Kyrene Akimel A-al



July 18, 2025

Principal's Message

Welcome Back, Akimel A-al Rattlers!

We hope you had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break! As we gear up for another incredible school year, we are thrilled to welcome back our returning students—and extend a heartfelt welcome to the newest members of our Rattler family.
In the newsletter below, you'll find important details about our upcoming **Meet the Teacher** event, along with helpful information to ensure a smooth and successful start to the school year.

It is truly an honor to continue serving as your principal, and I am confident this will be our best year yet. Enjoy these final days of summer—we can't wait to see you soon!

With Rattler pride,
Shalini McCarthy
Principal, Akimel A-al Middle School



8th Grade Families,

We are very excited to start the year with your students and can't wait to embark on a science journey with them. We're sending this email ahead of Meet the Teacher in hopes that students will be able to start the year with the necessary materials to be successful in science. The following is a list of mandatory supplies as well as a few supplies that are optional but will enhance your student's learning experience and make their lives easier from the jump.

Mandatory supplies:

- 1 inch WHITE 3 ring view binder (These binders will stay in the science classroom, so cannot be used for multiple classes.)
- Pre hole punched filler GRAPH paper
- At least 1 roll of scotch tape (this is for a big project later in the year)

Optional supplies:

- Dividers for the binders
- Colored pencils
- Highlighters

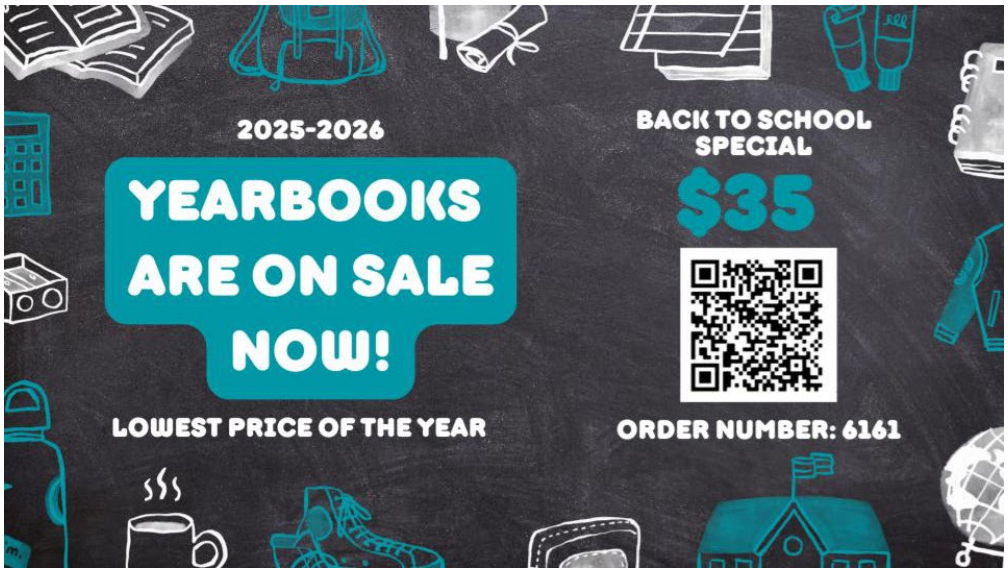
If for any reason you are unable to secure the mandatory supplies for your student, please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know.

We are looking forward to meeting those of you who plan to come to meet the teacher on Monday and are excited to work together with all of you to support your students throughout the year!

Thank you so much!

