



NORTE NEWS

September 2, 2025

Principal's Imprint



Dear Kyrene del Norte Families,

As we move into the second half of the first quarter, I want to thank you for the strong start to our school year. It has been inspiring to see our students settling into routines, building friendships, and demonstrating their Cougar pride.

September brings an important milestone in our partnership—Parent-Teacher Conferences (Sept. 10 - 12). These conferences are a valuable time for teachers and families to come together and celebrate student successes, discuss progress, and set goals for continued growth. Our dual language program thrives when school and home work hand in hand, and conferences provide the perfect opportunity to strengthen that connection.

I encourage you to approach conferences with questions and insights about your child's learning. Teachers are eager to share not only academic progress, but also how your child is growing socially and emotionally. Together, we can ensure that every student is supported and challenged throughout the school year.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the first quarter, let's continue to celebrate the small daily achievements while keeping our eyes on long-term goals. Your partnership and engagement make all the difference in your child's educational journey.

Thank you for your continued support and for entrusting us with the privilege of teaching your children. I look forward to seeing many of you during conferences and celebrating the progress of our students.

With gratitude,

Warm regards,
Jaime Soto
Principal /Director





Parent - Teacher Conferences

Beginning September 9th, 2025 we will be hosting Parent/Teacher Conferences for all of our Norte Students. On **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Sept. 10-12)**, we will have **EARLY RELEASE at 1:55pm** to accommodate all of our Cougar families to the best of our ability. Your student's teachers will reach out for a scheduled time to meet with you and go over your student's progress in a one-on-one setting.



WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) is an innovative father (father-figure) involvement, educational initiative of the National Center For Fathering. At Norte, we believe that having a positive role model on campus makes a big difference not only in your child's life, but that of other students. By simply being present and visible, Watch DOGS show all students that education is important while enhancing school security and reducing bullying.

For more information on the national program: [WATCH D.O.G.S.](#)

For questions or information, contact [Mr. Vasquez](#)

Staff Spotlights

Linda Swan | School Counselor

How long have you been in education?

This is my 3rd year in education and at Norte.

What do you love most about your job?

I love helping and supporting students and staff.

Where are you from originally?

Tennessee

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Nice walks in nature, spending time with family and friends, my hobbies

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

I love to watercolor, I am a Lord of the Rings fanatic

Favorite quote or motto?

From my Mema, "If it doesn't bring you peace, don't do it"



Liliana Cons-Duarte | Resource IA

How long have you been in education?

3 years and all at Norte

What inspired you to work in a school setting?

I wanted to support students in dual language education programs

What do you love most about your job?

The ability to help students to achieve their goals

Any special achievements, certifications, or roles you'd like highlighted?

CPR/AED and First Aid certifications, NCI training.

Where are you from originally?

Mexico

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Spending time with my family and visiting friends

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

I enjoy traveling and I like when things are well organized

Favorite quote or motto?

"Something worth doing deserves 100% effort."



Sonya Valencia | Resource IA

How long have you been in education?

13 years and 8 years at Norte

What inspired you to work in education?

I love working with children

What do you love most about your job?

Helping the children that I get to support

Any special achievements, certifications, or roles?

I am currently in school to become a certified Special Education Teacher.

Where are you from originally?

Born and raised here in Arizona.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I love spending time with my family

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

I love to read and cook

Favorite quote or motto?

"If you never start you will never reach the finish line."



Carla Lopez | Attendance Clerk / Office Assistant

How long have you been at our school?

This is my 5th year at Norte

What inspired you to work in education?

I love the dual language community

What do you love most about your job?

Interacting with all of the staff, parents and students everyday!

Any special achievements, certifications, or roles?

I was nominated by my peers for the Kyrene Values award last year.

Where are you from originally?

Born and raised here in Tucson, AZ -- GO CATS!

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Running, Traveling, Cooking

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

I like to paint and color and write short stories.

Favorite quote or motto?

Soo many!!! But my favorite has always been "dime con quien andas y te dire quien eres - tell me who you hang out with and I will tell you who you are."



AWARDS



CONGRATULATIONS to the Student of the Month nominees for August!

