

GARDNERTOWN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY NEWS LETTER



MARCH 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear GLA families,

We have made it to the end of a very tumultuous winter season. The snow has melted, and we are relieved. On March 8, 2026, we changed our clocks ahead, and temperatures soared into the 70's, giving us a sneak peek of the highly anticipated Spring. As the weather normalizes into the spring, I wanted to send out a few reminders to go over with our Leaders (students).

Attendance in School is *extremely* important for academic success. Your Leader's teacher and the school should be notified when absenteeism occurs. An accompanying letter should be sent in upon your Leader's return or emailed to glacares@necsd.net.

Any absence during the school day is an absence. Please be mindful of signing your Leader out before the end of the day.

Attendance Matters!

School Buses are an extension of the School. Please speak to your Leader specifically about Bus Safety.

Appropriate Dress - We ask you to send your school with the appropriate attire.

Lastly, we are on the precipice of our **NYS State Assessments** testing season. Here is a brief overview of the assessments.

Sincerely,

Principal Dottin



UPCOMING EVENTS



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

MARCH 2ND - MARCH 6TH



GLA BUILDING SPELLING BEES

MARCH 5TH & MARCH 6TH



LITERACY NIGHT - 6PM

MARCH 11TH



UP IN ARMS ASSEMBLY

MARCH 19TH



SOARING LEADERS ASSEMBLY

MARCH 26TH

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NYS STATE ASSESSMENTS

NYS ELA TEST Grades 3-8

Measures students' ability to read grade-level texts, understand what they read, and use evidence to explain their thinking in writing.

NYS MATH TEST Grades 3-8

Measures students' understanding of math concepts and their ability to apply skills, solve problems, and explain mathematical reasoning.

NYS SCIENCE TEST Grades 5 & 8

Measures students' ability to apply scientific knowledge, analyze data, and use evidence to explain real-world scientific phenomena.

NYS NYSESLAT K-12

The New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) is designed to annually assess the English language proficiency of all English Language Learners (ELLs) enrolled in Grades K–12 in New York State schools.

You can find released State test questions on the New York State Education Department Website at [Past Grades 3-8 Tests](#). This site may be used to familiarize yourself with the content or to practice with the former questions used on the Assessments.

Please click on to learn more about the State assessments.

Resources:

[The Grades 3–8 New York State Assessments: What Parents Need to Know](#)

[Things every parent should know about student participation in statewide assessments under the Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#)

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Principal Dottin



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A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Gardnertown Families,

We would like to extend a sincere **thank you to our families and community members** who volunteered their time to participate in **Career Day at Gardnertown Leadership Academy**. Your willingness to share your careers, experiences, and knowledge with our students helped bring real-world learning into our classrooms. Our scholars were excited to learn about a wide range of professions and were inspired to think about their own future goals. We are grateful for the continued partnership of our families and community in helping our students **grow, lead, and achieve**.

Warmly,
Mrs. Claro
Assistant Principal



GLA EVENTS

**STUDENT LED DR. MLK JR.
ASSEMBLY**
(PHOTOS LINKED)



GLA CAREER DAY!
(PHOTOS LINKED)





GLA PPS Team:

Christopher Fassett, School Psychologist
 Kalie Santana, School Social Worker

As we continue through the school year, we are placing a special focus on strong school attendance. Every day matters! When students **grow** academically and socially, they build the confidence to **lead** in their classrooms and beyond—and it all begins when they **attend** school regularly.

Our school has been doing great so far this year, and we want to keep that trend going strong! Remember that missing even a few days per month can put a student at risk of Chronic Absenteeism, which is missing more than 10% of any school year. Steer clear of the risks chronic absenteeism has on academic growth by helping your student show up every day that they are healthy !

Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
92%	93%	92%	93%	94%	94%

Average Daily Attendance By Grade Level (as of 2/27/2026):

As the weather begins to warm up and the days get nicer, we want to avoid the “Spring Slide” - an average 5%-10% decline in attendance in the second half of the school year. Help us keep moving in the right direction with these few simple tips:

- **Establish a consistent routine** for bedtime and morning preparation.
- **Prepare the night before** by setting out clothes and packing backpacks.
- **Schedule appointments** outside of school hours when possible.
- **Stay connected**—if challenges arise, please reach out so we can support you.

Thank you for your partnership in helping your child **Grow**, **Lead**, and **Attend** at GLA!



 **OUR MARCH FOCUS: BRAVERY** 

This month, our school wide focus is on Women's History Month and the social emotional focus is on bravery.

