



CHALLENGER NEWS

August 29, 2025

Upcoming Mariposa Events

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day, Schools Closed
- 3 Early Release, 12:15pm
- 6 Night for Kyrene Gala, 6:00pm-10:00pm
- 10 Early Release, 12:15pm Parent Teacher Conferences
Chip's Night Out at Barro's Pizza, info below
- 11 Early Release, 12:15pm Parent Teacher Conferences
- 12 Early Release, 12:15pm Parent Teacher Conferences
- 29 - Oct 10 Fall Break - Schools Closed

OCTOBER

- 13 Teacher Work Day - Schools Closed
- 14 School Resumes

Reminder: Every Wednesday is Early Release at 12:15pm.



Message From Principal

Dear Families,

At the District Long Range Planning Committee on Wednesday evening, a recommendation was made to close or re-purpose several schools in Kyrene. Mariposa was among those recommended for closure. Kyrene del Pueblo was also included, which is significant, as many of our students transition to Pueblo for their Middle School experience. It is with a great deal of sadness that I share this news as Mariposa has been the home of many of our families and their children for many years. On a personal level, I came to Kyrene in 1987 when Mariposa opened and will likely be here if it closes, making this potential change something very close to my heart. I love the Mariposa community, and most importantly, want what is best for our students - your children. If the recommendation is ultimately approved, students living within Warner Ranch and Grove Parkway would attend Kyrene de las Manitas and those living in the southwest portion of Kyrene and Guadalupe would attend Kyrene de los Ninos. Kyrene de las Manitas and Kyrene de los Ninos would be a part of the Kyrene region and students would ultimately attend Kyrene Middle School. **This recommendation is not final until the Governing Board votes and chooses to move forward with the recommended changes.**

To keep you informed, there will be a Board Presentation on the Committee Recommendation on September 16th, at the Kyrene Governing Board Meeting.

Between October 15th and November 20th Kyrene will hold Regional Public Hearings. These meetings will provide our community and those affected an opportunity to show their support or lack of support for the recommendation put forward by the Governing Board. A quorum of the Kyrene Governing Board will be present at those meetings to hear the feedback. You are welcome to attend any of the six Regional Public Hearings but the best ones to attend are the two regions that Mariposa currently feeds into which are Kyrene del Pueblo and Kyrene Middle School. Each meeting is from 6:00 - 9:00 and the regional schedule is as follows:

| Kyrene | Akimel A-AL | Centennial | Pueblo | Altadena | Aprende |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 10/16 | 10/21 | 10/29 | 11/5 | 11/12 | 11/19 |

There will be a second Board Presentation with a final recommendation at the December 2nd Governing Board meeting and possibly a final vote at the December 16th Kyrene Governing Board Meeting.

Please see the webpage, www.kyrene.org/longrangeplan. Content includes an outline of the committee's recommendation, a map, a timeline, public hearings, FAQs, communications archives, board meetings, and a portal for public comment.

As school districts across Arizona and the nation continue to decline in enrollment, the population ages, and the cost of housing makes acquiring a home more challenging, districts are left with no choice but to make challenging decisions as we are faced with

today to be fiscally responsible. Not doing so would result in other changes that would affect the quality of education your children receive in Kyrene.

This in no way changes the loss we feel when a change such as this occurs. As stated in an earlier communication from the Mariposa PTO, we want you to know that we remain steadfast in our support of you, our Mariposa community and are dedicated to making this our *best year yet!*

Spencer Fallgatter, Principal

Chip's Cheers Winners!

Students who have received Chip's Cheers were recognized by teachers or staff as a leader on campus by following Chip's Way: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe. Congratulations!

| K | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
|------|-------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|
| Lena | Emma | RJ | Liberty | Ryan | Sebastian |
| Maia | Basil | Liberty | Lotus | Melody | Jubee |
| | Avery | Emma | | Levi | |



Night For Kyrene

The Night for Kyrene gala is Saturday, September 6th at 6:00pm at Wild Horse Pass Casino and Resort. This is the Foundation's largest fundraising event and sets us up to fund all Holiday meals and gifts, Grants for Teachers and Principals, Community Ed scholarships, Slater Newman awards, new teacher gift cards, retirement gifts, supply the Kyrene Resource center and MORE! We are aiming to raise \$80,000. Find out more information about sponsorships, tickets, and tables at www.kyrenefoundation.org



A Message from Your Mariposa PTO

Hi Mariposa Families,

First and foremost, we send a **note of support** to our families and this special community of dedicated staff and teachers. *Thank you for the outpouring of support for our beloved Mariposa community* since yesterday's news about Kyrene's Long Range Planning. Many of you have offered to attend the public hearings. Please reach out to us at kyrenemariposapto@gmail.com if you'd like to join us. Also, be sure you are following Mariposa PTO on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Submit your questions or comments online [here](#) and save the date for the Kyrene Regional Public Hearings, with the first one scheduled at Kyrene Middle School on Thursday, October 16, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Regardless of what happens, we remain true to our mission as the PTO:

To enhance and support the educational experience at Kyrene de la Mariposa, develop a closer connection between school and home by encouraging family involvement, and improve the environment at Kyrene de la Mariposa through volunteer and financial support.

During this time of uncertainty about the future of Mariposa, we want you to know that we remain steadfast in our support of you, our Mariposa community, and are dedicated to making this our *best year yet*.

