*Kyrene de la Mirada - Leadership Academy*

# MIRADA NEWS

March 2025

## A Message from Mrs. Anderson

Hello, March!

**A Plus Designation**: February was an exciting month! In addition to the fun school wide events, we were notified that Mirada Leadership Academy earned the prestigious distinction of being an A Plus School of Excellence. Kyrene de la Mirada Leadership Academy is one of only 53 public schools in Arizona to be awarded this prestigious honor. Only 2% of Arizona public schools earned this title, which is the highest state-level recognition given to a public school. According to the Arizona Educational Foundation, the award looks for school qualities such as, " strong leadership that inspires collaboration and embraces professional development; high-quality teachers and staff who create engaging learning experiences and help students thrive academically and socially; a rigorous standards-aligned curriculum that encourages critical thinking and problem-solving; engaged parents and community involvement; and a student-centered learning approach with extracurricular activities and a safe and nurturing environment" (azedfoundation.org). Congratulations, Monarchs!

With spring break approaching in just a few days, we are preparing for the final quarter of the 2024-2025 school year!

Students in grades 3 to 5 will begin the Arizona State Assessment during the week of March 31st. To help minimize learning gaps over spring break, we encourage you to have your child complete 1 to 2 lessons weekly on iReady and spend at least 45 minutes a week on Amplify. These programs offer personalized learning paths tailored to your child's specific needs. They are flexible and can either support or challenge your child as necessary. If you have any questions regarding these programs, please feel free to reach out to me.

March will pass by quickly, so please take note of the upcoming events.

We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable spring break!
Best regards,
Michelle Anderson
Kindly,
Michelle Anderson

## Upcoming Events

| | |
|---|---|
| March 5 | Monarch Night Out at McDonalds 4-7pm |
| March 7 | Field Day |
| | 3rd-5th 8am-9:36am |
| | K-2nd 12:30-1:58pm |
| March 10-21 | Spring Break |
| March 24 | Teacher Work Day-No School for Students |
| March 25 | Students return to school |
| | Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day-Wear Green! |
| | Governing Board Meeting 6-8pm at District Office |
| March 27 | PTO Meeting 2:30pm in the Media Center |
| March 31 | State Testing Begins-See schedule below |
| April 18 | Early Release on Friday 4/18 for Teacher Planning |

View Full Calendar

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## Click Below for Important School Calendars

District Calendar | March Calendar | PTO Calendar

The Leader in Me™
great happens here



# HABIT OF THE MONTH

## HABIT 7: SHARPEN THE SAW

## READ BELOW FOR PARENT TIPS ABOUT HABIT 7!

## WHAT IS HABIT 7?

HABIT 7 IS THE HABIT OF TAKING CARE OF YOUR BODY BY EATING RIGHT, EXERCISING, AND GETTING THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SLEEP. IT'S THE HABIT OF SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS; TO LEARN IN LOTS OF WAYS AND LOTS OF PLACES, NOT JUST AT SCHOOL. THE HABIT IS ABOUT TAKING THE TIME TO FIND MEANINGFUL WAYS TO HELP OTHERS.

IN A NUTSHELL, HABIT 7 IS ABOUT TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF.

## HELPING YOUR CHILD

- TAKE TIME FOR FUN ACTIVITIES
- SET ASIDE ONE-ON-ONE TIME
- GIVE THEM TIME TO RELAX
- EAT MEALS TOGETHER
- FILL THEIR EMOTIONAL BANK ACCCOUNT
- CREATE FAMILY TRADITIONS




## IDEAS TO SHARPEN YOUR SAW

- JOURNAL
- EXERCISE
- MEDITATE
- READ
- GRAB LUNCH WITH A FRIEND
- LEARN A NEW SKILL
- DO A PUZZLE



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "SHARPEN THE SAW"

- "SHARPENING THE SAW" IS SYNONYMOUS WITH "SELF-CARE" OR "SELF-RENEWAL."
- IT TAKES LONGER TO CUT DOWN A TREE WITH A DULL BLADE.
- TAKE A BREAK AND DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER.