Kindergarten: Blake Beerling, Maximus Driscoll, Nora Geare, Kailani Sepulveda

1st Grade: Yasin Caceres, Calan Lind, Sophie G. Banuelos, Elizabeth Ierley, Neveah Johns

2nd Grade: Jude Robles Montoya, Lucas Baker, Kai Monte, Silvia Torres Delgado

3rd Grade: Robinson Lind, Remy Bard, Princess Ramirez Luna

4th Grade: Liam Robertson, Joaquin Reyes, Noah Lee, Iyona Harper

5th Grade: Natalia Valencia, Corey Washington, Brayden Betancort



Announcing our NEW Perfect Attendance Award!! Month of September (win a popsicle party with Mr. Soto)

- Other months for Perfect Attendance Awards will be (one per quarter):
 - November
 - February
 - April
- Awards for those months will be announced at a later time.

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.

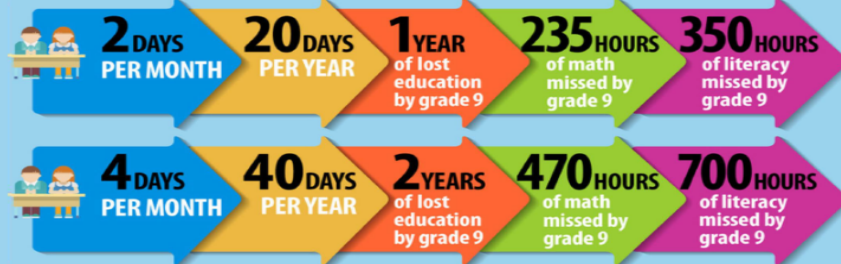
For student safety, it is essential that we verify that you are aware that they are not in school. For extended absences, administration approval is needed.

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.

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.



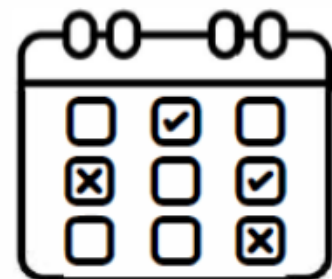
KyreneSchoolDistrict

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

CLUBS

Norte News



Norte News is open to 4th and 5th grade students. Each year, a team of students work together to write, produce, and present daily announcements for Kyrene del Norte.

[Norte News Page](#)



Drama Club is open to 4th and 5th grade students. We perform a major production every year and share our work with our school family as well as the community at large.

[Drama Club Page](#)



First Lego League teams around the world are presented with an annual Challenge. It is based on a set of real-world problems facing scientists and engineers today. Open to 4th & 5th graders.

[First Lego League page](#)



The Norte Running Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday morning before the start of the school day in the 2nd and 3rd Quarters. Open to ALL students.

[Running Club Page](#)

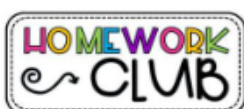


Student Council is a leadership club where students work together to make a positive impact on our school and community.

CONGRATULATIONS to this year's Student Council officers:

President: Joshua Dunn
Vice President: Nico Fonner
Secretary: Makai Morabe
Treasurer: Jameson Martin
5th grade Reps: Lucas Smith and Emma Martinson
4th grade Reps: Dylan Martin, Morgan O'Niell, and Ernesto Guevara Celaya

[Student Council Page](#)



The Norte Homework Club is open to ALL Students. This is offered before school from 8:30am - 9:00am for any student that needs a little help or extra time with homework. Check in the front office any morning.

Upcoming Dates

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: Governing Board Meeting

SEPT 16: NNO at Word of Mouth BBQ

SEPT 22: Student of the Month Celebration

SEPT 26: PTO Fundraiser ends / End of Q1

SEPT 29 - OCT 13: FALL BREAK - No School

OCT 14: Start of Q2

OCT 16: Running Club Kick Off

OCT 16: Public Hearing at Kyrene M.S.

OCT 18: Diwali Festival at Norte @ 11am

OCT 24: PNO at Bogey's

OCT 27: Student of the Month Celebration

OCT 30: PTO meeting at Norte Library @ 5:30pm

[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](#)

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

PORTRAIT
OF A
KYRENE KID

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



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.



The Kyrene Governing Board established a Long-Range Planning Committee to address enrollment trends and maximize the use of facilities. After months of study, the committee reached consensus on a recommendation, which will be presented to the board in September. The recommendation is not a reflection of the quality or achievements of any school, but rather a reflection of Kyrene's commitment to ensuring all Kyrene schools are better-resourced and positioned for long-term success. **No decisions will be made until December at the earliest**, so there is time for families, staff, and community members to learn more, ask questions, and share feedback.

We encourage all Cougar families to [stay informed through the website](#) dedicated to this initiative. The school employees do not have any additional information than what is available to all families. We are focused on our mission, keeping our community strong and the education of all students in our dual language program.

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.

