



# The Weekly Wave

WEEKLY GLA FAMILY NEWSLETTER: September 6th, 2022

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

This Friday, September 9th, we are hosting "Family Go To School Night." After two years of holding this event virtually, we will (finally) be back in person this year. This event is an outstanding opportunity to meet your child's teachers, learn more about what they are learning and doing in their classrooms, and hear from school leaders. It is a wonderful way to connect with GLA staff and learn how you can support your scholar this school year.

Additionally, we will have stations set up at check-in where you will be able to purchase additional uniforms or GLA parent gear, learn more about enrichment programming, and sign up to be on the parent volunteer list. We also will have a special session for our 7th and 8th grade families about the high school selection process.

We hope to see you Friday!

Principal Miller



## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### School Breakfast Program

- As you may be aware, GLA participates in a school-wide breakfast program - all students are able to get breakfast at school.
- For more information, please see the attached flyers or review this [non-discrimination statement](#).

### COVID Testing Policy

- This year, we will only run COVID testing for students who are exposed to a known positive case at school.
- If you would like to remove your scholar from this policy, contact the front office.

### Parent Volunteer Opportunities

- We are looking for some Before School, Afterschool, and Special Event Volunteers to help assist with entry, dismissal, set-up, and event stations. If you are interested please fill out this form [here](#).
- Requirements:
  - Covid Vaccination (Unless exempt with proof)
  - Pass a Background Check (Paid for by the School)

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Parent Go To School Night:**

GLA will be hosting families 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 family check-in and 4:45 for 5th-8th grade family check-in. **Please enter through the gate on 84th St.**

Classroom presentations will run from 4:00-4:30 and 4:30-5:00 for K-4th and 5:00-5:30 and 5:30-6:00 for 5th-8th grades.

There will be two special presentations for 7th and 8th grade families. At 5:00 pm, we will have a presentation catered toward our 7th grade scholars on the importance of this crucial year for high school acceptance. At 5:30pm, we will be meeting with our 8th grade families as we embark on what the next few months will look like as we start high school applications.

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)

### **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.
- Parents **MUST** come inside to sign your students in to ensure that they are not marked absent.
- 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@glachicago.org](mailto:mjimenez@glachicago.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**

**Sign ups are closed for after school programming, but please reach out to Stephanie Beck, [sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org) to see if the program you are interested has openings! On Deck (before school) enrollment will always be open.**

The programs only run Mondays and Wednesdays and/or Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is **NO FRIDAY** programming.

Invoices have been sent out and are due upon receipt.

### **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.

**Breakfast and Lunch Menu:**

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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

September 5: Labor Day: No Classes  
September 9: Parent Go to School Night

## August 29 - September 30, 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 LABOR DAY <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	6	7	8	9 Parent Go to School Night 4:00 PM KG-4th 5:00 PM 5th-8th
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

**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](https://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](http://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](http://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](http://Chicago.gov/VaxCalendar).