



**Weekly GLA Family Newsletter**  
November 1st, 2022

**PRINCIPAL'S CORNER**

We have made many changes this year to strengthen school culture. We want students to feel valued, cared for, motivated, celebrated, and safe and classrooms to be focused on academic growth and achievement. Parents play an important role in supporting our school culture. Students take signals from parents on how they should receive feedback from staff at school and to what extent they should follow school rules and policies. I am grateful that we have a body of parents who are supportive partners in forwarding our mission at GLA.

I also want to remind parents of the importance of following school policies and procedures themselves. We have an obligation to create a safe school community for our students, our staff, and for family members. We create policies and procedures for the betterment of the school community at-large. When parents choose to act against school policy or procedure, it frustrates other members of the community who are following the rules. When parents use language that is profane or abusive to staff or other parents, it chips away at the sense of trust and safety we are trying to build and uphold. When parents tell students not to follow certain school rules or directions from staff, the learning environment and safety of other students is harmed.

The school administration has-and will continue-to address issues with members of the school community who are not upholding our policies around parent behavior. Fortunately, these instances are extraordinarily uncommon. And we thank parents for your continued support in the education of all of our students at GLA.

Principal Miller

**NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Principal Town Halls**

Beginning on Wednesday, November 9th, we will begin holding a monthly GLA Town Hall meeting in the gym beginning at 5:30pm. Light refreshments will be served. Parents will be able to park in the GLA parking lot and may enter through the main entrance in the facility drive.

A promotional poster for the 'Light The Way' fundraiser. The background features a collage of images including the Great Lakes Academy logo, the Illinois State Capitol building, and the Abraham Lincoln statue. The text is set against a dark blue background with a string of warm white lights. The main title 'LIGHT THE WAY' is in large, white, bold letters. Below it, the event details are listed: 'THE LIGHTHOUSE LOUNGE', '108 W GERMANIA PLACE CHICAGO, IL', 'TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH', and '6:30 TO 8:30 PM'. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the 'GIVING TUESDAY' logo and the text: 'All proceeds directly support GLA student programming - including our inaugural 8th grade graduation trip to Washington, D.C.'

**LIGHT THE WAY**

THE LIGHTHOUSE LOUNGE  
108 W GERMANIA PLACE  
CHICAGO, IL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH  
6:30 TO 8:30 PM

**GIVING TUESDAY** All proceeds directly support GLA student programming - including our inaugural 8th grade graduation trip to Washington, D.C.

## **GLA Takes D.C. - Light The Way Fall Fundraiser!**

We are extremely excited to announce Great Lakes Academy's inaugural 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C. Class of 2023, will be traveling to our nation's capital next spring in celebration of their 8th grade graduation.

\*insert graphic\* This month, GLA will be hosting our annual Fall Fundraiser at The Lighthouse Lounge, November 29th, 2022. All proceeds directly support GLA student programming - including our

inaugural 8th grade graduation trip to Washington, D.C.

There will be more details to come in the near future!

## **Title I Meeting**

GLA's annual Title I meeting will be held at the beginning of the Principal's Town Hall beginning at 5:30pm. Please attend to learn how GLA is using federal Title I funds to support student learning and meet other program requirements.

## **Parent Teacher Conference Sign-ups - Launching Thursday**

Parent teacher conferences will be held virtually on Monday, November 21st. Sign-ups will launch this Thursday and close Thursday, November 17th. Please be on the lookout for your sign-up link (each homeroom has a unique link) and reach out to the front office with any questions.

## **Possip Feedback**

Great Lakes Academy Community!

Thank you for sharing ideas through our last Possip survey! We've heard from 195 of you during the course of the year. We are seeing that 85% of you are happy or mostly happy.

This week we heard members in the school community share examples of praise, appreciation, and feedback or questions.

- ***Praise for teacher communication and hard work***
- ***Appreciation for technology communication tools we use on campus***
- ***Questions about classroom culture and requests for behavior updates from families***
- ***Requests for academic support for struggling students***
- ***Feedback about increasing teacher communication and proactive school notifications***
- ***Ideas about morning procedures during drop-off time***



We are taking all of your feedback and ideas into consideration for our future planning and follow-up. We hope to hear from you again on our next Possip Pulse Check!

Thanks again for sharing!

### **Dojo (K-3 Parents)**

ClassDojo is a **free app** for parents. You are more than welcomed to purchase a superscription, however it is not needed.

### **Picture Day**

If you were not able to place an order before picture day last week you still have time. Orders can be placed online at <http://picture-day.hhimagehost.com/gla>. Orders must be placed by picture retake day, Wednesday, November 9th.