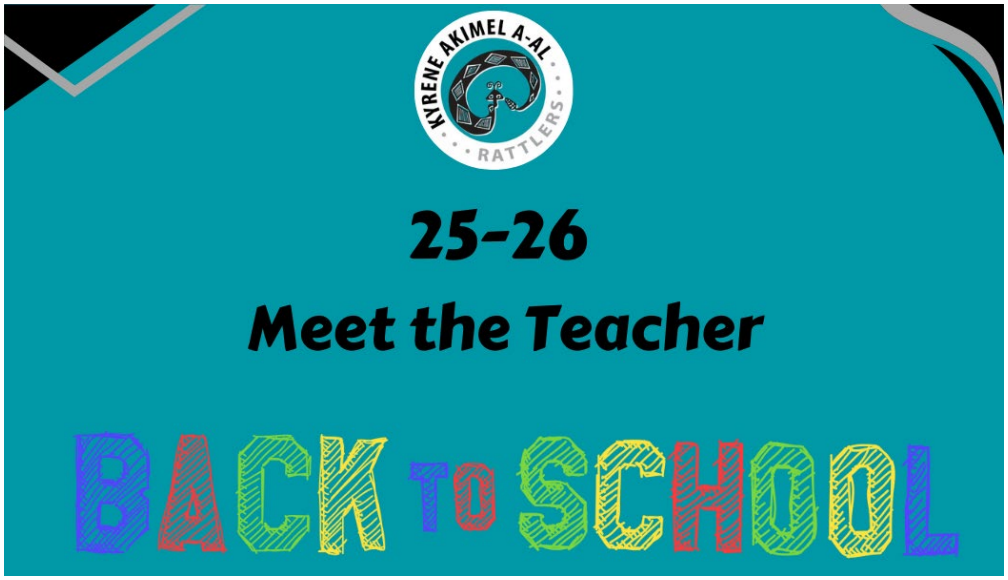
Your 8th grade science team




2025-2026
YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE NOW!
LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR
BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL
$35
ORDER NUMBER: 6161

PTSO NEWS





Akimel A-al Meet the Teacher Information

Welcome back Akimel A-al Rattlers! We hope you all enjoyed a restful summer break. We are excited

to welcome back our returning students as well as welcome our newest Rattlers to the Akimel A-al family. Please see important Back to School information below:

Meet the Teacher

Meet the Teacher will be held on Monday, July 21st from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM.

Students with last names beginning with A-L 1:00-2:30 pm
Students with last names beginning with M-Z 2:30-4:00 pm

Please carefully read the following information about the logistics of our Meet the Teacher. This will ensure you are in the right place at the right time. We encourage only parents/guardians and Akimel A-al students attend the event as there will be limited space in the classrooms and hallways.
Meet the Teacher will be held in two blocks, by last name. This event will be an 'open house' style, meaning after a quick presentation from administration families will be able to visit classrooms and various stations throughout our campus within their designated 1 hour and ½ minute block. There will be additional resources and documents available such as campus maps and general campus information for families to utilize during their specified timeframes.

When families reach their students' lunch hour, families are welcome to visit the PTSO table, Rattler athletics, Transportation table, Food Services, and Yearbook table located in the multipurpose room. PE uniforms are available to purchase online at https://az-kyrene.intouchreceipting.com/; shirts are $6, and shorts are $11. If you have purchased a uniform online, please bring your receipt to the gym and pick up your uniform.

Student Schedules
We are highly encouraging students and parents to access schedules in advance through StudentVue and/or ParentVue. Student schedules will be available on Monday, July 21st after 10am. We will not be passing out paper copies of student schedules. Please consider adding the ParentVUE mobile app to your phone for easy access. If for some reason you cannot access your child's schedule through ParentVUE please contact our front office. StudentVue will not be available until the first day of school. If you have any questions, please contact the Akimel A-al front office at 480-541-5800.

Schedule changes will only be considered in cases where a student is scheduled into a class that is the wrong level or is missing a class. We will have schedule correction forms in the library available for parents to submit if this is the case.

ParentVUE Mobile App
The ParentVUE Mobile application helps parents stay informed and connected by providing day-to-day insight into their child's academic experience. ParentVUE Mobile for the iPhone/iPod Touch works with the Synergy™ student information system in much the same way as the ParentVUE web portal, allowing parents to access near real-time information on assignments and scores, attendance, and demographic information. ParentVUE offers parents a single sign-on to view all of their children's information regardless of school. Go to ParentVUE Mobile App for directions and login.
Meet the Teacher Parking
Families are welcome to park in the front, East or West parking lots. Carpooling would greatly assist in reducing traffic.

Athletics/Clubs

For information about registration for Athletics please visit the Kyrene webpage and look under the Educational Opportunities tab. If you have any questions about Akimel A-al Athletics please visit the Kyrene Athletics Homepage or contact Stacy Huerta in Student Services in the Akimel A-al front office at 480-541-5805.

Expanded Opportunities (Intramural Teams) Pending School Availability:

Based on student interest, each school may offer multiple overflow/development teams per sport. These teams will practice 2x/week and compete against other schools 1x/week with a culminating tournament at the end of the season. Fridays and Saturdays are an option for games. The purpose is to develop student skill and provide opportunities to compete; ultimately preparing them for varsity and high school.

Girls & Boys Basketball
Girls & Boys Volleyball
Girls & Boys Flag Football

2025-2026 Season

Athletic Fees (per sport, per season):

Cut & Non-cut Sports (including CO-ED Cheer): $150
Overflow Teams (including Spirit Line and Step Teams): $110

Quarter 1:

Girls Volleyball (Cut)
CO-ED Wrestling (Non-cut)

Quarter 2:

Boys Basketball (Cut)
Girls Flag Football (Cut)
Boys Soccer (Cut)
Boys & Girls Cross Country (Non-cut)
CO-ED Cheer/Spirit/Step (Cut/Non-cut)

Quarter 3:

Boys Volleyball (Cut)
Girls Softball (Cut)
Boys Flag Football (Cut)
Girls Soccer (Cut)
CO-ED Cheer/Spirit/Step (Cut/Non-cut)

Quarter 4:

Boys Baseball (Cut)
Girls Basketball (Cut)
Boys & Girls Track & Field (Non-cut)

Clubs

There will be opportunities throughout the school year for students to get involved in clubs. Parents can find information in the weekly Rattler Newsletter which is emailed on Fridays and linked on our school webpage.