## BALANCE FEELS BEST

"I TAKE CARE OF MY BODY BY EATING RIGHT, EXERCISING AND GETTING SLEEP. I SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. I LEARN IN LOTS OF WAYS AND LOTS OF PLACES, NOT JUST AT SCHOOL. I FIND MEANINGFUL WAYS TO HELP OTHERS."

VIDEO LINK TO HABIT 7 STORY BOOK




Dear Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Families,

*****Please note this is an UPDATED SCHEDULE*****
Mirada third, fourth, and fifth grade students will take Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) and fifth graders will also take the AZ Science Assessment between the dates of **Monday, March 31st and Friday, April 18th.**

Please make note of the following specific testing dates to **avoid scheduling any appointments for your child(ren) during these days.** It is important for your child to be in attendance. However, it is more important that they are well and fever free. If you find your child has any symptoms that would not allow for them to come to school for the day, please make sure to call the attendance line at 480-541-4201 and report his or her absence. If your child begins the test, then becomes ill or exhibits symptoms that require them to be sent home, they will not be able to complete that section of the test or retake that section.

If you have any questions about state assessments please email Mrs. Leftwich, Asst. Principal, at aleftw@kyrene.org or call her at 480-541-4200.

Thank you!

| DATE: | GRADE: | AZ TEST: |
|---|---|---|
| **Monday, 3/31** | **5th** | **AZ Science** |
| **Tuesday, 4/1** | **5th** | **AZ Science** |
| Wednesday, 4/2 | 5th | Make Up Test (AZSci) |
| **Thursday, 4/3** | **3rd, 4th, 5th** | **Writing** |
| **Friday 4/4** | **3rd,** 4th, 5th | **3rd Grade Oral Reading Fluency(ORF)** Make Up Test, Writing &/or AZSci |
| **Monday, 4/7** | **3rd** | **Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)** |
| **Tuesday, 4/8** | **3rd, 4th, 5th** | **Reading Part 1** |
| **Wednesday, 4/9** | **3rd** | Make Up Testing Day |
| **Thursday, 4/10** | **3rd, 4th, 5th** | **Reading Part 2** |
| Friday, 4/11 | 3rd, 4th, 5th | Make Up Testing Day |
| Monday, 4/14 | 3rd, 4th, 5th | Make Up Testing Day |
| **Tuesday, 4/15** | **3rd, 4th, 5th** | **Math Part 1** |
| Wednesday, 4/16 | 3rd, 4th, 5th | Make up Testing Day |
| **Thursday, 4/17** | **Math 2** | **Math Part 2** |
| Friday, 4/18 | | Make Up Testing Day |




**Nominate Staff Member of the Month**

Do you know of a staff member who has positively impacted students, making learning engaging or shown dedication to their role? Then nominate them for Staff Member of the Month! All it takes is a few minutes to fill out a four response questionnaire. Nominations may be submitted by school staff, students or parents. Please submit nominations by the last Thursday of the month. Click the button below for link to nomination form.

# Staff Member of the Month Nomination Form

# Field Day



## Having Fun with Friends Using Teamwork and Good Sportsmanship

**Friday, March 7th**

**8:00-9:36• 3rd-5th grades**

**12:30-1:58• K-2nd grades**

Mirada Families,

We are very excited for our upcoming Field Day, where students showcase skills that they have learned during physical education! Field Day gives students an opportunity to celebrate being active and demonstrate sportsmanship in a variety of activities and games.

**On Friday, March 7th, please have your child wear active clothing and tennis shoes to school.** We encourage students to bring a water bottle, wear sunscreen and hat. Wear purple to show your Mirada spirit.

Field Day is made up of various activity stations that each class will rotate through. For the day to be a success, we need volunteers to be station leaders! Your responsibilities would include organizing students, presenting the station directions, and supervising safe play. Teachers will be present as students participate.

If you are interested in volunteering, please click the appropriate link below to sign up.

3-5 Volunteer Sign Up

K-2 Volunteer Sign Up

Feel free to come watch, support, and cheer on your children! Visitors and volunteers must bring a photo I.D. and check in. No young siblings please.

