



## Weekly GLA Family Newsletter

March 28, 2023

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

A couple weeks ago my message included content about the emerging research on how screen time and social media use is affecting the development of children and teens. In conversations with parents, our leadership team is finding that many parents are unaware of some of the activities their children are engaging in online. Parents have identified it as a major area of concern for them and one of the greatest challenges of parenting in 2023.

As a parent of a preschooler, I empathize with each of you. Supervision as a parent was hard enough before smartphones put the online world at all of our fingertips. Now our children have access to people and things online that are extraordinarily difficult to monitor. Humans are built to be social and emotionally connected and accountable to each other. The veil of the internet provides a degree of separation from connection and accountability to others that leads many people to behave in ways they would not in an in-person social setting. Children, who are still developing executive functioning skills, are especially vulnerable to temptation online and susceptible to engaging with others in inappropriate ways (e.g. conflict, bullying, sexually).

Whether your child has a smartphone or other device, it is important that parents take steps to limit and monitor the internet and social media use of their child(ren). Compared to a decade ago, I am astounded at the number of discipline issues our school's staff and administration deal with that have a direct or indirect connection to students' online activities *outside of school*. Whether it is a younger student mimicking behavior they have seen in a Tik Tok video or a group of middle school students having conflict over a group chat from the weekend, dealing with behavior related to unmonitored online activity has occupied more time of school staff than we would like.

We need your support, and more importantly, your child needs your support. Please consider how you are monitoring your child's activity at home. I have included a couple resources that show how you can set parent controls on devices at home:

[Parent Controls - iPhone and iPad](#)

[Parent Controls - Android](#)

[Cyber Safety for Children by Cyber Fareedah](#)

We all have a responsibility to make the world (digital or not) a safer place physically and emotionally for our kids.

## **Trimester 2: Blue & Gold Scholars**

This trimester has gotten off to a magnificent start in which the culture team has worked really hard to implement incentive programs for our scholars showcasing GLA's core values consistently. We rolled out the Blue & Gold scholar incentive program during Trimester 1 in which that list consisted of 48 scholars. These scholars have become exemplary students by upholding their expectations and soaring academically. So without further or due the team would like to congratulate the following scholars that have become Blue & Gold scholars for Trimester 2.

## **Trimester 2: Blue & Gold Scholar Inductees**

Raphael D. Ash	Takhya D. Gray	Maximiliano Pena
Jada E. Atkins	Jazlyn M. Harvey	Alant'e Petty
Dorian L. Baltimore	Justin Ibrahim	James Pickett
Karis Banner	Elijah J. Johnson	Kimberly Ramirez Negrete
Marcel D. Bowles	Mia P. Jones	Matthew M. Ramirez
David R. Cross	Tracy J. Joseph	Yaneli Ramirez
Kayla Dabel	Therry Juste	Ismael Reyna
Angel B. De la Cruz	Robyn Lee	D'Amari Rias
Johan A. De La Cruz	Kaylee K. Lennett	Kara A. Romero
Elizabeth Earley	Nathan I. Martinez	Ryan E. Short
Titilayo A. Ebietomiye	Corinne Woodford	Ja'Niya Stacker
Janely Espinoza	Genesis Z. McClinton	Charles E. Stewart
Samuel Espinoza	Mal'Akhi McCollough	Jaxon Stewart
Makayla Evans	Ronald Morris	Justin Stewart
Madison Ford	Imani S. Muhammad	Rashaun Stowers
Kameron S. Williams	Hally Ritch Dustin Noel	Abygaelle E. Supre
Maysen Ford	Isreal O. Olaniregun	Deangelo Torres
Melody Ford	Teniola E. Owoade	Abigail Valdivia
Alexandria A. Frazier	Christopher Patlan	Rodrigo Valdivia
Anyce Graham	Samantha Patlan	Jamaya Williams
Natalie Granda	Priscilla Pean	



Principal Miller

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Reminder: Spring Break Next Week (4/3-4/7)**

**GLA will be closed for spring break from Monday, April 3rd through Friday, April 7th.** Classes will resume on Monday April 10th.

With spring break right around the corner, Chicago Public Schools shared these recreational opportunities and resources, please click [HERE](#). You can also visit [cps.edu/springbreak](https://cps.edu/springbreak) for more. We hope you have a safe and healthy spring break, and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday, April 10th!

### **FREE White Sox Tickets for CPS Families**

CPS is partnering with the Chicago White Sox to offer free tickets for staff and families during the District's Spring Break on Wednesday, April 5, and Thursday, April 6. Those interested in reserving tickets **must complete the form at [whitesox.com/cps](https://whitesox.com/cps) by noon on Wednesday, March 29.** Other details you should know:

- Both games start at 1:10 p.m. The White Sox will be playing the San Francisco Giants.
- The White Sox play at Guaranteed Rate Field located at 333 W. 35th St, Chicago, IL

60616.

