Kyrene Akimel A-al

AKIMEL A-AL NEWS

August 8,2025

Message from the Principal

Good afternoon, Rattler families,

This week marked our first *regular* schedule without testing, and our students have truly settled into the daily rhythm of campus life.

We also held our first general PTSO meeting of the year—our phenomenal board is ready to plan exciting events that will help our campus thrive. Thank you to those who joined us for our first restaurant night of the year at BJ's! Your support helps us create an environment where Rattler students can learn and grow. Our BJ's fundraiser brought in over $200—not a bad start! You'll find details on upcoming restaurant nights below.

Just a reminder:

Friday, August 15 – Early release at 1:05 p.m. for all students
Monday, August 18 – Staff development day; no school for students

Thank you for another great week here at AKI. Have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to seeing your Rattler back on campus Monday morning!

Warmly,

Shalini McCarthy

Principal



Grade Level Focus Areas

At Akimel A-al, each grade level is centered around specific developmental goals to support our students' academic and personal growth:

6th Grade – *Study Skills & Organization*: Students are building foundational habits for success by focusing on time management, note-taking strategies, and organizational systems.

7th Grade – *Rigor in Writing*: Emphasis is being placed on strengthening writing skills across content areas, with a focus on structure, clarity, and academic vocabulary.

8th Grade – *Leadership & Self-Advocacy*: Students are encouraged to take initiative, build confidence, and develop their voice as they prepare for high school and beyond.



Would you like to be a part of the Akimel A-al Site Council? The mission of the Akimel A-al Middle School Site Council is to work in partnership with students, parents, staff members, businesses, and the community to support and influence the direction of the school in creating a positive environment to facilitate learning and the growth of students, so that they may become lifelong learners. If you are interested in being part of our Site Council please reach out to Judy Cotharin via email at jcotharin@kyrene.org.

PTSO News

Hello Rattler Family,

We have some exciting news! Our PTSO is making history with its very first fundraiser in Maricopa, and we want you to be a part of it.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 13 from4-9pm. We're partnering with Slim Chickens. This is a chance for our entire community to come together, enjoy some incredible food, and raise money for our school.

We're so excited to launch this new tradition with you. See you there!

Proud to be a Rattler,
The PTSO Team



Upcoming Events

AUG 13: Slim Chickens Dinner Night – **Maricopa**
AUG 15: Early Release Friday @ 1:05pm
AUG 18: Staff Development Day – **No School**
AUG 20: Chipotle Fundraiser
AUG 22: School Pictures
AUG 25: Step It Up Fundraiser Kickoff
SEPT 1: Labor Day — **No School**
SEPT 10-12: Parent Teacher Conferences –Early Release @ 1:05 pm



Show your Rattler Spirit!

The sale has been extended through Sunday, August 10th! Don't forget to order your student a Rattler spirit shirt! Show off your Rattler spirit with our grade level Akimel A-al t-shirts!

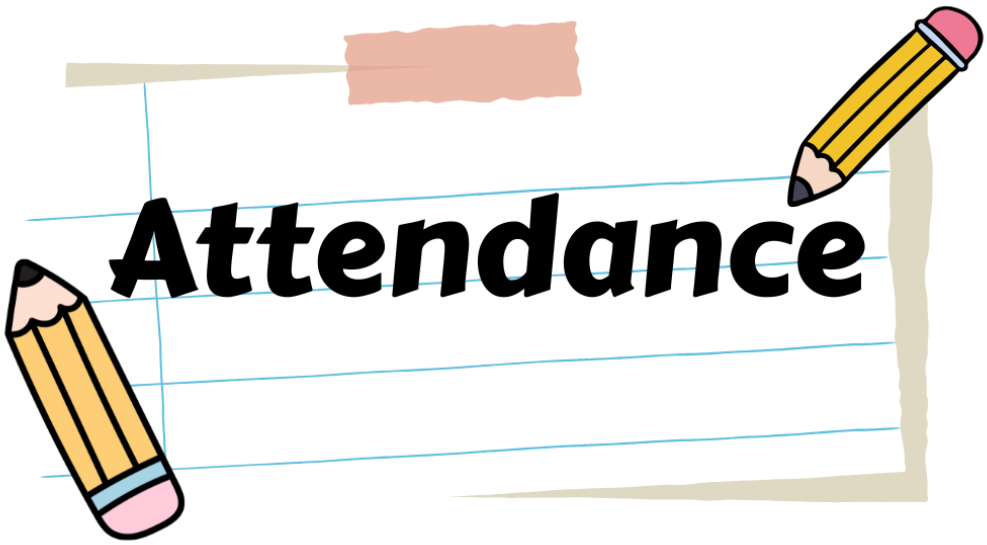
We want every student to not only feel like an Akimel A-al Rattler, but look the part too. Place your order online using our online payment portal, InTouch Receipting, by Sunday, August 9th. The cost is $10 per shirt for S-XL & $12 for XXL or larger.

