



February 14, 2025

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## Message from the Principal

Hello KTA Families and Friends:

**HAPPY FRIENDSHIP DAY!** Here's hoping you are enjoying this special and fun day. This is quite a popular day on campus and the students enjoy wearing fun and colorful clothing, sharing treats and messages and having class celebrations. As you celebrate this weekend, please remember that we have a **three day weekend! We celebrate Presidents Day on Monday February 17.**

As we mentioned last week, we had our **KICK OFF for the KIDS HEART CHALLENGE (K-5)** in conjunction with the **American Heart Association**. This is an annual event where we focus on healthy habits such as exercise, good food choices, sleep, and avoidance of smoking and vaping. We also highlight the impact that kids can have in their homes and families with learning hands-only CPR! Doing **FINN's CHALLENGE** teaches student that they can help to save lives! Please review the information sent home in a flyer and also through emails from our office and your teachers, and info provided in links. **WE HAVE A SCHOOL WIDE GOAL to raise \$6000 to support the great work of the American Heart Association.** Students can earn individual prizes in many ways....signing up, completing Finn's Challenge, raising money from family members and friends and from participating as a class. Please consider how your family your children can be involved. Thank you!

**DID YOU KNOW** that we do **MANY** things at KTA to recognize students and their achievements and accomplishments on campus?? **HERE** are some of the things we do to celebrate our students!!

- **Principal's Lunch:** We have sessions monthly and quarterly for students identified and recommended in all grades K-8. Students are identified by their teachers and recommended to the Principal. Celebrations include a special lunch event, school store tickets and coupons, and coupons for free items from local businesses such as Culvers, Canes or Pizza.
- **School Store:** Elementary and Middle School students each have their own school store opportunities! Students across all grade levels earn Tiger Stripes or Tiger Paws, which are small blue tickets. These are earned when they are 'caught doing something good' such as giving great effort in class, volunteering or sharing in class, helping out a friend or new students.....the possibilities are endless. They accumulate these tickets and then turn them in to the elementary

or middle school stores for fun school trinkets or items, or for middle schoolers, takis, chips, Gatorade, or other fun items like stickers, or free dress passes.

- **Student of the Quarter:** Each quarter our staff collectively selects a student from each grade to represent the amazing work of the grade. These students are recognized at the quarterly TIGER PRIDE PBIS assemblies in the gym. They receive a certificate and coupons for local vendors.
- **In Class Recognitions:** Each class has ways that they recognize, acknowledge and reward positive academic and social behaviors. Many classes use Class DOJO where they earn points as individuals or as a class. Many classes have their own smaller stores or auctions, or ways to earn prizes or other fun things. We appreciate that teachers go the extra mile to acknowledge and recognize their students.

**We have some fun upcoming events....mark your calendars now!**

**Thursday February 27: Quarter 3 BAND CONCERT**

**Friday February 28: PTO FAMILY GAME NIGHT in the MPR (free! Snacks will be sold)**

*Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.*

Marianne L. Lescher, Ph.D.



**NO SCHOOL**

Monday, February 17

Enjoy your three day weekend!!!

Presidents' Day

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Kyrene School District  
Community Education

Saturday Academy

To register, [click here!](#)

Classes will be held here at KTA!.

Four Saturdays.

Pick three classes!



We are off to a great start.

In just four days we making strides on our goals:

- GOAL: Raise \$6,000 - we are at 20%
- GOAL: 18 Students complete FINN'S MISSION - 6 students so far

Be sure to look in your child's backpack for Kids Heart Challenge information.

## 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.*



## Scents:

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

<https://az-kyrene.info/uchreceipting.com/>



Look up "Smencils" in the search bar.

**DEADLINE EXTENDED: February 28**

## 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](#).

**Deadline Extended: Permission slips due on February 20!!**



**SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL**

March 10 - 14

March 17 - 21

March 24



Quarter 3 Band Concert

Thursday, February 27

6:30 p.m.

MPR

Enter through the garden gates.





