Kyrene de la Mirada - Leadership Academy

MIRADA NEWS

October 2025

A Message from Mrs. Anderson

Dear Mirada Families,

Welcome to October and the start of our **second quarter** of the school year!

As we settle into fall, we're hopeful for cooler weather to arrive soon. With the change of season comes plenty of opportunities to come together as a community. We have **many fun family events planned**, including our always-popular **Fall Festival in November**. These celebrations are a wonderful way for families to connect, enjoy time together, and strengthen our Mirada spirit.

We want to share an important update regarding the recent school recommendations. It has been proposed that **Mirada Elementary remain open**, and that students from **Manitas Elementary will enroll at Mirada**.

This decision impacts our school community, and your **voice and support are vital** during this process. We strongly encourage you to attend the upcoming **Pueblo Region Meeting** to stay informed and ensure your perspective is heard:

📅 **Date:** Tuesday, November 5th
🕕 **Time:** 6:00 PM
📍 **Location:** Pueblo Middle School Multi-purpose Room

Your presence matters. Please consider joining us to learn more and to show your support for Mirada.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding quarter ahead!

With gratitude,

Michelle Anderson

Principal

Kyrene Long Range Planning Committee

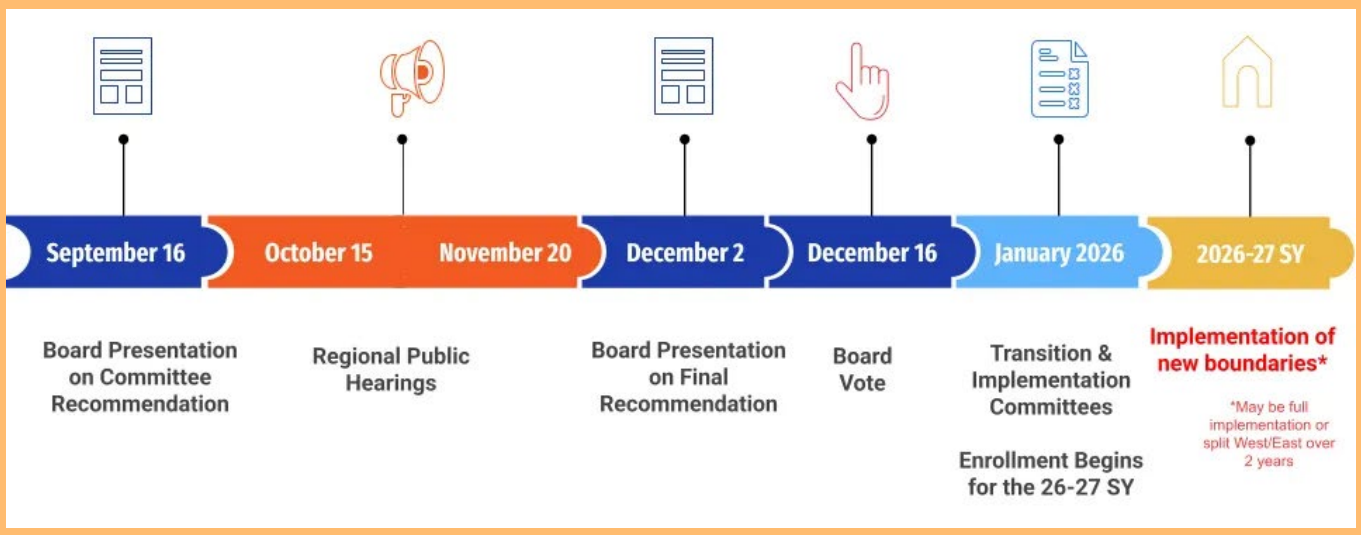
The Kyrene Governing Board established a Long-Range Planning Committee to address enrollment trends and maximize the use of facilities. After months of study, the committee reached consensus on a recommendation, which will be presented to the board in September. The recommendation is not a reflection 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.

FAQs. In addition to our internal Long Range Planning FAQs, Kyrene has now published public-facing FAQs on the Long Range Plan web page to address the most common questions received so far.

Website Updates. The web page, www.kyrene.org/longrangeplan, went through an overhaul today to transition to the community engagement phase of long-range planning. 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. Committee

work (including agendas, minutes, slide decks and live streams) can still be found on a sub page.

Enrollment for Next Year: Enrollment for the next school year does not begin until January. At this time, no decisions have been finalized, and there is nothing families need to do.





District hearing - Date Change! Kyrene will hold a centralized hearing at the Kyrene District Office on **November 18** at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regularly scheduled governing board meeting. This provides an additional opportunity for the community to provide feedback.