Thank you for your support in making this event a success! Please contact Mrs. Durazo with any questions at vdurazo@kyrene.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Durazo
Physical Education Teacher

3rd-5th Grade Volunteer Sign Up
8:00-9:36am

Kindergarten-2nd Grade Volunteer Sign Up
12:30-1:58pm

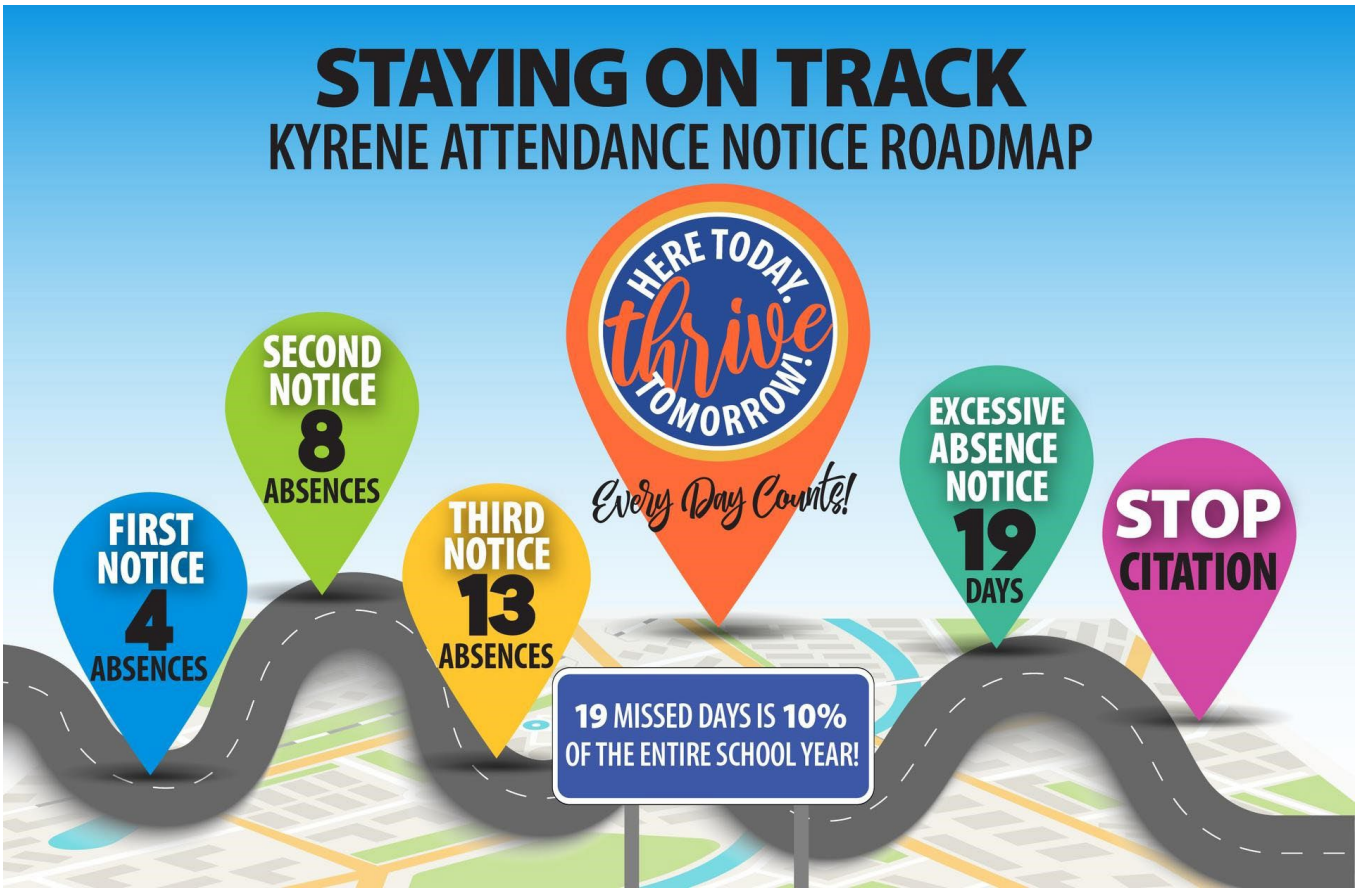
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Attendance Notification Letters




