



January 31, 2025

---

## Message from the Principal

Hello KTA Families and Friends:

Next week is a busy week! Parent Teacher Conferences!

- Wednesday February 5 -- Student Dismissal at 12:15
- Thursday February 6 -- Student Dismissal at 12:15
- Friday February 7 -- Student Dismissal at 12:15

*If you haven't already signed up with a link provided by your child's teachers please do so ASAP!!*

This is such an important opportunity for you to meet with your teachers and discuss growth and progress and to set goals for the rest of this school year! Please be sure you note that there are **THREE EARLY RELEASE DAYS** in a row to allow for parent/teacher conferences to be scheduled each afternoon and evening. Be sure you have arrangements to pick up your children at these early times.

**NEXT WEEK** is also our **PTO BOOK FAIR!** We love our **BOOK FAIR!** So many wonderful titles at all price ranges to enhance reading for your child at all grade levels and interests. Later in this newsletter you have some more details...and you should have received the details to send in \$ for your child to purchase a book or two. **ALSO NOTE** that each teacher will have a **WISH LIST** if you would like to gift a book to your child's teacher and classroom. **100 percent of proceeds GO DIRECTLY BACK** to our **KTA LIBRARY** to enhance our collection with new books, with Arizona and National Award Winning titles!! Help us keep the library up to date! Thank you in advance for your support! **The BOOK FAIR is open late to coordinate with PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES!**

**SCHOOL QUALITY SURVEY COMING SOON!** All families will receive an email and a link soon to complete a **School Quality Survey for the Kyrene School District.** We value your input! Please take the time (15 min or less) to provide your ideas and comments and feedback on all aspects of our school and the Kyrene District overall. Thank you in advance!!

**DID YOU KNOW** that our Flag Football Team and Cheer Team are in full swing?! We are excited that our middle school students have these fun opportunities to engage in teams and sporting events and to represent KTA Tigers with **PRIDE** and **SCHOOL SPIRIT**!

**DID YOU KNOW** that our **STUDENT COUNCIL** is sponsoring a **HYGIENE DRIVE** to benefit the Kyrene Family Resource Center? Each grade level as a suggested item but ANY and ALL items are welcome! Bring your items to school now! **Thank you!**

**DID YOU KNOW** that registration is **NOW OPEN** for the 2025-2026 school year? Current KTA students are automatically carried over for the next school year. **PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS** and **FAMILY** and **NEIGHBORS** about KTA and how wonderful our school community is....all registration begins online and our office staff can help and support along the way. We have **SCHOOL TOURS** scheduled over the next few months as well.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

Marianne L. Lescher, Ph.D.

---

## **STUDENT ASSESSMENTS**

Beginning of the year district assessment reports have been posted to ParentVUE. Families are able to access the results through ParentVue in the documents section. Need help accessing the reports? ... [CLICK HERE](#) for directions with screenshots.

Need help understanding the reports or how to support your child? ... See the [family guide](#) for each assessment or reach out to your child's teacher.

Marianne L. Lescher, Ph.D.  
Principal, Kyrene Traditional Academy



**It's CHEER SEASON!**

**Here are two of our amazing cheerleaders!**

**GO TIGERS!**

**Ashlyn and Dominic show their TIGER PRIDE!**



Congratulations to these students who won the Lunch with Admin at the Fall Festival. Today they were treated to a special lunch from Chick-Fil-A, and ate lunch in the conference room with Dr. Lescher and Mrs. Sweeney.

## **SCHOOL QUALITY SURVEY**

It's almost time to share your voice!!! The annual Kyrene School Quality Survey for Families opens on Wednesday, February 5th. Your voice is critical to your children's education, the future of Kyrene School District, and Kyrene Traditional Academy. That's why we need to hear from you!!! Share feedback on academic preparation, student support, safety and behavior, family involvement, and school leadership in Kyrene. The results will inform targeted action plans each school develops annually to make sure our schools are places where every student can thrive. Parents should check their email for an invitation that will be send on February 5, or visit [kyrene.org/parentqs](https://kyrene.org/parentqs) to take the survey. The survey will be offered in English and Spanish. All responses are confidential and shared aggregated.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

**Create a Book Fair eWallet for cash-free shopping.**

Convenient and secure, eWallet lets your child choose books they want to read.