[Kyrene Long Range Planning Site]
[Click here for FAQs & more info]

Upcoming Events

October 14	Students return
October 14	Monarch Night Out at Zesty Zzeek's-All Day
October 16	PTO Meeting 2:45pm in the Media Center
October 23	Mirada Family Night at Mother Nature's Farm
October 27-31	Spirit Week-Details TBD
October 31	Dress Like a Storybook Character
November 4	Election Day
November 7	MML Awards
	7:40-8:20 Kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd Grades 8:30-9:10 1st, 4th and 5th Grades
	Fall Festival 5:30 - 8pm Students must be accompanied by parent
November 10	3rd Grade Field Trip
November 11	No School in observance of Veteran's Day
November 13	PTO Meeting 5:30-6:30pm in the Media Center
November 25	Turkey Trot
	8:00-8:40 Kinder and 1st Grades
	8:50-9:30 2nd and 3rd Grades
	9:40-10:20 4th and 5th Grades
November 26-30	No School-Thanksgiving Holiday

View Full Calendar

Click Below for Important School Calendars

District Calendar | October Calendar | PTO Calendar

EARLY RELEASE on all Wednesdays

Students will be released at 12:15pm.



Wednesday 10/15

Thursday, 10/22

Friday, 10/29

School Pics
by Mejdrich Photography

Dear Parents-

Your children's Fall school portraits are available for online viewing and ordering, and we have extended the deadline for delivery to school and special pricing of up to 60% off on Digital Download Add-ons to **10/15/25!**

A printed proof was sent home with your child. Please check their backpacks and refer to the proof for instructions on how to view and order your child's photos.

Order by 10/15/25 to unlock the discounted Digital Download **Add-on** specials and free delivery to the school.

If you have any challenges accessing your child's portraits or ordering online, please email customerservice@schoolpicsaz.com. Include your child's school, name, and teacher, and we will be happy to assist you.

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.

As we continue to partner with you regarding your child's attendance, we need to inform you of an important update regarding how "absences due to appointments" should be reported. In alignment with guidance from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), please be specific when reporting the reason for your child's appointment. Only appointments for medical, dental or behavioral health will be marked as excused. All other appointments will be considered unexcused. If you have any questions about this update or your child's attendance, please contact your school's attendance clerk.

How to Submit Absences in ParentVue

Additional Way to Report Absences in ParentVue

Parents, you are now welcome to report absences in ParentVue in addition to calling the 24 hour Attendance Line at 480-541-4201. Remember, you must inform the front office of any absences even if you let the teacher know.



7 Habits : Habit 2 - Begin With the End in Mind (Have a plan)!

At Mirada Leadership Academy, our students practice the 8 Habits of a Happy Kid every day. As we deepen our understanding and incorporate them into daily life, it is important to understand the meaning of each habit.

Begin With the End in Mind means to think about how you would like something to turn out before getting it started.

Mirada Leadership Academy students practice the following key concepts: mental creation precedes physical creation, vision for the future, having a plan, setting personal goals, Mission Statements, and making a Bucket List.

I plan ahead and set goals.

I do things that have meaning and make a difference.

I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission.

I look for ways to be a good citizen.

We want students to Begin With the End in Mind at home too. Here are some ideas.

Have your child set goals in areas that may need improvement. Have them keep track of the steps they take to reach their goals. This is a great activity to do since we just completed our parent-teacher conferences.

Have your child create a “wants” and “needs” collage. Cut out pictures of various items from a magazine and have kids paste them under the correct column of “wants” and “needs.” Discuss why he/she chose to put the items in the respective columns.

There are so many examples of Habit 2 in recipes, puzzles, paintings, looking at maps before trips, future plans, and exercise goals. Use any analogy to explain what it means to Begin With the End in Mind.

Begin With the End in Mind gives you the confidence to make goals based on what’s important to you…not to someone else.



Opt in to Receive Text Messages from Mrs. Anderson

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 Mirada and the district.



Dean Street Parking Lot

The Dean Street Parking Lot is ONLY to be used for buses, CCD and Integrated Preschool. Beginning, Tuesday, October 14th at drop off and pick up, a person will be waiting at the entrance to the Dean St. parking lot and you will be REQUIRED to show the NEW 2025-26 visor tag that designates you are permitted to use that lot. Please display this tag prominently so that access can be swiftly granted.