*Dear families,*
*As we have shared in previous newsletters, we have been sending attendance letters when your child reaches 4, 8, 13 and 19 or more absences. The purpose of this is to be proactive and keep you informed, so your children stay below 19 absences, which the state identifies as excessive. We understand that children get sick and family circumstances require your children to be absent from school. The portion of the letter that explains Arizona attendance law is required, but please know that our goal is always to support you and partner with you. Please reach out to our office staff if you have any questions.*

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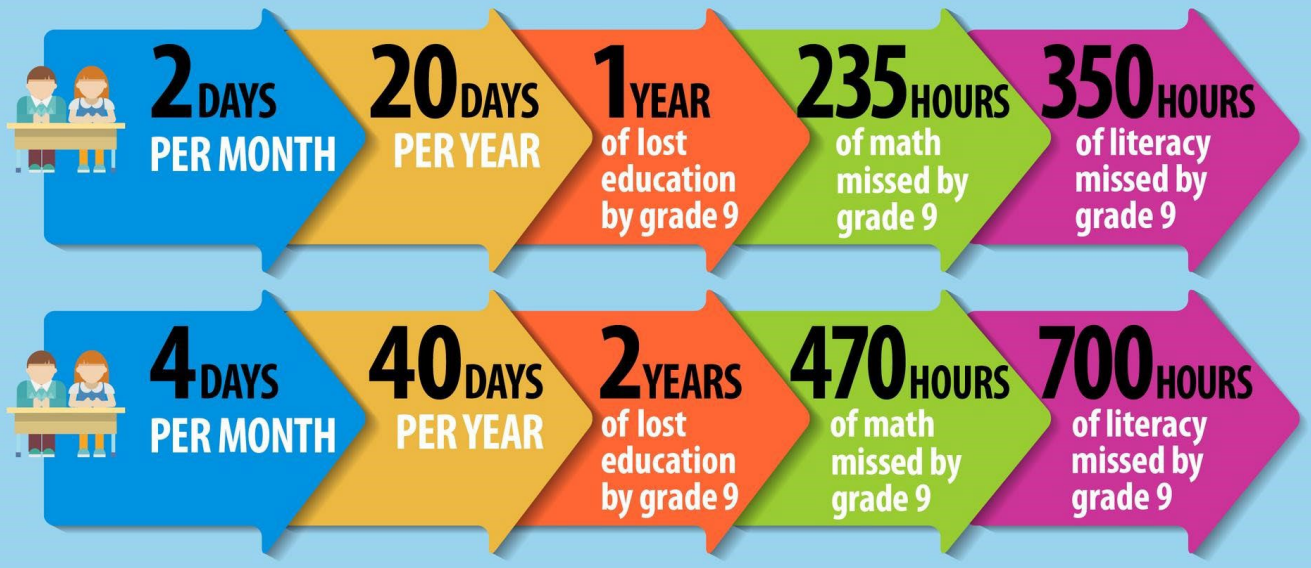


# ATTENDANCE IMPACT

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.

HERE TODAY. thrive TOMORROW!

*Every Day Counts!*




KyreneSchoolDistrict

# 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.

HERE TODAY, thrive TOMORROW!



## 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

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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.

# PTO CORNER

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT






Happy March! Another month has gone by and with break starting March 10th, I think this one is going to go super fast! Special Person's Day was a huge success! The kids loved hosting so many of their special people at the school. We loved sharing a small piece of this special place with your loved ones.

Mark you calendars for our March Monarch Night Out at McDonald's on 3/5 from 4-7pm. You may just see one of your favorite teachers serving up milkshakes or calling out orders. Field Day is 3/7, look for the volunteer sign up from Mrs. Durazo.