- This offer provides up to four tickets for each CPS family, with a limit of one submission per household.
- Tickets can only be redeemed on the day of the game at the ticket windows near Gate 5 at Guaranteed Rate Field. A valid CPS ID (or state ID or driver's license displaying a Chicago residence) must be provided to receive the tickets.
- More information about parking can be found at [whitesox.com/parking](http://whitesox.com/parking).

If you have any questions, please visit [whitesox.com/cps](http://whitesox.com/cps). We hope you have a safe and enjoyable spring break from Monday, April 3, through Friday, April 7.

### **Reclaiming Minds Therapy and Wellness**

GLA has begun a new partnership with Reclaiming Minds Therapy and Wellness to offer a series of workshops for our school parents and guardians only. The workshop will include subject matters around parenting with special challenges, financial stability, problem solving, goal setting and more.

GLA will offer these workshops every Saturday from April 29th-May 20th from 10:00-12:00 pm.

Please RSVP here: [GLA Brunch and Learn](#)

 **SCHOOL OF CARE PRESENTS**

# **BRUNCH & LEARN**

## **PARENT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES**

Great Lakes Academy has partnered with Reclaiming Minds Therapy & Wellness to offer a series of workshops to support families with topics such as:

- Cultural Perspectives on Parenting
- Parenting with Special Challenges
- Exploring Childrearing Strategies
- Financial Stability and Family Well-being
- Guiding, Nurturing, and Motivating Children
- Problem Solving & Goal Setting
- Improving Communication

**Date:** Every Saturday, April 29 - May 20  
**Time:** 10am - 12pm  
**Location:** 8401 S Saginaw Ave, Chicago, IL 60617  
**RSVP:** 773-530-3040 or [tinyurl.com/glabrunchandlearn](http://tinyurl.com/glabrunchandlearn)

**Please Note:** These workshops are for parents/guardians of GLA scholars only. Onsite childcare will be available. Brunch will be provided.

## **TONIGHT: GLA Open House for New Staff and Students**

Do you have anyone in your circle with elementary school aged children? If so, invite them to attend our Open House **tonight from 5:15-6:15 pm** to meet with leadership, take a tour of our facility, and learn more about enrolling their student at GLA!

Also, to apply for next school year, you can direct families to the application link on the homepage of our website: [www.glachicago.org](http://www.glachicago.org) or have them call our front office for more information (773-530-3040).



# **FUTURE BEACONS OPEN HOUSE**

**FOR TEACHER & STUDENT RECRUITMENT**

**MEET GLA'S  
PRINCIPAL AND  
STAFF**

**TOUR GLA'S  
AWARD-WINNING  
FACILITY**

**LEARN ABOUT GLA'S  
ENRICHMENT &  
ATHLETIC  
PROGRAMMING**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28TH | 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM**

**8401 S SAGINAW AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60617**



### **Lab Study Opportunity**

The Neurodevelopmental Disability Lab at Northwestern University is recruiting participants for an exciting study! The lab studies language abilities and related skills in children (ages 6 and up) with autism spectrum disorder, fragile X syndrome, and their families. Participation in the study involves playing games, solving puzzles, telling stories, and making and listening to different sounds. You will be compensated for your time and mileage. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to become involved in science! *If you are interested in participating, please contact the study staff at [familystudy@northwestern.edu](mailto:familystudy@northwestern.edu).*



### **Six Flags Field Trip 6th & 7th Grade**

On Thursday, June 8th our 6th & 7th graders will be attending Six Flags of Great America for our Trimester 3 field trip. **Beginning Monday 26th, this stipulations will go**

into full effect for scholars to be able to attend:

- 5 or less Absences
- 85% Homework Completion
- 2 or Less uniform Infractions
- 2 or Less Referrals
- 4 or Less Resets
- No Physical Incidents

### **Spring Ball, 5th-8th Grade**

On Friday, May 12th at 5:30 pm we will be hosting a 5th-8th Spring Ball here at Great Lakes Academy. **Beginning Monday, April 10th, these stipulations will go into effect to be able to attend:**

- No more than 1 referral
- No more than 3 resets
- 90% attendance
- No physical or verbal altercations

Please help in assisting us in getting as many scholars as possible to this event!

If your scholar is no longer eligible, you will receive a call from the Behavior Team.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **After-School “Anchor” Programming**

All T3 billing has been sent out to emails on file and are due by Friday, March 31st.

T3 Programs will run from Monday, March 20th to Thursday, June 1st from 3:15-5:00 pm.

Reach out to, [sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org) - Stephanie Beck, with any questions!

### **GLA Summer Programming**

The GLA Summer Program will run from June 26th to July 21st. All programming will take place Monday-Friday (exception July 3rd-4th - building closed for holiday).