### **Family Content Night**

Join us on November 16 and 17 for Family Content night. Our Instructional Coaches will be hosting a virtual Math and Literacy night! This is a great opportunity to learn more about our recent assessments, curriculum and resources to use at home!

#### **November 16, 2022**

- Family Math Night
- Grade levels: 5th-8th
- Time: 5:00-6:00
- Where: Virtual

#### **November 17, 2022**

- Family Literacy Night
- Grade levels: K-8
- Time: 5:00-6:00
- Where: Virtual

### **Enrichment and Athletics**

T1 programs will end on Thursday, November 10th.

**Trimester two new programs are now rolled out! [SIGN UP HERE!!!!](#)**

There will be no programming from Monday, November 14th- Thursday, November 17th. Trimester two programs will begin on Monday, November 28th, via acceptance letters and emails.

On Deck (**before school**) enrollment will always be open and available as an as needed basis as well for \$10 cash/card paid on the spot. Reach out to, [sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org)- Stephanie Beck, to enroll today!

### **Cheer Coach Opening**

Interested in coaching cheer? GLA has a job opportunity for you!

We are looking for a Head Cheer Coach to lead our student-athletes throughout the winter season (11/7 - 1/17). The pay for this position is \$2,000. Please reach out to coach Perez via email or phone (312-502-5980) if you are interested or know someone who might be!

### **Grades 5th-8th - Pens/Pencils**

Many of our middle school students are not showing responsibility by coming prepared to class with a writing utensil. We are doing students a disservice in preparing them for high school if we ignore the issue. This Monday, October 31st,

teachers began checks to see if students have a writing utensil when they enter class. Students who do not have a writing utensil will receive a paycheck deduction (but will be able to borrow a pencil from GLA). Students should have pencils only for math class but may use a pen for other classes.

### Student Lost and Found

With the change in temperature outside, our Lost and Found has grown with coats, hats, and gloves. If your scholar is missing an item, encourage them to ask their teacher to look in the lost and found. **All unclaimed items will be donated on Friday, November 18th.**

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GLA's Inaugural High School & Community Fair

This Saturday, November 5th, Great Lakes Academy Charter School will be hosting our inaugural High School & Community Fair! This event is open to all scholars, families and the entire Chicago community. There will be an opportunity to meet and interact with a number of public, private and selective enrollment high school admissions representatives and community organizations. The fair will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the first hour designated to GLA scholars and families only.

### GLA Parent Swag is ON SALE!

Great Lakes Academy new parent swag is NOW ON SALE!

To celebrate our inaugural High School and Community Fair, GLA Parent swag will be 30% off with discount code **GLAFAIR** now through November 4th. Sizes range from mens small to 3XL. Head over to the [GLA Store](#) to grab yours today!

We can't wait to see you in your GLA parent swag with your middle school scholars at GLA's inaugural High School and Community Fair!

Options for delivery include: scholar hand-off, pick up\*, or shipping (an additional \$5 fee).

*\*To avoid disruption to the scholar drop-off and dismissal process, pick up hours will be from 8:30 am-2:30 pm Monday - Thursday and 8:30 am-1:00 pm on Friday. Thank you for your understanding.*

Picture day was today, Tuesday, October 25th. If you were not able to place an order before today you still have time. Orders can be placed online at [!\[\]\(9c2e8d1b5bd77cb5c9f83b7a9cff79fd\_img.jpg\)

The poster features a background image of the Great Lakes Academy Charter School building. In the top left corner is the school's logo, which includes a lighthouse and the text 'GREAT LAKES ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL'. The main text is in large, bold, blue letters: 'INAUGURAL HIGH SCHOOL & COMMUNITY FAIR'. Below this, the date and time are listed: 'Saturday November 5th 12 pm - 2 pm', with a smaller note 'Doors open at 11 am for GLA Families'. A white circular callout on the right asks 'Do you need help applying to high school?' and includes the 'CPS JOIN US!' logo. Another white callout at the bottom right says 'Meet with admissions representatives from Chicago public, private, and selective enrollment high schools.' The bottom of the poster provides the address: 'Great Lakes Academy 8401 S. Saginaw Chicago, IL 60617'.](http://picture-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

day.hhimagehost.com/gla. Orders must be placed by picture retake day, Wednesday, November 9th.

## **Recess**

Students will have recess outdoors unless the temperature is below freezing (32 degrees F) or there is precipitation. Please ensure that students are dressed in warm clothes for school.

## **New Music Program**

GLA is proud to announce a new partnership with the [Professional Theater and Dance Youth Academy](#) (PTDYA). PTDYA will provide a comprehensive curricular arts program for students in grades 5-8 at GLA during the 22-23 school year.

