



Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

November 7th, 2022

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Since its founding, Great Lakes Academy has been a school with a tight focus on the academic development of students. Through the pandemic, it was challenging to assess the impact of instruction on the academic development of students. We know nationally that students lost ground in reading and mathematics, and this loss was greater for students who spent a large portion of that time learning virtually. According to the national data, students have recovered some of that learning loss but are still behind.

In the last year, we have been collecting and receiving data that has made it clearer where our students are academically and how we are doing compared to other schools in the City of Chicago and across the state. A week and a half ago, the state of Illinois officially released the results of the Illinois Report Card. This report publicly displays many metrics that are important for schools. Included in these are the results from the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, a test for 3rd-8th graders that measures English and Math proficiency on grade level standards.

There are a couple highlights I want to share:

- GLA has a higher percentage of students who are “Meeting” or “Exceeding” standards in **English Language Arts** than **55 out of 65** elementary charter schools in Chicago
- GLA has a higher percentage of students who are “Meeting” or “Exceeding” standards in **Math** than **61 out of 65** elementary charter schools in Chicago
- GLA is outperforming every elementary school within South Chicago and South Shore in **English Language Arts** except one
- GLA is outperforming every elementary school within South Chicago and South Shore in **Math**

And we believe that this is not good enough. Our students can do better and they deserve better. We have a staff that knows this and is working hard to continue improving the academic achievement levels of our students. Our early data from this year is promising. We believe our students are continuing to accelerate academically and that next year we will be reporting even better news about the achievement of our students!



Principal Miller

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder of School Closures/Openings this Week!

- GLA is **closed tomorrow**, November 8th
- GLA is **open this Friday**, November 11th

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. This event will be an opportunity to learn more about what is happening at GLA, get questions answered, and meet other members of the school community. 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.

Panorama Student Survey

This year, GLA will be administering a student survey to collect data that will measure our scholars' overall well-being, sense of belonging, and feelings they experience in their classrooms at school. The survey will be given to 3rd-8th grade classrooms on Wed, Nov 9th. The data collected will be analyzed by teachers and staff in hopes that we are able to use student voices to provoke change and better identify and address the social and emotional needs of our community to better prepare them for the future of their choice.

*Este año, GLA administrará una encuesta estudiantil para recopilar datos que medirán el bienestar general, el sentido de pertenencia y los sentimientos que experimentan en sus salones en la escuela. La encuesta se entregará a los salones de los grados 3 a 8 el miércoles 9 de noviembre. Los maestros y el personal analizarán los datos recopilados con la esperanza de que podamos usar las voces de los estudiantes para poder hacer cambios e identificar y abordar mejor las necesidades sociales y emocionales de nuestra comunidad para prepararlos mejor para el futuro de su elección.

Academic Intervention

Intervention groups have started or will start this week for the following groups based on our first round of Interim data. Students that were selected for these groups have received a letter from an Instructional Coach. If your child is receiving intervention you will receive an invite for a meeting during parent Teacher conferences day. Below you will find the grades, content and coach leading Intervention groups.

- 1st-4th Literacy Intervention
 - Ms. Smoot- LS Literacy Coach
 - Data used: STEP assessment
 - K-4 students also receive Tier 2 intervention daily through Guided Reading groups with their literacy Teachers
- 5th -8th Literacy
 - Ms. Corya- MS Literacy Coach
 - Data used: Anet Assessment
- 5th-8th Math
 - Ms. Whaley - MS Math Coach

- Data used: IA Assessment

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!

8th Grade High School Application Deadline

December 2nd in the application deadline for all 8th graders. If you have not logged into CoGPS or need assistance, please email Mr. Muhammad, mmuhammad@glachicago.org

Title I Meeting

GLA's annual Title I meeting will be held at the start of the Principal's Town Hall (5:30pm on Wednesday, November 9th). 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 - Closes 11/17

Parent teacher conferences will be held virtually on Monday, November 21st. Sign-ups launched last week and will close Thursday, November 17th. Please contact the front office if you did not receive the text with your scholar's sign-up link (each homeroom has a unique link).

Picture Retakes Wednesday (only for students who missed original picture day)

Picture day retakes will be this Wednesday, November 9th. Picture day retakes are only for students who were absent on October 25th, and did not have an opportunity to take a photo. If your scholar was listed as absent on the 25th, **you should have received communication this morning** that they are able to dress out of uniform and have their photo taken Wednesday (they will be given a dress down pass). If you did not receive this communication, your student is not permitted to dress out of uniform or have their photo retaken. Questions? Contact the front office at 773-530-3040.

Possip Feedback

Hi, GREAT LAKES ACADEMY Community!

Thank you for sharing ideas through Possip this week! We've heard from 204 of you during the course of the year. We are seeing that 94% of you are happy or mostly happy with GREAT LAKES ACADEMY this week.

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

- Praise for the staff and administration and their positive attitude
- Appreciation for the good communication and organization
- Concerns about bullying, school safety, and safety within the carline
- Feedback about prompt communication, school schedule, and after-school care
- Feedback about communication around attendance
- Question about enrichment

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!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- Stephanie Beck, to enroll today!

Winter Athletics

As we are excited to roll out our winter 5th-8th grade sports please note they will begin Nov. 7th and run through January 17th!

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Titus Perez, tperez@glachicago.org

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.**

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 <http://picture-day.hhimagehost.com/gla>. Orders must be placed by picture retake day, Wednesday, November 9th.

Breakfast and Lunch Menu:

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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

November 7th: Winter Sports Begin

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**

November 28th: Trimester 2 Begins

November 28th: Hearing and Vision Tests for Diverse Learners

December 2nd: Parent Access to Book Fair (2:30-4:00 pm)

November 7th - December 2nd, 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 Winter Sports Begins	8 Election Day <i>GLA Closed</i> No Classes	9 Picture Retake Day	10 Girls on the Run 5k	11 Veteran's Day 6-8th Field Trip To Movie Theater 3rd-5th Field Trip To Gizmo Fun Factory
14 GLA Week of Gratitude	15 GLA Week of Gratitude	16 GLA Week of Gratitude	17 GLA Week of Gratitude PTC Sign-ups Close	18 GLA Week of Gratitude Trimester 1 Ends
21 Parent Teacher Conferences <i>(virtual)</i> No Classes	22 GLA Closed No Classes	23 GLA Closed No Classes	24 GLA Closed No Classes	25 GLA Closed No Classes
28 Trimester 2 Begins Hearing and Vision Tests for Diverse Learners	29	30	1	2 Book Fair <i>Parent Access Day</i> 2:30-4:00 pm

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