Save the date, our spring Lunch on the Lawn is April 11th. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and it won't be too hot! Have a great Spring Break!

## YEARBOOK SALES

Yearbook pre sales are still open and will be until April 17th. Yearbooks can be purchased at (www.buytheyearbook.com/en/bty/findmyschool), school code 722735.

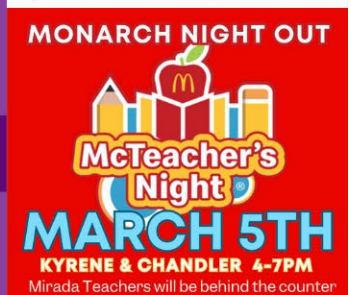
Fifth grade parents, deadline to purchase a 5th grade tribute with your yearbook is March 15th, so please don't delay! Presales end April 17th! We will have some books available for purchase at the end of the year but we've run out the past few years so get yours today!




## UPCOMING EVENTS!!!

### MARCH

5 - Monarch McNite Out at Kyrene and Chandler Blvd McDonald's from 4-7pm
7 - Field Day
10-21 - Spring Break
24 - Staff Development Day- No School
25 - Wear Green to recognize National Cerebral Palsy Day!
27 - PTO Meeting at 2:45pm in the library




### APRIL

2 - Wear Blue to recognize National Autism Day
4 - Movie Night! A free family event, more info to come
11 - Lunch on the Lawn
23 - Monarch Night Out- Angry Crab




## THANK YOU MONARCH FAMILIES!



## Clothing Donations

The Health Office is in need of clothing for our students who need a clean, dry outfit change during the school day.

We would appreciate the following:

- packages of **new underwear** in all sizes for boys and girls.
- **gently used elastic waist band pants and socks** in all sizes for boys and girls.
- **gently used girls tennis shoes** in sizes 10-2 to fit K-3rd graders.
- **We are especially in need of boys underwear size small and boys shirts size medium**.

As your children outgrow their gently used pants, shirts, shoes and socks, please consider donating them to our Health Office. Thank you!



Positive Parenting Series
KYRENE SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Kyrene Positive Parenting - March Presentations**

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.
**Mar. 27 - "Internet Safety: Creating a Tech-Life Balance"**
**"Internet Safety: Creating a Tech-Life Balance**
Participant will learn the eye-opening presentation is designed to empower parents to create a healthy and balanced tech-life in their family.
**Presenter:**
Elena Zavalza
**Date and Time:**
March 27, 2025
6:00-7:00pm
**Location:**
Online

Registration & Zoom Link
**In Partnership With:**

notMYkid®

Registration and Zoom Link
Be in the Know: Substance Use Prevention

# TEACH WHEN YOU CAN.
# INSPIRE WHERE IT COUNTS.

# BECOME A SUBSTITUTE IN KYRENE.

There's no substitute for making a difference! As a Kyrene substitute, you'll enjoy a supportive school and district culture, competitive pay, and the flexibility to work on your terms. Join a district that values its educators and staff, who play a vital role in student success. Step into Kyrene schools and help inspire the next generation—one day at a time!

## REQUIREMENTS

- Fingerprint Clearance Card
- Substitute teaching certificate
  *(for teaching positions only)*

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Depending on position, a job can be daily, hourly or long-term.
- Opportunities available at both elementary and middle school levels.



"The reason I do this is to pay it forward; to try to make a difference. I know teachers, staff and students need support and in addition to that, personal development. I've grown a lot in my life, and I want to continue to do that and be part of something that contributes to society."

