



NORTE NEWS

August 1, 2025



Principal's Imprint

Dear Kyrene del Norte Families,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! It was such a joy to see so many of you at Meet the Teacher Night-what a wonderful turnout! Your presence and enthusiasm set a positive tone for the exciting year ahead, and we are truly grateful for the strong family support that defines our Kyrene del Norte community. As we begin this journey together, I want to extend a heartfelt invitation to join us for **Curriculum Night on Wednesday, August 6th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** This important event will give you valuable insight into what your child will be learning this year in both Spanish and English, and how you can support their academic and linguistic growth at home.

We also encourage every family to review the Dual Language Family Handbook, which outlines our program philosophy, expectations, and how we work together to foster bilingualism, biliteracy, and cross-cultural understanding. You can access the handbook here:

[Dual Language Family Handbook](#)

At Kyrene del Norte, we believe that families are essential partners in a child's dual language journey. Your engagement asking questions about what your child is learning each day in both languages, reading together at home, and celebrating cultural traditions-makes a lasting impact on their success. We also invite you to get involved at school-whether through classroom volunteering, special events, or community-building efforts. Your time, talents, and presence help make our school stronger and more connected.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Together, we can make this an incredible year of learning, growth, and joy.

Warm regards,
Jaime Soto
Principal /Director





Curriculum Night

Please make plans to join us for this special event. This is an evening for parents to learn about the wonderful things that Norte staff and teachers have planned to make this a great year for learning. Teachers will be sharing the SAME information all 3 time slots so you can choose the time that works best for you.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Wednesday, August 6th
5:30 - 7:30pm

Time slots:

5:30pm - 6:00pm

6:10pm - 6:40pm

6:50pm - 7:20pm

Enter through the A door in the front

Staff Spotlights

New to Norte! **Yasmin Santana** | *Kindergarten Teacher*

How long have you been in education?

This is my 3rd year teaching Kindergarten, but 1 st year at Norte.

What inspired you to become an educator or work in a school setting?

Wanting to be a part of the system that teaches our future. Not just educationally but also the part that shows a young child kindness and that everyone deserves it.

What do you love most about your job?

Seeing growth at the end of the year or even just throughout the year.

Where are you from originally?

Raised fully in Mesa, AZ

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I love just hanging out with my dogs or going on a hike (my dogs are lazy so I do this with another human)

Fun facts, hobbies, or something most people don't know about you?

I would call my second job a hobby because I love it. I work with dogs and it's awesome.

Favorite quote or motto?

"You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."
- Abraham Lincoln



New to Norte! **Chelsea Bradford** | *School Psychologist*

How long have you been in education?

15 years, but this is my 1st year at Norte

What inspired you to become an educator or work in a school setting?

I enjoy working with children and helping families access resources.

What do you love most about your job?

Working with kids.

Where are you from originally?

Payson, AZ

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Hiking, seeing concerts, spending time with my family.

Fun facts, hobbies, or something most people don't know about you?

I love to crochet.

Favorite quote or motto?

"Difficult things take a long time. Impossible things a little longer."



New to Norte! **Kinora Hernandez** | *ELD Teacher*

How long have you been in education?

35 years, This is my 1st year back to Norte but I was here previously about 5 years

What inspired you to become an educator?

The teachers I had in school. I left teaching 4th grade after 18 years for SEI after the impact one of my EL students had on me

What do you love most about your job?

Following my students year after year and watching them grow and learn

Any special achievements, certifications, or roles?

AEA Christa McAuliffe/Teacher of the Year Award, 2018 • NEA Teacher of the Year Candidate, 2018 • Tempe Diablos Leadership Award, 2023

Where are you from originally?

Grew up in LA, graduated from Cactus HS in Glendale, AZ

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Spending time with my grandkids, traveling

Fun facts, hobbies, or something most people don't know about you?

I love seeing Broadway shows at Gammage - going to NY is on my bucket list to see some shows there!

Favorite quote or motto?

"You're braver than you believe, You're stronger than you seem, You're smarter than you think and loved more than you'll ever know."



