



PARENT GUIDE *2026*



**Great Lakes
Adventist Academy**



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INTRODUCTION

We are incredibly grateful and honored that you have chosen Great Lakes Adventist Academy to partner with you, the parent, in training up your child in the way he/she should go, hoping and trusting in the promise found in Proverbs 22:6 which assures us that when your child is older, he/she will not depart from our teaching. We are humbled by your trust, and we are committed to doing our very best in providing your child with a well-rounded educational experience that prepares him/her spiritually, emotionally, academically, and socially to tackle life's challenges and be a successful citizen of earth and heaven.

This Parent Guide serves as a companion to the Student Handbook. It covers practical, everyday topics that may not be included in the policies found in the Student Handbook. We trust that you will find it to be a practical quick guide as you navigate the various nuances of GLAA life.

-Mr. Delwin Garcia, Principal



1. COMMUNICATION



Communication is the key to any good relationship. So, call your children often. Ask them about their day. Ask them about their friends. And remember, “a child seldom needs a good talking to as a good listening to” (Robert Brault). Be patient with your adolescent. They are discovering who they are. They’re also discovering how to communicate their emotions and experiences effectively. So be engaged. Listen. And don’t take their attitude or mood swings personally. Your teen just needs you to be there for them, judgment-free. They want to be seen and heard by you. Oh, and you can communicate with the staff, too.

BUT *how* CAN WE COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER ?

Ladies’ Dorm Main	(989) 427-2431	Men’s Dorm Main	(989) 427-2435
Dean Linda Office	(989) 427-2429	Dean Sheridan Office	(989) 427-2436
Dean Glenn Office	(989) 427-2428	Dean Warren Office	(989) 427-2437



Did you know you can also communicate with your dorm student via Google Meet? There are limited devices for use in each dorm for video conferencing, so have your child reserve a time slot.



Additionally, our faculty and staff are available, too! You will find all of our contact info below:

name	role	e-mail	office number	cell number
Pr. Jeff Akenberger	Chaplain & Religion 1 & 4 Teacher	jakenberger@glaa.net	989- 427-2416	989-385-0100
Stephanie Akenberger	Registrar, Admin Assistant	sakenberger@glaa.net	989-427-2402	810-265-3591
Torie Benson	Math Teacher	tbenson@glaa.net	989-427-2415	602-513-6896
Benjamin Bodinet	Bus Mechanic	bbodinet@glaa.net	989-427-2499	630-235-9845
David Carter	Science, Auto, Welding Teacher	dcarter@glaa.net	989-427-2424	989-565-0020
Gina Carter	School Nurse	gcarter@glaa.net	989-427-2481	989-565-0217
Delwin Garcia	Principal	dgarcia@glaa.net	989-427-2401	616-212-9130
Lisa Garcia	Business Office	lgarcia@glaa.net	989-427-2405	616-835-7394
Todd Gardner	IT Director, Tech Teacher	tgardner@glaa.net	989-427-2414	517-896-2183
Tina Glenn	Assistant Dean	tglenn@glaa.net	989-427-2428	586-246-3441
Christianna Greene	Choir Sponsor	cgreene@glaa.net	989-427-2411	740-398-2935
Linda Johnson	Head Dean	ljohnson@glaa.net	989-427-2429	608-346-3165
Olivia Jordan	Math and Religion 2 & 3 Teacher	ojordan@glaa.net	989-427-2417	720-818-3752
Melissa Nelson	Food Services Supervisor	mnelson@glaa.net	989-427-2441	989-304-6642
Dinah Norcross	Spanish Teacher	dnorcross@glaa.net	989-427-2424	989-330-1471
Kassie Norcross	Business Manager, Personal Finance Teacher	knorcross@glaa.net	989-427-2407	989-304-5028
Kevin Norcross	Plant Services Director	kenorcross@glaa.net	989-427-2426	989-565-0023
Matthew Price	History Teacher, Gymnastics Coach	mprice@glaa.net	989-427-2444	616-402-7145
Brittany Rasmussen	English & History Teacher, Academic Support	brasmussen@glaa.net	989-427-2419	906-241-2277
Kristii Rasmussen	English, Life Skills, & Strings Teacher	krasmussen@glaa.net	989-427-2422	989-763-4825
Tim Rasmussen	Computer Apps, Life Skills, Psychology, & Band Teacher	trasmussen@glaa.net	989-427-2413	989-763-4215
Erica Reisinger	Food Services Supervisor	ereisinger@glaa.net	989-427-2441	717-599-9810
Steve Rogers	Plant Services	srogers@glaa.net	989-427-2426	989-814-0750
Michael Sandvik	Choir, PE, & Health Teacher	msandvik@glaa.net	989-427-2409	269-235-5445
Dale Sheridan	Head Dean	dsheridan@glaa.net	989-427-2436	616-638-2346
Amy Voss	Business Office	avoss@glaa.net	989-427-2406	989-304-1993
Beth Wallace	Advancement Director	bwallace@glaa.net	989-427-2420	614-893-8325
Michele Ward	Food Services Director	mward@glaa.net	989-427-2441	989-304-1318
Joshua Warren	Assistant Dean	jwarren@glaa.net	989-427-2437	478-251-2684
Julianna Warren	Yearbook, Photo	juwarren@glaa.net	989-427-2403	740-396-9379
Lilly Widdicombe	Science & Math Teacher	lwiddicombe@glaa.net	989-427-2423	517-896-4740



