1477 for an appointment)
- Starting November 15, all CDPH-sponsored community events will offer pediatric vaccinations. For the calendar of community events, visit Chicago.gov/VaxCalendar.