Kyrene Akimel A-al



August 22,2025

Message from the Principal

Good afternoon Rattler families!

Today, all students will be bringing home a **paper copy of their first quarter progress report.** These were completed during Advisory and should be signed and returned to your child's Advisory teacher next week. Working together to support our students' academics is at the heart of what we do here at AKI, and your partnership makes all the difference.

Additionally, **Monday marks the kick-off of our one major fundraiser of the year—Step It Up!** A big thank you to our wonderful PTSO for organizing this event. We have exciting plans ahead, and your support of this fundraiser directly benefits our campus and student experiences.
As always, we appreciate your continued support of our Rattler community. Wishing you a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to seeing your student back on campus Monday morning!

Warmly,
Shalini McCarthy
Principal



Dear Families,

We thank you and your family for being our valued partners as we work together to educate our students at Akimel A-al Middle School. As you may already be aware, building social-emotional learning skills is an important goal of ours. **We ask for your response regarding your student's participation in a social emotional learning survey by Monday, September 1, 2025 through ParentVUE**. If we have consent for a student to participate, they will complete a survey designed to provide school staff data on students' understanding of concepts related to Character Strong, which is the social-emotional learning curriculum we are implementing with all students in grades 6-8.

The survey content will ask students to self-reflect on Emotion Regulation, Self-Efficacy, Sense of Belonging, and Teacher-Student Relationships. These topics are related to the content in Character Strong and will help guide the implementation of the curriculum and measure its impact over time. The online survey will take place during first period (Advisory) on **September 4, 2025**. It will be completed at school and should not take more than 20-30 minutes to complete.

Student responses will provide invaluable insights into their experiences and how we can improve and adapt our school to their needs. If a student doesn't feel like they have enough information to answer a question, they will be able to skip the item altogether. The responses to these surveys will be completely confidential.

ParentVUE can be found on our school website here– **https://aki.kyrene.org/**

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the school counselor at **znelson@kyrene.org.**

Sincerely,

Ms. Nelson

Join the Akimel A-al Site Council!

Our first Site Council meeting will be on Friday, August 29th from 7:30am - 8am. 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 joining, please contact **Judy Cotharin** at jcotharin@kyrene.org

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PTSO News

Step Up for a Brighter Future!

Get ready to move, because our PTSO Step It Up! fundraiser kicks off this Monday. Our slogan is "Cool Shade, Bright Futures at Aki," and we're stepping up to raise funds for environmental health projects on campus, like new shade structures to keep our students cool and comfortable.

To celebrate our hard work, we'll end the fundraiser with a special Day of Fun on Friday, September 19, 2025! We can't do it without you, so please check your calendar and consider volunteering. We need adult volunteers to help make this day a huge success.

Sign up now: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044BABA823A46-58113825-water

PTSO Upcoming Dates

Step It Up! Fundraiser: August 25th-September 5th
PTSO General Meeting: September 3rd
Cane's Restaurant Night: September 4th
Water Day of Fun!: September 19th

Upcoming Events

AUG 25: Step It Up Fundraiser Kickoff
SEPT 1: Labor Day — **No School**
SEPT 3: PTSO General Meeting
SEPT 4: Cane's Restaurant Night
SEPT 10-12: Parent Teacher Conferences –Early Release @ 1:05 pm
SEPT 19: Water Day of Fun!: September 19th



Quarter 2

Quarter 2 sports registration is now OPEN! Register online for Cheer, Boy's Soccer, Cross Country, Girl's Flag Football, and Boys Basketball. If you have any questions please reach out to Stacy Huerta at 480-541-5805 or shuerta@kyrene.org.

Fun Things Are Happening at AKI!

Applications Open for 8th Grade Boston Trip!

Applications for our 8th graders' trip to Boston open on **Monday, August 25, 2025**. This will be our second Boston trip, and we are thrilled to offer students this incredible opportunity!

During the trip, students will:

Explore the rich history of Boston

Visit colleges that many have never experienced before

Bring their AVID learning to life

Create lasting memories with classmates

Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience!



Parent Acknowledgements

Dear Families,

Every year we ask families to check a few things for us—like emergency contacts, district policies, and survey preferences. It only takes a few minutes, and it really helps us keep everything up to date for your child.

You'll find it all waiting for you in **ParentVUE**. Thanks so much for logging in and taking care of it!
If you have a question or can't get into your account, don't worry—just reach out and we'll get you set up.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 480-541-5800.

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



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