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





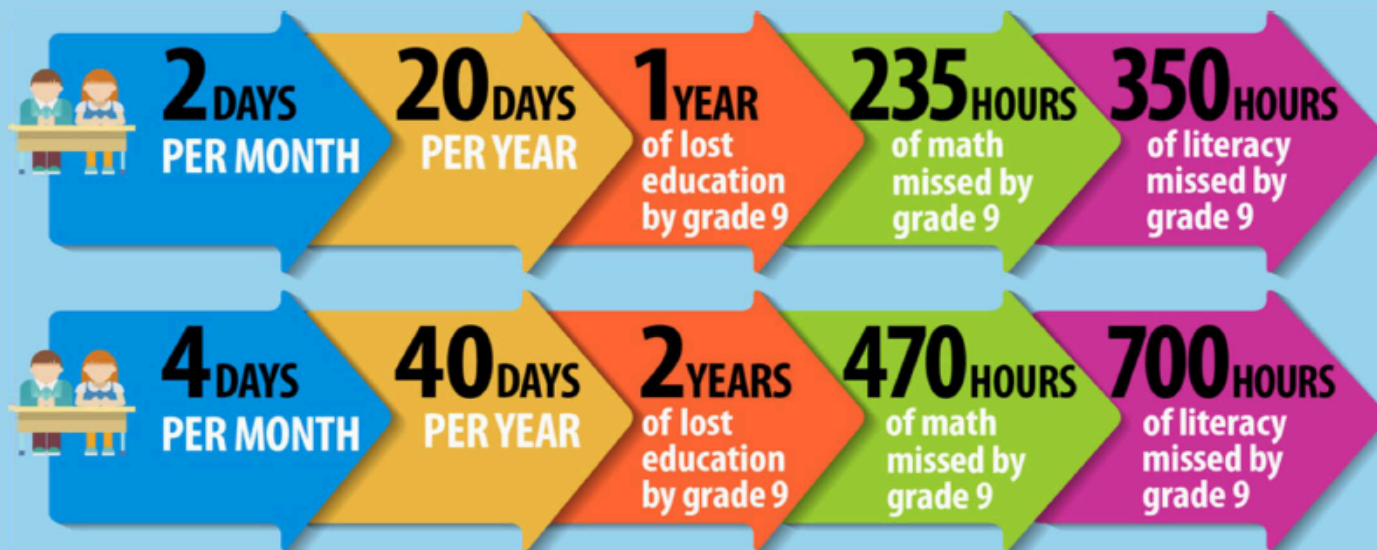
Safety Corner

Thank you families for making our morning and afternoon dismissal areas go smoothly. A few reminders as we continue into next few weeks:

- **Morning Drop Off** - Make sure you drop off your student in the designated areas. If you need to help your student with their seat belt, please park in the middle lanes and then walk the student across the small parking lot crosswalk. When leaving the Family Drop Off area, we need all vehicles to turn right on Juniper. This will help the flow of traffic for all families.
- **Morning Drop Off**- Due to the **high heat index** in our weather patterns, we may experience limited recess periods. There will be days where the recess period before school begins is limited to 10 minutes. This may mean that we begin lining up our students at 8:50 am or other times before 9:05 am. The playground gate leading into this area will close soon after we begin lining up students. If you happen to be approaching this area to drop off your student on these day, there will be a sign by the Redfield crosswalk to let you know the playground gate is closed. please drive to the front of the school to drop off your student by the A door. The student will not be marked late any time before 9:10 am. After 9:10 am, we ask that you come in to the office with your student.
- **Family Drive Up Area dismissal** - during **High Heat Advisory** days we will use the alternative dismissal protocol while the heat index is high and keeping students inside until they are called to go outside to meet their family vehicle.
- **Be courteous and patient** when driving in our school neighborhood. Everyone needs to get somewhere but we need to prioritize safety for all. Respecting traffic signs and neighborhood driveways is appreciated by both our neighbors and anyone coming to visit our school during the dismissal time periods.
- **Help us** in reminding your student to **stay hydrated** throughout the school day. If your student has not brought it back home, please remind your student to check the classroom or our **Lost & Found area**.