PTDYA is a non-profit organization that provides professional music and arts education in Chicago's under-resourced schools and communities so that our city's most vulnerable youth have a supportive space to learn, grow, and thrive. We support our black and brown students in learning how to celebrate themselves through the arts. Through our partnership students will learn music theory, choreography, staging, blocking and participate in a fully costumed professional production. In addition, PTDYA will be launching an after school program for students passionate about the arts called The Academy Kids.

Our main instructors will be [Brandon Lampkin, Musical Director](#), and [Michael Jones PTDYA Executive Director](#) who will also be serving as Great Lakes Academy's Artistic Director this school year.

## **Job Opportunity for GLA Parents**

INCS Action IC is hiring part-time phone bankers for the 2022 General elections in Illinois. We are currently training individuals interested in a paid opportunity and gaining political campaign experience. Phone Bankers will be paid \$20/hr with flexible times during the weekdays and weekends with incentives.

**Please text (224) 707-0516 or email [shamira@incsaction.org](mailto:shamira@incsaction.org) for more details.**

## **Oportunidad de trabajo para padres de GLA**

INCS Action IC está contratando banqueros telefónicos a tiempo parcial para las elecciones generales de 2022 en Illinois. Actualmente estamos capacitando a personas interesadas en una oportunidad paga y adquiriendo experiencia en campañas políticas. A los banqueros telefónicos se les pagará \$20/hora con horarios flexibles durante los días de semana y los fines de semana con incentivos. No se necesita experiencia!!

**Envíe un mensaje de texto al (224) 707-0516 o envíe un correo electrónico a [shamira@incsaction.org](mailto:shamira@incsaction.org) para obtener más detalles.**

## **Athletics Winter Sign Up**

As we are excited to roll out our winter 5th-8th grade sports sign up form, please fill out the attached [form](#) to be a part of girls basketball, boys basketball or co-ed cheer beginning Nov. 7th- January 17th!

Once you are signed up, a mandatory zoom orientation will be required prior to the



first day. A link will be sent at a later date.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Titus Perez,  
[tperez@glachicago.org](mailto:tperez@glachicago.org)

## **Bullying**

As we take bullying seriously and it will not be tolerated, please contact an administrator at your earliest convenience when you feel your student has not been treated fairly by their peers. As stated in the school handbook:

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation, one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. All of these forms of bullying, including any form of retaliation as defined below, are strictly prohibited. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

This matter, as it is important to us, will be reviewed and followed up immediately by the administrator.

## **Breakfast and Lunch Menu:**

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

## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

November 1st: Start of American Indian Heritage Month

November 1st-7th: Ageless Eyecare Visits

November 2nd: Dia De Los Muertos Celebration

November 3rd: PTC Sign-ups Launch

November 8th: Election Day (GLA closed), **NO CLASSES**

November 9th: Picture Retake Day

November 11th: 6-8th Grade Field Trip

November 11th: 3rd-5th Grade Field Trip to Gizmo Fun Factory

November 14th-18th: GLA Week of Gratitude

November 17th: PTC Sign-ups close

November 21st: Parent Teacher Conferences (*Virtual*), **NO CLASSES**

November 22nd-25th: GLA Closed, **NO CLASSES**

## October 31st - November 25th, 2022

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                             | Thursday  | Friday   |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 31  | 1<br>Ageless Eyecare Visit<br>Start of Native American Heritage Month | 2<br>Dia De Los Muertos Celebration   | 3<br>Ageless Eyecare Visit<br>PTC Sign-ups Launch | 4<br>Ageless Eyecare Visit   |
| 7<br>Ageless Eyecare Visit  | 8<br>Election Day<br><i>GLA Closed</i><br><b>No Classes</b>           | 9<br>Picture Retake Day               | 10  | 11<br>6-8th Field Trip<br>To Movie Theater<br>3rd-5th Field Trip<br>To Gizmo Fun Factory |
| 14<br>GLA Week of Gratitude   | 15<br>GLA Week of Gratitude   | 16<br>GLA Week of Gratitude           | 17<br>GLA Week of Gratitude<br>PTC Sign-ups Close | 18<br>GLA Week of Gratitude  |
| 21<br>Parent Teacher Conferences<br><i>(virtual)</i><br><b>No Classes</b> | 22<br>GLA Closed<br><b>No Classes</b>                                 | 23<br>GLA Closed<br><b>No Classes</b> | 24<br>GLA Closed<br><b>No Classes</b>             | 25<br>GLA Closed<br><b>No Classes</b>  |

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