Plus, you can share your eWallet link so friends and family can help your child find even more to read. Unspent funds from a past Fair? To transfer them to this Fair, log in to your Scholastic account and create a new eWallet—then your previous balance will be available to transfer as an eGift Card.

When you fund an eWallet, you can also contribute to **Share the Fair**, the giving program that benefits kids in your school who need help buying new books.



Visit our school's Book Fair homepage to get started:  
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/cta>

Parents and Caregivers are invited to shop at the Book Fair while you are in the school for Spring Conferences! It is located in Room 13, you will take the 2nd hallway after entering the A door and go in the first room on the left. Check out the bulletin board outside of the room for teacher and staff wish lists before shopping!

Open during conference times:  
 February 5 12:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 February 6 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
 February 7 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## Scholastic Book Fair - February 3rd-7th

**We need volunteers!** Sign up for time slots to help us make the Book Fair possible using the following link: <https://evite.me/tvAKN5jVgE>

Classes will be shopping during the school day, see what day your class is signed up here:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VGxVvdX-hVPq4gAtV08M72lsJJxwigsuCUfYNgH8Gj0/edit?usp=sharing>

You can set up your family eWallet today to add funds to your student(s) account and even share our Book Fair with Family and Friends to support as well!

2025 KTA Book Fair

Link: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/cta>



What can you do on a sunny Saturday? Come and work in the S.L.U.G. garden!

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Come and weed, trim, rake, etc. Hours good for parent volunteer time and kids can come and work, too. Please wear closed-toe shoes and clothes to get dirty. See you in the S.L.U.G. garden, east side of school. Enter from Metro Blvd. Contact Ms. Randolph at [gardengal2019@gmail.com](mailto:gardengal2019@gmail.com) with any questions.



## Scents:

- Bubble Gum
- Strawberry Cheesecake
- Jelly Donut
- Blue Slushie
- Jolly Watermelon
- Rainbow Sherbet
- Pineapple Swirl
- Orange Soda
- S'Mores
- Black Cherry

<https://az-kyrene.intouchreceipting.com/>



Look up "Smencils" in the search bar.

**DEADLINE February 1**

## SMENCIL FUNDRAISER

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

Each Smencil you buy helps us make a difference for our Kyrene Family Resource Center and community.

Price: \$1.50

On-Line Orders Only!!!

Smencils will be delivered to classrooms in February.

No scent options!!! Smencils will be distributed randomly.

SPONSORED BY STUDENT COUNCIL TO SUPPORT OUR KYRENE RESOURCE CENTER  
Clean Communities, Donate today.

## Hygiene Drive

February 3rd-February 28th  
Bring the items to your classroom to add to your donation box.



Donation by Grade Level Band  
K-1: Bodywash  
2-3: Deodorant  
4-5: Toothpaste  
6-8: Shampoo and Conditioner  
(Doesn't have to be fancy)



Prizes For Homeroom/Advisory with the most donations  
1st place: Pizza Party  
2nd place: Free Dress Day  
3rd place: Donut Party



**DONATIONS ARE TO BE COLLECTED IN THE HOMEROOM/ADVISORY CLASS**

## HYGIENE DRIVE KTA Student Council

Proceeds will be donated to our Kyrene Family Resource Center

Prizes for the Homeroom/Advisory with the most donations!!!!



**It's Coming!**

**The 2025 KTA Variety Show!!**

**Starring....maybe you!**

Our annual Variety Show is a fun night of talent, food and fun! This year's date is Wednesday, April 16. We are looking for student acts for the show: music, magic, gymnastics, cheer, skits, dance—we've even had a yo-yo demonstration!

Audition information can be found by [clicking here](#). Permission slips due on February 13!!