2. ADDRESSES (YES, MORE THAN ONE 🙄)

You would think that **ONE** place would have **ONE** address. Oh, if it was only that simple in rural Michigan! So, we have included the various addresses below.



Mailing Address:

Student's Name
P.O. Box 68
Cedar Lake, MI 48812



Shipping (i.e. UPS, Amazon, FedEx, Target)

Student's Name
7477 Academy Rd./P.O. Box 68
Cedar Lake, MI 4881 2



If your vendor does not deliver to the addresses above, try this address as a last resort:

Student's Name
7477 Academy Rd.
Edmore, MI 48829



Third-party, Same-day Delivery (i.e. DoorDash,

Walmart, etc.) **Please remove required codes/PINs for delivery*

Student's Name
South Hall (Ladies Dorm)
7249 Academy Rd.
Edmore, MI 48829

Student's Name
North Hall (Men's Dorm)
7401 Academy Rd.
Edmore, MI 48829



3. TRANSPORTATION

Many of our students use the home leave transportation services made available by the school. Here is the inside scoop on these services:

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

We only transport students to/from the Grand Rapids (GRR) and Lansing (LAN) airports. Our staff serve as “Uber” drivers for our students, so please understand that we are not available to transport your child to other airports. Also, please keep our staff in mind when choosing flight times. You may contact Mr. Garcia with any flight-related questions.

Please email or text your child’s flight itinerary to Mr. Garcia as soon as possible. Remember that you will often find more inexpensive flights with earlier bookings, especially for holiday flights.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

We transport students to the Upper Peninsula, Chicago, and Norwalk, Ohio with stops along the way. A detailed bus schedule with bus stops, times, cost, etc. may be found at www.glaa.net/parents/bus-schedule/ . Students may sign up for bus transportation at school. There will be many opportunities announced and available to do so.

Please note that all transportation charges will be billed to your student’s account.



4. CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Great Lakes Adventist Academy is one big, happy family. Well, at least most of the time. Like with any family, we experience drama from time to time. We live, worship, study, eat, and play in close proximity to one another, and inevitably, conflicts will arise. When your child is involved with a conflict with another student or with a staff member, parents' natural urge is to step in. But we encourage you to follow these steps:

1. **STOP! TAKE A DEEP BREATH. CALM DOWN.**

Let the papa or mama bear within you simmer for a few moments.



2. **ASSESS THE SITUATION.** If the conflict is serious (i.e. bullying, harassment, seriously inappropriate behavior), then please contact the dean or school administration immediately. If the conflict involves a difference of opinion, a misunderstanding, miscommunication, or frustration, encourage your student to take the appropriate first steps towards resolution. When a parent immediately intervenes, your child learns to call you instead of taking appropriate, problem-solving steps. As your teen continues to mature into the adulthood, they will need to develop conflict management skills independent of your input.



3. **CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE PERSON.** If it becomes clear that your child is unable to arrive at a resolution, parents should then contact the GLAA staff that is most directly involved. For example, if it is a dorm issue, contact the dean. If it is a class issue, contact the teacher. Finally, if these conversations don't bring about resolution, then feel free to contact one of our school administrators.