Supply Lists

Supply lists can be found on the Akimel A-al website. These specifically requested supplies are not

required on the first day of school and if families need help acquiring any of the suggested items, please contact the front office. Additional supplies may be requested throughout the school year and specifically for some of our elective classes. Thank you for helping to prepare your child for school.

PBIS Donations

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports is a school-wide process for creating positive and safe environments that are predictable, encouraging, and effective for achieving academic success and reaching social goals. Here at Akimel A-al Middle School, we focus our efforts on helping all children exceed their potential by teaching to and supporting the whole child.

Our students are simply terrific, and the majority of students follow our school expectations, and we want to recognize these positive behaviors. PBIS acknowledges their efforts daily as they demonstrate their best. Through instruction, comprehension and regular practice, all teachers, staff members, and students use and follow a consistent set of behavior expectations and routines across all school settings. All students are directly and explicitly taught school expectations throughout the school year to continually ensure understanding. At times, students make choices that are not positive. When this happens, we view it as an opportunity for re-teaching.

We have adopted a unified set of procedures expected in all common areas. You will see expectations posted throughout the school. Students are recognized daily with our snake bite tickets for practicing the 4 B's and remembering to:

Be Kind

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Safe

Students will have the opportunity to earn Snake Bite tickets when they are "caught" demonstrating appropriate behaviors which can be exchanged for prizes and snacks. We are asking for donations to help stock our PBIS store. Items such as small gift cards ($5 & $10), earbuds, bags of chips, individually packaged snacks, and cans of sparkling water would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off in our office during Meet the Teacher or at any time during the school year.

Transportation

Families can access information regarding Bus Routes and Bus Safety by visiting the Kyrene webpage and looking under the Parent Tab or by selecting the following link.

Online Payment Portal

Kyrene School District has a convenient new payment portal for parents to pay for everything from athletics to field trips. The InTouch Payment Portal will provide parents with digital receipts for all transactions. You can even use it to make this year's tax credit donation to the school of your choice. Register once and use the portal all year. For directions to set up your account, please click here.

Food Services

When we return to school on July 23rd students will be required to pay for their lunch, Al-a carte items, or additional drinks unless they receive a free lunch.

The application portal for free and reduced lunch is now open. As a reminder, a new meal application is required every year to determine eligibility for the current school year. This message provides some key dates and important information pertaining to our Food Service program for the upcoming school year.

Key Dates:

July 1: Online Application portal opens! Apply for free or reduced lunch for the 2025-26 school year.
July 23: First day of school
September 5: Eligibility from 2024-2025 school year EXPIRES! Please submit a new application for the new school year.

Important take-aways and links:
A new meal application is required every year to determine eligibility for the current school year.
Meal Prices will remain the same, please click meal prices on our website for information.
To submit your 2025-2026 household meal application, please click here.
Meal Account payments may be made online by clicking make a school lunch payment .
Lunch balances may be viewed by visiting Linq Connect.
Your household may be eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), please visit GetInternet.gov to check eligibility.
Meal payments can be made on the InTouch Payment Portal this year. Parents can view meal balances or pay by check/cash at schools.

PTSO Membership
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new PTSO board members for the 25-26 school year!
President – Mrs. Casey
Vice President- Mrs. Jillian
Secretary – Dr. Dulce
Treasurer - Ms. Krystal
We are always looking for additional support from parents and will be sharing dates of upcoming meetings and events. If you have questions or would like to volunteer for our PTSO please email them at ptsorattlers@gmail.com. Our PTSO does have a Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/AkimelAalPTSO. Ongoing updates and campus events will be shared throughout the year on this social media page.

****ParentVue Mobile App Instructions**

Important: Sign up for Text Messages
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 our school and district.

Upcoming Events

JULY 21: Meet the Teacher 1-4pm
JULY 23: First day of school (Full Day)

Contact Us

Kyrene Akimel A-al
2720 E Liberty Lane,
Phoenix, Arizona 85048

Phone: 480-541-5800
Fax: 480-541-5810
Attendance: 480-541-5801

School Hours: 8:20 am - 3:05 pm
Early Dismissal Wed: 1:05 pm

Office Hours: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday: 7:30 am - 2:00 pm



Kyrene School District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Kyrene School District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: Unsubscribe

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.