Kyrene Akimel A-al



August 29,2025

Message from the Principal

Good afternoon Rattler families,

While this week may not have unfolded as we expected, words cannot fully express how grateful I am for the outpouring of love and support shown to our Rattler staff. From PTSO lunches to notes of kindness and encouragement, your generosity has been felt deeply by all of us.

I am always honored to serve as your AKI principal, but I am truly humbled by the spirit of this community. Whether you live in our neighborhood or travel across the Valley to be here each day, we are **ONE Rattler family.** It is because of this unity and support that our students, staff, and families thrive.

I am so proud of what we have built together—an environment where relationships are at the heart of everything we do, and where every student has the opportunity to grow and succeed.

Thank you for your continued support, for all that you do, and for making our Rattler community so strong.

With gratitude,
Shalini McCarthy



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. At the beginning of the school year, we asked for your permission to have students participate in a social emotional learning survey. 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 CharacterStrong, 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 CharacterStrong and will help guide the implementation of the curriculum and measure its impact over time. The online survey will take place on September 4th. 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.

If you have any questions about the survey, please don't hesitate to contact us at 480-541-5800 or ZNelson@kyrene.org.

Sincerely,
Zoe Nelson
School Counselor

PTSO News



Step Up for a Brighter Future!

Get ready to move, because our PTSO Step It Up! We kicked off our Step It Up this week. 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

Join us Thursday, Sept. 4th for our Cane's dinner night!



Upcoming Events

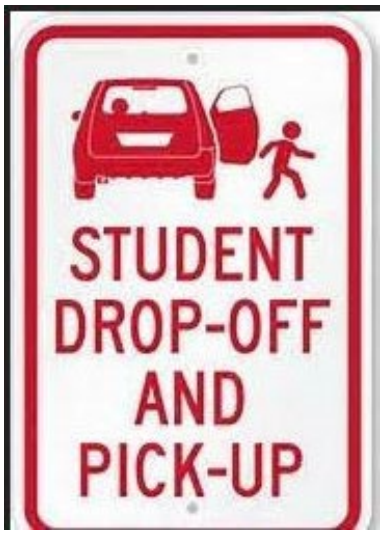
SEPT 1: Labor Day — **No School**
SEPT 3: PTSO General Meeting @ 12:30 via Zoom
SEPT 4: SEL Survey
SEPT 4: Cane's Restaurant Night
SEPT 5: Last day of Step It Up Fundraiser
SEPT 10-12: Parent Teacher Conferences -Early Release @ 1:05 pm

SEPT 19: Water Day of Fun!: September 19th
SEPT 23: School Picture Retakes
SEPT 26: Last day of 1st Quarter
SEPT 29 - OCT 10: Fall Break - **NO SCHOOL**
OCT 13: Teacher Work Day - **NO SCHOOL**
OCT 14: First day of 2nd Quarter



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.



Safety Reminder
Please remind your student to always use the crosswalk when crossing Liberty Lane. We've noticed an increase in students crossing in the middle of the road, which creates a very dangerous situation. Student safety is our top priority, and we want all of our Rattlers to arrive and leave school safely each and every day.

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.