Shirts will be delivered to your student in their Advisory class. Orders will be placed on Monday, August 11th. Please allow at least 3 weeks for delivery.

Rattler **Spirit Days!**

Show your spirit by wearing your grade level shirt or Rattler gear every Friday and your favorite college gear every Tuesday.

Let's show our pride and earn those Snake Bites!



Greetings from the attendance desk!

If your student will be late or out of school for any reason, please remember to report the tardy or absence. There are two ways to report a late arrival or absence. Late arrivals and absences can be reported by calling our attendance line or through your ParentVue App. To report an absence or late arrival through ParentVue you must have the ParentVue app. If you have any questions please reach out to our front office at 480-541-5800.



Our first quarter sports are underway!
Come out and cheer on our Rattlers Wrestling and Girls Volleyball teams as they have their first games and meet next week on Monday, August 11 @ 4:30pm.
Contact Stacy Huerta our athletic secretary with any questions at 480-541-5805 or shuerta@kyrene.org.


ESPORTS



Lou Coopey's . . .
SCHOOL BUS
480-830-5667
all Pro
SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures are right around the corner. Pictures will be taken Friday, August 22nd. You may place your order early by pre paying via order envelope or online at the All Pro website. Envelopes will be distributed to students within the next couple weeks. Click here to see the envelope and different packages you may order.
To prepay click **here.**



KYRENE 2025-26
SCHOOL YEAR
PARENT TRAININGS



ESS Parent Trainings

Plan to attend the following ESS parent trainings:

All trainings will be at the District Office from 6-7:30 pm.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
IEP TRAINING WITH ENCIRCLE FAMILIES (FORMERLY RAISING SPECIAL KIDS)

Learn about the special education process and the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Understand who is required to attend the IEP meeting and the roles of each team member (including parents). Review the required parts of an IEP, learn how parents can prepare for and be more effective during the IEP meeting and how they can track their child's progress. Discover the options available if the IEP team does not agree.

OCTOBER 20, 2025
HANDS ON OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Come and explore items and get ideas from our Occupational therapists and Assistive Technology specialist. An area will also be set up for families to make and take items home to use with your children.

NOVEMBER 20, 2025
CALM BODIES, READY MINDS

Understanding Sensory Processing and the Functions of Behavior to Promote Home and Classroom Readiness. Join Bri Armijo, Lead Behavior Intervention Teacher and Amy Hecker OTR/L, Lead OT to learn different strategies to support self-regulation and sensory processing to improve your child's readiness for home life and in the classroom.

KyreneSchoolDistrict

JANUARY 12, 2026
OVERVIEW AND Q&A WITH THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND ENCIRCLE FAMILIES

Join us for an information session with representatives from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Encircle Families. They will provide an introduction to the supports and services their organizations provide to children with disabilities and their families and be available for questions after the presentation.

FEBRUARY 19, 2026
IEP TRAINING WITH ENCIRCLE FAMILIES

Learn about the special education process and the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Understand who is required to attend the IEP meeting and the roles of each team member (including parents). Review the required parts of an IEP, learn how parents can prepare for and be more effective during the IEP meeting and how they can track their child's progress. Discover the options available if the IEP team does not agree.

APRIL 1, 2026
EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY

Parents are invited to learn more about the importance of oral language & reading in the home to set up children for school readiness. Each participant will be able to take home an early literacy bag.

APRIL 22, 2026
ESS FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR

Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School. More information to come!

Quick Links

- School Website
- Online Payment Portal - This can be used for purchasing PE Uniforms, lunch accounts, tax credit donations, paying for athletic fees, field trips etc.

- Breakfast/Lunch Menus - Application for Free/Reduced Meals
- Transportation, Bus Information
- ParentVUE and StudentVUE - Log into your ParentVue to access student schedules. It's a good idea to write down the class schedule for a quick glance during the first few days of school. This is also where you will see student grades and communications from teachers.
- Kyrene Family Handbook

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.