*Tod Taylor, Kyrene Substitute*

# APPLY ONLINE TODAY!
# WWW.KYRENE.ORG/SUB

# SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL WITH A TAX CREDIT DONATION!

**STEP 1**

## Visit kyrene.org/taxcredit and click Donate Now

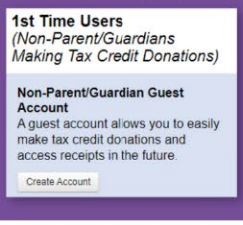
**STEP 2**

## Sign In

### Returning Users

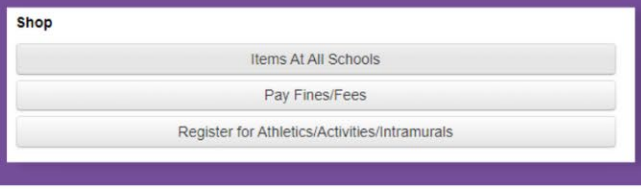



### New Users




**STEP 3**

## Select *Items at All Schools*



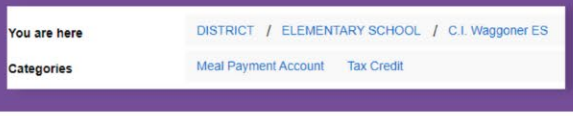

**STEP 4**

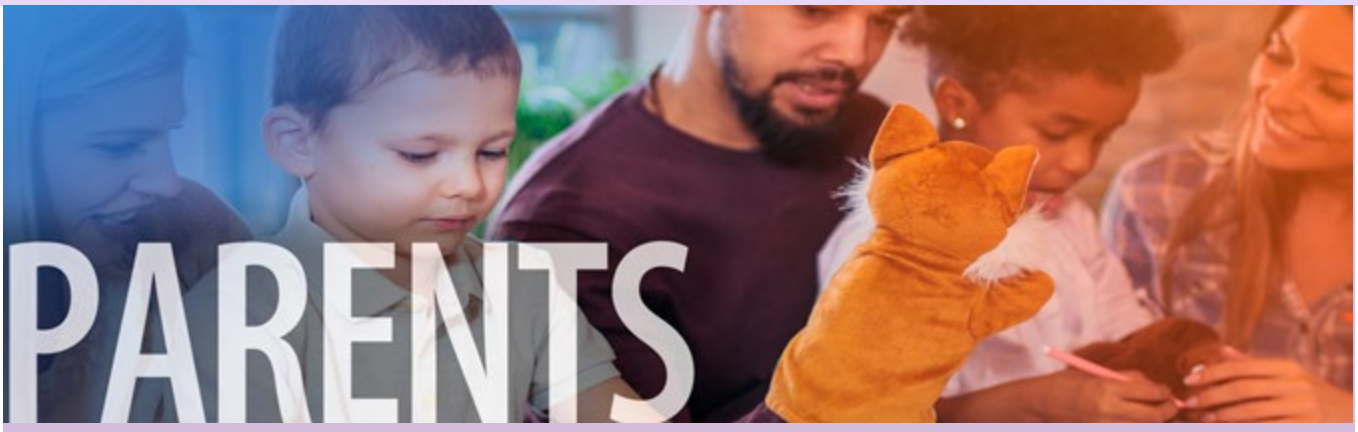
## Select Campus Type




**STEP 5**

## Select *School* and *Tax Credit*






## Parent Reminders

**Opt in for text communication**

IMPORTANT: In the event of an emergency, text messages are the fastest and most effective way to communicate information to families. You must opt in to receive text communications! Text "Y" or "yes" to 67587 to begin receiving text messages from both your child's school and the Kyrene School District.

**Birthday Celebrations**

No celebrations of individual student birthdays are to be held in classrooms, on the school campus. We understand that parents and friends like to celebrate various occasions. However, cakes, cookies, cupcakes, candy, flowers, balloons, etc. cause many distractions and cannot be allowed on campus or on the bus. These items are disruptive in the classroom and are a safety concern on the bus. If they are delivered they will be kept in the office for parents/guardians to pick up. This policy helps to ensure that instructional time is protected and that all students are treated equally. **Party invitations may not be distributed at school.**

**Need to Report an Absence?**

**Call our 24 Hour Attendance Line at 480-541-4201 to report a student absence.**
Please leave a message on the attendance line indicating the student's name, grade, date(s) and reason for absence. When your student is absent and we have not received notification, we will contact the parents. If we do not receive a return phone call, the student will be marked truant. **Note** Parents MUST call the attendance line within 24 hours of an absence, even if you spoke to the Health Office or communicated to the Teacher.