Your Mariposa PTO Board

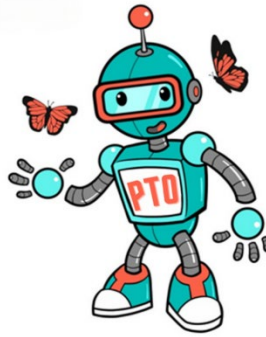
Co-Presidents: Jennifer Olonan and Kelsey Wolf-Donnay

Secretary: Jennifer Pratt

Treasurer: Sarah Alexander

In-School Support: Jeni Fuhrmann

Fundraising: Suzanne Percy



Kyrene de la Mariposa



Mariposa PTO Family Directory

Thank you for filling out the Mariposa Family Directory over the past few weeks.

We still need a few more families to complete it, but we wanted to ensure you have the link to view it for birthday party invites and playdates. If you have yet to fill out the directory for 2025-2026 school year, here's the link: [Mariposa Family Directory Registration](#)

[View the Family Directory](#)

Please reach out to us at kyrenemariposapto@gmail.com or send us a message on [Instagram](#) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.



Connect with the PTO:

[Mariposa PTO Facebook](#)

[Mariposa Instagram](#)

[Mariposa PTO Website](#)

PTO Calendar



We've made it easy for you to stay in sync with our events. **Subscribe to the PTO calendar and MAGIC...** it appears alongside your personal calendar.

Android Calendar: [Android PTO Calendar](#)

iPhone: [iPhone PTO Calendar](#)

Mark your calendars for our next events:

Next PTO Events:

- PTO Breakfast: Saturday, Aug. 30 8am-10am, Nu Cafe
- Chip's Night Out at Barro's Pizza (Kyrene & Warner) on Wed., Sept. 10
- Save the date - Trunk or Treat - Friday, October 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. Stay tuned for more details!

Mariposa PTO

Meet and Greet

OPEN HOUSE

| | |
|---|---|
| THURSDAY, AUG. 28 5:30 - 6:30 PM PICAZZO'S (KYRENE & WARNER) | SATURDAY, AUG. 30 8 - 10 AM NU CAFE (KYRENE & RAY) |
|---|---|

Come by anytime to connect with fellow Mariposa families.



MARIPOSA RESTAURANT NIGHT

20% of proceeds will go back to Mariposa!



DINE OUT OR PICK UP ON WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

Barro's Pizza
Kyrene & Warner
Mention Mariposa

School and District Communication

**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.



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!

REPEAT INFORMATION

**PLEASE READ
TEXT MESSAGE SYSTEM**

If you are not set up to receive text messages from us, you are missing out on extremely valuable information!

Please opt in today! It takes seconds! Thank you! Text “Y” or “yes” to 67587 to begin receiving text messages from our school and Kyrene School District.



School Safety

Parents, for the safety of our students we ask that you please use the designated lanes in the carline during the morning student drop off. The parking lot is a busy area and students should always be dropped off along the designated curb where school staff is on duty.

Also a reminder that students should not be left unattended on campus prior to the start of our morning supervision at 7:00am. Student safety is a priority and we need everyone's cooperation.

Thank you for your help and understanding.



School Meal Payments

Need to add funds to your student's meal account?

Kyrene provides an optional credit card payment platform called InTouch for families to quickly add funds to their student's meal accounts and make payments. Using a separate platform called Linq Connect, families may check meal balances, transfer funds between siblings, apply for free or reduced-priced meals or create spending limits for their students.

Learn more at [Kyrene Food Services](#).

Guide to School Meal Payments



InTouch

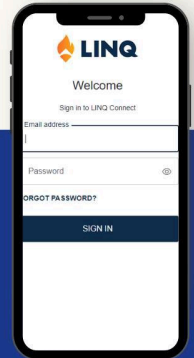
✓ Add money to your student's account.

✗ Account balances not available.

Linq Connect

✓ View your student's account balances.

✗ Payments not accepted.



Attendance Matters!

Kyrene School District is committed to working with families to improve student attendance and academic success. Our school will send email notices when a student misses four or more days of school, whether excused or unexcused. Additional notices are sent when a student reaches 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 a webpage with resources to maintain good attendance habits, including our "Too Sick for school" guide to help determine when to keep children home.

Bus Stops, Routes & Reminders

Kyrene is proud to provide transportation for students in an environment that is safe, courteous, and on time. Be sure to review the [Bus Rules](#) and expectations as well as our video reviewing seat belt usage during the bus ride.

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

Better Bus Tracking!

Kyrene School District has a new and improved app for tracking your child's bus route this school year. **Stopfinder** is an easy-to-use, all-in-one app that provides accurate information about bus routes and locations. You'll be able to track your child's bus, set up alerts for bus arrivals and departures, and communicate directly with the Kyrene

Transportation team—all through the Stopfinder app. Kyrene will be sending additional information to all eligible bus riders.

Note: Even if your child has ridden the bus in the past, please check the online [transportation portal](#) to verify eligibility and bus stop locations!

Contact Us

Kyrene de la Mariposa
50 E Knox Rd
Tempe, AZ 85284

Phone: 480-541-3800
Fax: 480-541-3810
Attendance: 480-541-3801

School Hours: 7:30 am - 2:15 pm
Early Release Wed: 12:15 pm

Office Hours: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm
Wednesday: 7:00 am - 1:30 pm



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

A+ School of Excellence™