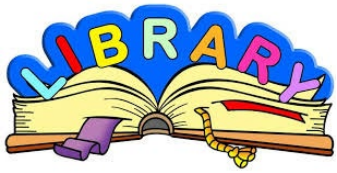
Beginning of the year district assessment reports have been posted to ParentVUE. Families are able to access the results through ParentVue in the documents section. Need help accessing the reports? See the attachment for directions with screenshots. Need help understanding the reports or how to support your child? See the family guide for each assessment or reach out to your child's teacher.

Assessment Results in ParentVue

Understanding i-Ready Results

NWEA Family Guide

DIBELS Family Guide



Kyrene has updated how we share new library book purchases with families. In lieu of a once-a-year 60-day review window, the district and school websites will have lists of new library purchases. The list will be updated up to 3-times a year in order to capture all new titles purchased and available to students for check-out. Families may request that a student be opted out of specific titles, and those who want a broader review can use the District's existing reconsideration process. Details on this process can be viewed on the Media Center Public Review Webpage. Questions can be directed to the Academic Equity and Excellence Department.

PTO Corner



Read a Thon Results

THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Read a Thon, it was a HUGE success. The kids raised $42,735 far exceeding our fundraising goal. They also read 280,669 minutes as a school, that is an average of over 550 minutes per student! Amazing! Your generosity will enable us to keep the fun going for staff and students for the rest of the year. Thank you!

Mirada Merchandise

Our merchandise store is online and we've got a large variety of shirt designs to choose from. We've worked with our supplier to get the shipping fees as low as possible, tax is included. Mirada Merch

Fall Festival Silent Auction Donations

Fall Festival will be here before we know it. We are looking for item donations for our silent auction. We'd love help collecting donations from local businesses, if there are any you frequent. Email us with any tax ID requests.

Yearbook Sales will begin this month. 5th grade families, you will have the opportunity to create a tribute for your student. More info coming soon via flier and email!

Upcoming Events

- 10/14 Monarch Night Out at Zzeeks, all day, all proceeds go to help Mrs. Bordelon's breast cancer fight
- 10/16 PTO Meeting at 2:45pm in the library
- 10/7 Fall Festival 5:30-8:00pm
- 10/23 Monarch Fun Night at Mother Nature's Farm
- 11/11 No School
- 11/12 Monarch Night Out at Someburros, all day
- 11/13 PTO Meeting 5:30pm
- 11/25 Turkey Trot
- 11/26- 11/28 No School

Kyrene School District Update

As you may have heard, the district redrew the proposed school closure map at a Board Retreat Meeting at the beginning of Fall Break. The new map keeps Mirada open and closes our neighbors Manitas and Mariposa. The next steps are multiple public hearings that will enable the Board to hear from constituents about the proposed changes. No decisions will be finalized until the vote in December. If the changes go through as proposed all of the kids from Manitas will start at Mirada for the 2026-2027 school year. More information can be found here.

Important Dates:

Upcoming Board Meetings: 10/14, 10/28, 11/18, 12/2

East Side of 10 Public Hearings: 10/16 @ KMS, 11/5 @ Pueblo, 11/19 @ Pueblo

West Side of 10 Public Hearings: 10/21 @ Akimel A-Al, 10/29 @ Centennial, 11/12 @ Altadena