June					July				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
					3	4	5	6	7
12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14
19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21
26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28

\*Dates in yellow are program dates

\*\*July 3rd and 4th there is no programming - GLA CLOSED

There will be three different programs offered for students:

- AM Academic Support
- AM and PM Enrichment Camp
- Professional Theater and Dance Youth Academy (PTDYA) Summer Camp

### **AM Academic Support (8:30am-12:00pm)**

This program is **only** for students required to take summer school for promotion. The school’s administration will notify families if students are required to take summer school.

Doors will open for breakfast at 8am. Lunch will be served at 12pm. The cost is \$150.

Students required to take AM Academic Support classes may opt-in for PM Enrichment

Camp. The cost for PM Enrichment Camp is an additional \$150.

### **AM/PM Enrichment Camp (8:30 am - 4:00 pm)**

This program is open to all interested K-7th grade students on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors will open for breakfast at 8 am. Lunch will be served at 12 pm. Programming ends at 4 pm. The cost for AM/PM Enrichment Camp is \$300.

### **PTDYA Summer Camp (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)**

This program is open to 4th-7th graders who are interested in music and theater. Participants will be rehearsing for an end of program performance that will take place on July 21st at GLA. Lunch will be served at 12 pm. The cost for PTDYA Summer Camp is \$400.

Please sign up [HERE!](#)

### **8th Grade Upcoming Important Dates**

Cap and gown invoices will be sent via email. The invoice will be \$20. All measurements have already been done during the school day. Students are able to design their cap with school appropriate creativity, if wanted.

For the graduation ceremony, four (4) tickets will be provided for each family, not including the graduating scholar. For the Awards Dinner, four (4) tickets total, including the scholar, will be provided.

### **Dates to Mark Down:**

Friday, May 5th - 8th Grade Graduation Photos (during the school day)

Friday, May 19th - Cap and Gown Invoices Due

Friday, May 26th - High School Selection Day at 9:00 am

Wednesday, May 31st - Saturday, June 3rd - Washington D.C. trip

Tuesday, June 6th - 8th Grade Awards Dinner at 5:00 pm

Friday, June 9th - 8th Grade Graduation at 4:00 pm

Please reach out to Stephanie Beck, [sbeck@glachicago.org](mailto:sbeck@glachicago.org), if you have any questions!

### **2023-24 School Year: Intent to Return Form due 3/31**

To help us plan our enrollment for the 2023-24 school year, **please confirm if your scholar will be returning to Great Lakes Academy next year by filling out and returning the Intent to Return Form** (sent home with your scholar or [click here](#)). Families can send completed forms to school with their scholar or can email them to [info@glachicago.org](mailto:info@glachicago.org). Please fill out one form per scholar **no later than March 31st**.

### **GLA Annual Fee**

Each year, GLA families pay an annual fee for each scholar enrolled. This nonrefundable fee covers a small portion of a variety of individual online learning platforms for your child, along with supply needs.

This year, the fee of \$90 per student is due by August 11th, 2023, but can be paid now by visiting our website (<https://glachicago.org/supplyandtechfee>) or calling the front office (these are the only two methods in which the fee may be paid).

## **Spring Sport Sign-Ups**

Spring sports began Monday, February 27th and will conclude on Thursday, April 20th.

Please contact Titus Perez, [tperez@glachicago.org](mailto:tperez@glachicago.org) if you have any questions.

## **Before School “On Deck” Programming**

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!

## **GLA Parent Swag!**

Great Lakes Academy new parent swag is still available for purchase. Sizes range from men's 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!

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.*

## **Breakfast and Lunch Menu:**

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

# **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

March 28th: Power Parent Meeting (5:00-6:00 pm, at GLA)

March 28th-31st: IAR Testing

March 28th: Recruitment Open House (*for potential new staff and students*)

March 31st: Intent to Return Form due

April: Month of Kindness and Autism Awareness Month

April 3rd-7th: **Spring Break, School Closed**

April 12th: Monthly Parent Townhall (5:30-6:30 pm at GLA)

April 20th: 2023-24 Lottery

April 21st: Art Show

## March 27th- April 21st, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28 IAR Testing Recruitment Open House <i>5:15-6:15 pm at GLA</i> Power Parent Meeting <i>5:00-6:00 pm at GLA</i>	29 IAR Testing	30 IAR Testing	31 IAR Testing Intent to Return Form <b>Due</b>
3 Spring Break School Closed	4 Spring Break School Closed	5 Spring Break School Closed	6 Spring Break School Closed	7 Spring Break School Closed
10 Month of Kindness Begins Autism Awareness Month	11	12 Monthly Parent Townhall <i>5:30-6:30 pm at GLA</i>	13	14
17	18	19	20 2023-24 Lottery	21 Art Show

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