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

Every 8th grade student needs a display for their Q3 AVID project.

We need donations of 48 x 36 tri fold poster board. Each donated board will support three students' displays.

Thank you for your consideration!!!!



**Monday, February 3**

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: MPR

Enter through the garden gates and go directly to the MPR.

Button



**LOST AND FOUND** will be on display during Student Conferences. Please be sure to visit the rack in the hallway while you are here. All items in Lost and Found will be donated to the Kyrene Family Resource Center after the completion of conferences.



## AVID SPIRIT DAY

Wednesday, February 5

*KTA is an AVID School. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It's an international program that focuses on building student's skills and characteristics for school, college and career success. KTA focuses on academic skills such as organization and note taking and also support students in developing skills in collaboration and teamwork. Every classroom uses AVID strategies for student success. To encourage even more attention on AVID, we have designated four, quarterly AVID SPIRIT DAYS. On AVID Spirit Days students and staff may wear College OR High School shirts along with jean bottoms (no rips or tears). If students want to dress up in a career oriented outfit to promote AVID skills, they MUST fill out the form in the front office, and turn it in to their homeroom and/or advisory teacher 1 day prior to the AVID Spirit Day.*

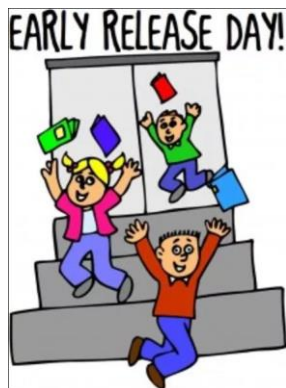


## DINE FOR KTA NIGHT

Tuesday, February 11 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Join KTA at Texas Roadhouse located by IKEA.  
8510 South Emerald Drive, Tempe

KTA PTO will earn 20% proceeds from the event. Dine in or Take-Out - just mention KTA when checking out. Go Tigers!!!!



## EXTRA EARLY RELEASE DAYS

February 6th & 7th

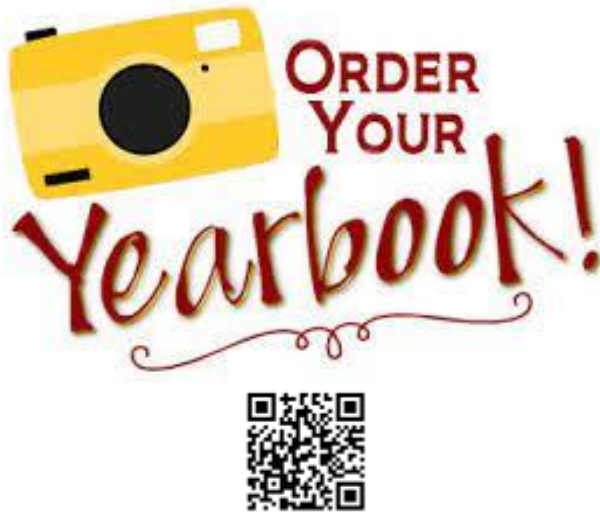
Students will be released at 12:15 (like a Wednesday) for Parent/Teacher conferences.



## SPIRIT DAY

Friday, February 14

Students are encouraged to wear red, pink, friendship day theme clothing. Jeans are permitted (no rips or tears).



## YEARBOOK ORDERS

Order forms coming home soon!

Deadline to order: April 1, 2025 (no exceptions)


Soft Cover: \$25

Hard Cover: \$35


Payment by cash or on-line!!!

<https://az-kyrene.intouchrecepting.com/>

### 8TH GRADE AD



https://yearbookordercenter.com/product/yearbook\_ads




Congratulate & Recognize your 8th Grade Student

8th Grade Ads

\$15

1/8" ad

Deadline: February 24



## 8th Grade Only Yearbook Ads

Parents - This is your opportunity to recognize and congratulate your 8th grade student.