\$1 Free Dress

MS Only

Thursday, February 27



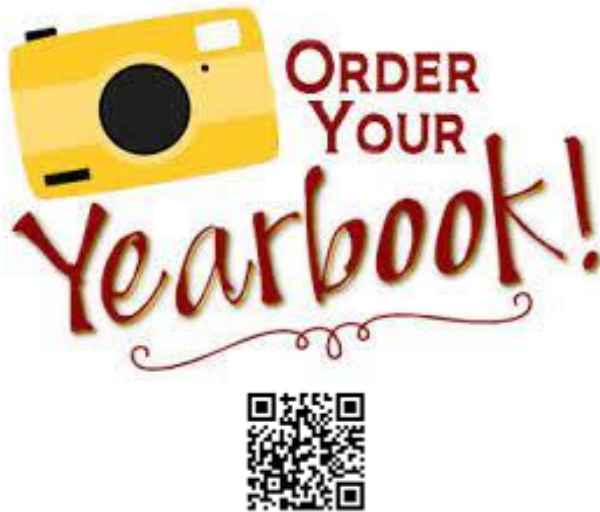
SAVE THE DATE

DETAILS COMING SOON

Friday, February 28

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Event is free, but snacks will be sold!



## 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



Congratulate & Recognize  
your 8th Grade Student

8th Grade Ads

\$15

1/8" ad

Deadline: February 24

[https://yearbookordercenter.com/product/yearbook\\_ads](https://yearbookordercenter.com/product/yearbook_ads)



## 8th Grade Only Yearbook Ads

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

You design your own ad.

\$15

Deadline: February 24th

Don't miss out1!!!

Use QR Code or [CLICK HERE](https://yearbookordercenter.com/product/yearbook_ads)



Quarter 4 Sports Registration open 1/27 (registration ends March 7)  
Middle school Grades 6-8 only

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

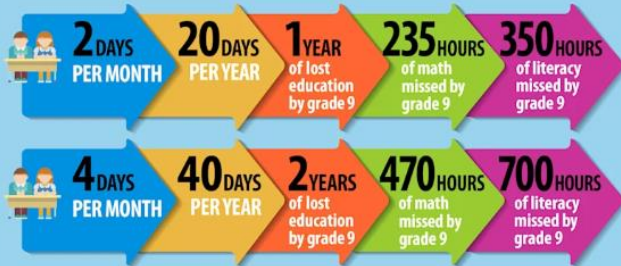
KTA -Boys Volleyball (cut sport) pay after tryouts

Pueblo Middle School Track and Field (non-cut, payment due at registration)

Pueblo Middle School Boys Baseball (cut sport) pay after tryouts I'm a new Text block ready for your content.

## 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.



KyreneSchoolDistrict

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.

## 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.

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

## Upcoming Events

### FEBRUARY

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| February 14 | SPIRIT DAY: Friendship Day - wear pink/red/friendship theme |
| February 17 | NO SCHOOL: President's Day                                  |
| February 20 | Variety Show Permission Slips Due                           |
| February 27 | MS \$1 Free Dress Day                                       |
| February 28 | Family Game Night   |





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**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.

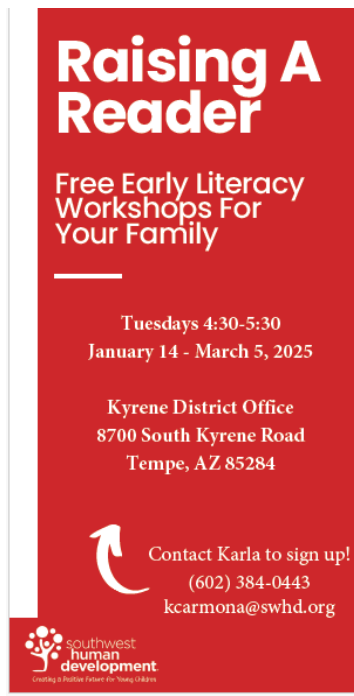
**The on-site curriculum materials review will be available from November 20, 2024 - February 24, 2025.**

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](#)

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A red poster for the 'Raising A Reader' program. At the top, the title 'Raising A Reader' is in large white font. Below it, 'Free Early Literacy Workshops For Your Family' is written in a smaller white font. A horizontal line separates this from the schedule: 'Tuesdays 4:30-5:30' and 'January 14 - March 5, 2025'. The location is listed as 'Kyrene District Office, 8700 South Kyrene Road, Tempe, AZ 85284'. A white arrow points to the contact information: 'Contact Karla to sign up! (602) 384-0443, kcarmona@swhd.org'. At the bottom left is the 'southwest human development' logo with the tagline 'Creating & Sustaining Futures For Young Children'.

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™*