**Tardy**

If your child is tardy, you must park in the parking lot and walk your child to the office. Sign them in and provide the reason why they are tardy. A tardy is defined as arriving at school or class **after the scheduled start time**. Students should be in their seats and ready to learn when the bell rings at the scheduled start time. **Students are considered tardy if they are not in their seats at the scheduled start time. Mirada students need to arrive with enough time to make it to their classroom by 7:30am.** Students who are tardy must enter through the school's front office and receive a Tardy pass.

**Excused Absences**

In cases involving prolonged illnesses, a written excuse from a physician may be requested to verify the absence. A student has an excused absence when one of the following conditions are met: When a student is not in attendance for any portion of or an entire school day and,

- The parent/guardian called the school's attendance line to report the student's absence within 24 hours and provided an acceptable excuse* for the absence, OR
- The parent/guardian was reached by the attendance office and provided the attendance office with an acceptable excuse* for the absence.

***Please note: we cannot excuse an absence that is reported via email; all absences must be reported to the school's attendance office via a telephone call.**

**Unexcused Absences**

A student has an unexcused absence under and of the following conditions:

- When a student is not in attendance for any portion of or for an entire day and does not have an acceptable excuse*.
- The parent/guardian has not called the school's attendance office to report the student's absence and provide an acceptable excuse* within 24 hours.
- The parent/guardian cannot be reached by the attendance office to obtain an acceptable excuse* for the absence.

*The District will report all student absences and tardiness to school in accordance with A.R.S.§ 15-901 (A)(1) and defined by the Arizona Department of Education.

**Students and Electronic Devices**

Many parents choose to have their child carry a cellular telephone or other electronic devices (such as an Apple watch or Fitbit) as a means of before and/or after school communication and for safety purposes. Electronic devices can be disruptive in an educational environment, but may also be used to enhance instruction. If parents have decided that it's necessary for a child to carry a cell phone or electronic device, parents and students must be aware of the following:

Kyrene School District Policy 3-401 states that the District does not assume responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, personal property. If your child has a cell phone on campus or on the bus and it is damaged or stolen, we will not be able to utilize administrative time to investigate the incident, nor will the District be able to take any financial responsibility for the cell phone or cell phone charges.

Cellular phones must be turned off and kept in backpacks at all times on campus, except for prior to the ringing of the first bell for the start of the instructional day and after the ringing of the last bell for the end of the instructional day.

This exception does not apply if the student is on the school bus. When appropriate, cell phones and other electronic devices may be used during the school day under the direct supervision of the teacher. If these rules are not followed, the cell phone may be confiscated and kept in the front office for pick up after school.

Please assist us in keeping our learning environment free from distractions. When it is necessary for a student to contact you during the day, we have telephones available in classrooms and in the office. If it is necessary for you to get an important message to your child during the school day, you may contact the school office and our staff will relay the message to your child.




Payment & Balance Info

Food Services FAQs

Mirada Menus

Apply for Free and Reduced Meals

PORTRAIT OF A KYRENE KID

ADAPTABLE LEARNER • SELF-ADVOCATE • COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR
COMMUNICATOR • CRITICAL THINKER • PROBLEM SOLVER • COLLABORATOR
READY FOR THE FUTURE. HIGH SCHOOL. COLLEGE. CAREER. LIFE.



Scan to follow us on Instagram!

Scan to follow us on Facebook!

## Contact Us

**Kyrene de la Mirada**
**Leadership Academy**
5500 W. Galveston Street
Chandler, AZ 85226

**School Hours:** 7:30 am - 2:15 pm
*Early Release Wed: 12:15 pm*

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

**Front Office:** 480-541-4200
**Fax Number:** 480-541-4210
**Attendance:** 480-541-4201
**Health Office:** 480-541-4220
**Cafeteria:** 480-541-4226
**Kids Club:** 480-541-4230

### Quicklinks

Food Services and Menu
ParentVUE
StudentVUE
Technology Assistance
Family Handbook

*A+ School of Excellence™*