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.



School Times & Attendance Information

Playground opens: 8:40AM

First Bell Rings: 9:05AM

School Begins: 9:10 AM

Students dropped off after 9:10AM need to be signed in at the front office.

ATTENDANCE LINE: 480.541.4801

The attendance line is open 24/7

Parents/guardians are required to call the attendance line day their child is absent, indicating the student's name, grade, and there must be a reason for the absence.

Please call before 8:30 AM to ensure the student is accounted for.

For student safety, it is essential that we verify that you are aware that they are not in school. For extended absences, administration approval is needed.

School attendance is not only a good habit, but state law requires it.

To keep families informed regarding their student's attendance, letters will be sent to families when a child has been absent 4 days, 8, days, 13 days, and when a student has reached chronic absenteeism which is more than 18 absences.

Upcoming Dates

AUG 5: Governing Board Meeting

AUG 6: Curriculum Night 5:30-7:30pm

AUG 8: PNO@ Native Grill (PTO)

AUG 15: EARLY DISMISSAL@1:55PM

AUG 18: NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day

AUG 19: NNO@ Zeeks (PTO)

AUG 21: PTO Meeting@ Norte 5:30pm

AUG 24: D-Backs Night ([get tickets here](#))

AUG 25: Student of the Month Celebration

AUG 28: Fall Picture Day

SEPT 1: NO SCHOOL/ LABOR DAY

SEPT 4: Fall Picture Day Make-up Day

SEPT 9: Raise the Craze Fund raiser Kick-off

SEPT 10, 11, 12: Early Dismissal at 1:55pm for Parent I Teacher Conferences AND Book Fair in the Library

SEPT 16: NNO@ Word of Mouth BBQ

SEPT 22: Student of the Month Celebration

SEPT 26: PTO Fund raiser ends / End of Q1

SEPT 29 - OCT 13: FALL BREAK

[View Full Calendar](#)



Show your school spirit on FRIDAYS! Wear your Cougar shirt or Blue and Yellow colors!

Food Services

Please visit our [Food Services page](#) on the Kyrene website for information about:

Lunch Menus

Lunch Payments

Lunch Balances

Apply for Free and Reduced Meals

FAQs

ParentVue

Each year, families are asked to review and acknowledge important information, including contact/emergency details, district policies, and survey preferences.

This information is now available in [ParentVUE](#) for your review. Please log into your account and complete this process.

[Parent Resource Link](#)

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](#)

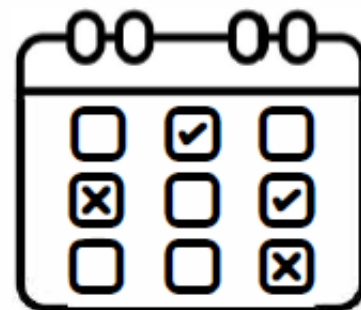
SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

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 Kyrene School District.



Click for PTO
Membership page



Click for PTO
Calendar



Transportation

Bus Stop Reminder!

Safe transportation is a priority in Kyrene, especially for our youngest bus riders, who may still be getting used to riding a bus. Kindergarten and first grade students must have a parent/guardian present at the bus stop at the end of the day. If a parent/guardian is not present, students will be returned to school. Exceptions will be granted if families specifically request that a student be dropped off unattended or with a sibling. Again, this applies only to kindergarten and first grade bus riders.

Kyrene School District is rolling out a new bus tracking app! This free app lets you track your child's bus in real time, set up arrival/departure alerts, and message the Transportation team. Families should have received an invitation in July to register. (The app won't work without it!)

- Download Stopfinder on the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).
- Check your contact info in ParentVUE. Didn't get the invite? Contact Transportation at www.kyrene.org/asktransportation.

Contact Us

Kyrene del Norte
1331 E. Redfield Rd.
Tempe, AZ 85283

Phone: 480-541-4800
Fax: 480-541-4810
Attendance: 480-541-4801

School Hours: 9:10 am – 3:55 pm
Early Release Wednesday: 1:55 pm

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Every Wednesday at 2:30 pm