You design your own ad. Only \$15

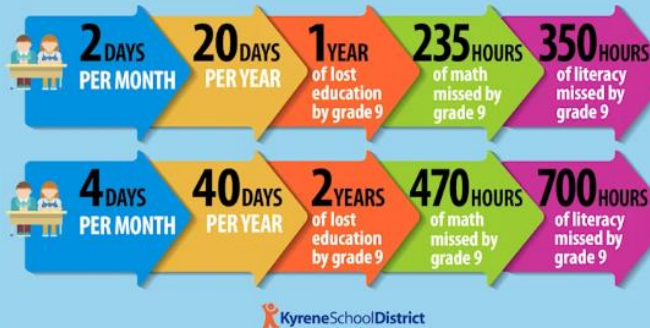
Deadline: February 24th

Don't miss out1!!!

Use QR Code or [CLICK HERE](#)

# ATTENDANCE IMPACT

When students are absent, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills. This can impact grades and test performance. The graphic below shows how consistently missing days in grades K-8 can add up to years of lost education by high school.



## Too sick for school?

Regular attendance is important for your child's well-being and learning. This guide can help you determine when to keep your child home and when to send them to school.



### Send me to school if...

- I have a runny nose or mild cough, but **no** other symptoms.
- I have a mild rash but no other symptoms.
- I have only a mild stomachache.
- I have eye drainage but no fever, eye pain or redness.
- I haven't had a fever or taken any fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours.
- I haven't thrown up or had diarrhea for 24 hours.

### Keep me at home if...

- I have a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees.
- I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.
- My eyes are pink and crusty.

### Call the doctor if...

- I've had a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees for 2+ days or a fever combined with: **ear pain, sore throat, rash, cough, stomachache or headache.**
- I've been throwing up or have had diarrhea for more than two days.
- I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and they aren't getting better.
- I have any uncommon symptoms such as eye swelling or a rash with blisters

**KyreneSchoolDistrict**

If you have specific concerns regarding your child's health or are worried your child will spread illness, contact your health care provider. This guide does not take the place of county or school district health guidance regarding respiratory viruses or other contagious illnesses.

Dear Kyrene Families,

Earlier this school year, Kyrene schools began sending email notices when a student misses four or more days of school, whether excused or unexcused. The purpose of these messages is to extend an offer of support to families before a student's absences become concerning. School districts are required by law to inform parents and guardians of the potential legal consequences of missing school. However, in Kyrene, our primary concerns are the potential *learning* consequences. The first graphic below shows how just a few days per month, over time, can add up to *years* of lost learning.

To help families track attendance, Kyrene will send notices when a student reaches 4, 8 and 13 absences. If a student exceeds 18 absences, a more formal letter will be sent, but it is our goal to partner with families before that happens. Kyrene has just launched a [new webpage](#) with resources to help ensure students are able to maintain good attendance habits, including a "[Too Sick for School](#)" guide to help determine when to keep students home.

We are committed to working with families to improve student attendance and academic success. We encourage you to monitor your child's attendance regularly and to reach out to your school principal if you need any assistance or support.

Sincerely,  
Laura Toenjes, Superintendent



Quarter 4 Sports Registration open 1/27  
Middle school Grades 6-8 only

Fee to participate- \$150 - Paid after tryouts are completed

- KTA -Boys Volleyball (cut sport) pay after tryouts
- Pueblo Middle School Track and Field (non-cut, payment due at registration)
- Pueblo Middle School Boys Baseball (cut sport) pay after tryouts

[View Full Calendar](#)

## Upcoming Events

### FEBRUARY

February 1	S.L.U.G Garden Work Day
February 3	PTO Meeting @ 5:30 in the MPR (enter through the garden gate)
February 5	AVID Spirit Day
February 3 - 7	Book Fair
February 6	Extra Early Release - students dismiss at 12:15 p.m.
February 7	Extra Early Release - students dismiss at 12: 15 p.m.
February 5 - 7	Conferences: See your teacher for more information
February 11	Texas Roadhouse
February 13	Variety Show Permission Slips Due
February 14	SPIRIT DAY: Friendship Day - wear pink/red/friendship theme
February 17	NO SCHOOL: President's Day
February 27	MS \$1 Free Dress Day
February 28	Family Game Night



---

**6-8 English Language Arts Curriculum  
Resources Feedback Form**



Please scan the QR code to access the feedback form after reviewing the curriculum resources from all vendors.