5. PARENT ACCOMMODATIONS



*Are there places
to stay when I
visit GLAA?*

Many parents will visit GLAA throughout the year and wonder if the school has accommodations. Unfortunately, GLAA does not have any available accommodations, but we recommend the following:

- **Michigan Conference Campground** (989) 427-4126: Inexpensive, simple accommodations open annually April – October.
- **Local Airbnb/Vrbo**: Believe it or not, there are several little cottages and lake houses not too far from campus. This is a pricier option, but there may be some savings if you share the place with another visiting family.
- **Local Hotels**: The only hotel near campus is The Edmore Inn. It will provide basic (and somewhat overpriced) hotel accommodations. You may want to stay in Mount Pleasant (30 min drive) for more trusted hotel brands.



6. HOW CAN I CHECK IN ON MY CHILD?

We have already shared how to communicate with your child, but feel free to check in on them by calling, asking appropriate and meaningful questions about their academy experience, and by taking genuine interest in their GLAA life.

Another way to check in on your child is by ensuring that they are showing up to class on time, doing their work, staying out of trouble at school, and finding academic success in their classes. There is a one-stop solution accessible at your fingertips: *FACTS* School Information System (SIS). You will find step-by-step registration instructions on our website at <https://glaa.net/parents/facts-sis/>.

This is a **MUST** for involved parents, and every parent should be involved!

7. HOW DO I MAKE A PAYMENT AND WHAT IS MY \$\$\$ BALANCE?

By now, Mrs. Norcross has already helped you create a financial plan. If not, what are you waiting for? Pick up the phone and call her!

You know your monthly payment amount, but there are a few extra charges that aren't included in your monthly payments. Extra charges like trips (i.e. class trip, ski trip), uniform charges (i.e. uniform hoodies), or touring group charges (i.e. Aeros, music) may not be added to your account. However, some charges will. These include home leave transportation and bookstore charges.

You will also want to make sure that your child is doing their part in showing up to work and putting in the hours necessary to meet their earnings goal for the year.

You will receive a monthly statement from the school, but feel free to reach out to the business office if you have any questions. You may make a payment online at glaa.net/parents/make-a-payment/.



8. MY CHILD GOT HURT AT SCHOOL. NOW WHAT?



What a blessing to have a school nurse with decades of experience! Nurse Carter will attend to your child's injuries and provide care when appropriate and within her scope as a school nurse. However, there may be times when students need to be seen by medical professionals outside of Nurse Carter's scope such as at the urgent care, emergency department, or specialist. If your child sustained an injury while at school, your medical insurance is considered the primary insurance carrier. The school's accident insurance will supplement your primary insurance as a secondary carrier so you shouldn't have out-of-pocket expenses. Mrs. Garcia from the Business Office will contact you after an injury that requires outside medical care to help you navigate the paperwork process.

9. MY CHILD NEEDS TO BE EXCUSED FROM SCHOOL

From time to time, your child will need to miss classes and work to meet an appointment/event that cannot be scheduled over a home leave. Examples of these appointments/events are hard-to-schedule medical appointments, weddings, funerals, or graduations. You and/or your child may request that these absences be excused by submitting an Administrative Committee Request Form at least a week in advance of the event. The Administrative Committee meets weekly to review these requests, and Mr. Garcia will communicate the committee's decision in a timely fashion.

EXCUSED
ABSENCES 



10. WHAT IS GOING ON?

Want to stay informed? Make sure to log in to *FACTS* on a regular basis. The school will automatically email you when your child receives an unexcused tardy or absence, and you will receive weekly grade reports, but you may want to take a glance from time to time. There are other ways to stay “in the know”. We recommend that you link the school calendar (glaa.net/parents/calendar/) to your personal calendar. We also recommend checking out *theWeekender* (glaa.net/parents/weekender) to know what’s going on at GLAA every weekend. Finally, please make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and you can check out most of our events as they are live-streamed on our Facebook page and/or YouTube channel.



STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?



NO PROBLEM.

*Feel free to contact us as we are happy to answer
any questions that you may have.*

Once again, **THANK YOU** for trusting us with the care of your children.