**6-8 English Language Arts Curriculum Adoption Review**

The Kyrene School Board approved a 60-day review of middle school 6-8 grade English language arts (ELA) curriculum resources. As part of the public review process, the curriculum materials and digital resources from the selected vendors will be available at our middle school campuses and the Kyrene District Office throughout the review process.

The on-site curriculum materials review will be available from November 20, 2024 - February 24, 2025.

Parents and community members may visit a Kyrene middle school to review materials in person. Please bring a photo ID and sign in at the front office to review on-site materials. School staff will direct you to the location of the onsite materials. Digital curriculum materials are available online using the links and login information in the table below. There are also video vendor presentations available to review.

You may access the [6-8 English Language Arts Curriculum review document](#) to assist you when reviewing each program.

To provide feedback on the MS ELA Curriculum resources, complete the [6-8 ELA 60-day Review Survey](#)

---

# Raising A Reader

## Free Early Literacy Workshops For Your Family

Tuesdays 4:30-5:30  
January 14 - March 5, 2025

Kyrene District Office  
8700 South Kyrene Road  
Tempe, AZ 85284



Contact Karla to sign up!  
(602) 384-0443  
kcarmona@swhd.org



Raising a Reader is a national program designed to educate parents and caregivers about the importance of early literacy skills and how they can help build these skills in their young children to help them enter school ready to learn.

Parents attend eight weekly early literacy workshops with their children 0-5 years old. Families who participate in the program receive 12 quality children's books to build their home libraries and are connected to local resources.

Southwest Human Development coordinates Raising a Reader through schools, community centers, libraries, apartment communities, and other convenient locations. All interested parents and caregivers are encouraged to learn more and sign up today.

[SWHD.org/rar](http://SWHD.org/rar)



The Kyrene School District is pleased to continue the successful Positive Parenting Series this school year, focusing on issues that affect families both at school and at home. We hope you can join us.

### Feb. 12 - Be in the Know: Substance Use Prevention

#### Be in the Know: Substance Use Prevention

Participants will learn facts, trends, signs of use, causes of death, and resources for preventing and intervening.

**Presenter:** Stephanie Siete

**Date and Time:** February 12, 2025 @ 6:00-7:00pm

**Location:** Zoom

[Registration & Zoom Link](#)

**KYRENE COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

# SPRING BREAK NON-SCHOOL DAYS

**MARCH 10 - 24**

**KIDS CLUB @ MANITAS AND ESPERANZA**  
7AM - 6PM

**PRESCHOOL @ MANITAS**  
7AM - 6PM



**MARCH 10 - 14**

**KYRENE ADVENTURE TOURS @ MANITAS**  
7am - 4pm

Visit exciting AZ locations each day!

**VOLLEYBALL & BASEBALL/SOFTBALL  
MINI SPORTS CAMPS @ KMS**  
Times vary by age group







[WWW.KYRENE.ORG/NONSCHOOLDAYS](http://WWW.KYRENE.ORG/NONSCHOOLDAYS) [COMMUNITYEDUCATION@KYRENE.ORG](mailto:COMMUNITYEDUCATION@KYRENE.ORG)  
480-541-1500

## Contact Us

**Kyrene Traditional Academy**  
3375 W. Galveston St.  
Chandler, AZ 85226

**Phone:** 480-541-5400  
**Fax:** 480-541-5410  
**Attendance:** 480-541-5401

**School Hours:** 7:25 am – 2:15 pm  
Wednesday 7:25 am - 12:15 pm

**Office Hours:** 7:00 am – 3:30 pm  
Wednesday 7:00 am - 1:30 pm

*A+ School of Excellence™*