Potential Board Vote on Changes: December 16th

Email: hello@ptomirada.org Web: miradapto.org IG: @miradapto



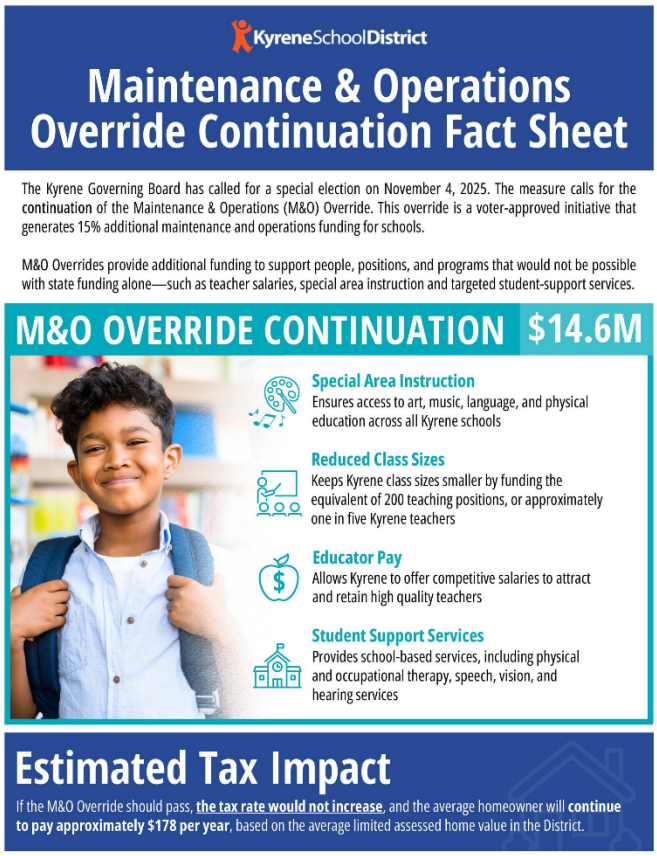
Join the PTO Contact List

2025 Maintenance & Override Election

The Kyrene Governing Board has called for a special election on November 4, 2025, as recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee. The measure calls for the continuation

of the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Override. This override is a voter-approved initiative that generates 15% additional maintenance and operations funding for schools.

M&O Overrides provide additional funding to support people, positions, and programs that would not be possible with state funding alone—such as teacher salaries, special area instruction and targeted student-support services.





[2025 Maintenance and Override Election]

[Link to District Info]



Now Hiring for 2025-2026 School Year



Mirada is looking for help with:

- **Crossing Guard**

Crossing Guard Job ID 9003



Kyrene Positive Parenting – October Presentations

The Kyrene School District is pleased to continue the successful Positive Parenting Series this school year, focusing on issues that affect families both at school and at home. We hope you can join us.

Oct. 15 – Substance Use Prevention/Latest Trends and Parent Support
This course equips parents with the latest information on youth substance use trends, effective prevention strategies, and practical tools to support and guide their children.

Presenter:
Josh Azevedo

Date and Time:
October 15, 2025
6:00-7:00pm

Location:
Online
Registration/Zoom Link

Oct. 20 – Hands- On Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology
Come and explore items and get ideas from our Occupational therapists and Assistive Technology specialists. An area will also be set up for families to make and take items home to use with your children.

Presenter:
Danielle Flowers

Date and Time:
October 20, 2025
6:00 - 7:30pm

Location:
Kyrene District Office
8700 South Kyrene Road
Tempe, AZ 85284

Substance Abuse Prevention Sign Up

Hands on Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology Sign Up



Parent Reminders

Opt in for text communication

IMPORTANT: 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 both your child’s school and the Kyrene School District.

Birthday Celebrations

No celebrations of individual student birthdays are to be held in classrooms, on the school campus. We understand that parents and friends like to celebrate various occasions. However, cakes, cookies, cupcakes, candy, flowers, balloons, etc. cause many distractions and cannot be allowed on campus or on the bus. These items are disruptive in the classroom and are a safety concern on the bus. If they are delivered they will be kept in the office for parents/guardians to pick up. This policy helps to ensure that instructional time is protected and that all students are treated equally. **Party invitations may not be distributed at school.**

Need to Report an Absence?

Call our 24 Hour Attendance Line at 480-541-4201 to report a student absence.

Please leave a message on the attendance line indicating the student's name, grade, date(s) and reason for absence. When your student is absent and we have not received notification,

we will contact the parents. If we do not receive a return phone call, the student will be marked truant.

Note Parents MUST call the attendance line within 24 hours of an absence, even if you spoke to the Health Office or communicated to the Teacher.

Tardy

If your child is tardy, you must park in the parking lot and walk your child to the office. Sign them in and provide the reason why they are tardy. A tardy is defined as arriving at school or class **after the scheduled start time**. Students should be in their seats and ready to learn when the bell rings at the scheduled start time. **Students are considered tardy if they are not in their seats at the scheduled start time. Mirada students need to arrive with enough time to make it to their classroom by 7:30am.** Students who are tardy must enter through the school's front office and receive a Tardy pass.

Excused Absences

In cases involving prolonged illnesses, a written excuse from a physician may be requested to verify the absence. A student has an excused absence when one of the following conditions are met:

When a student is not in attendance for any portion of or an entire school day and,

- The parent/guardian called the school's attendance line to report the student's absence within 24 hours and provided an acceptable excuse* for the absence, OR
- The parent/guardian was reached by the attendance office and provided the attendance office with an acceptable excuse* for the absence.

***Please note: we cannot excuse an absence that is reported via email; all absences must be reported to the school's attendance office via a telephone call.**

Unexcused Absences

A student has an unexcused absence under and of the following conditions

- When a student is not in attendance for any portion of or for an entire day and does not have an acceptable excuse*.

- The parent/guardian has not called the school's attendance office to report the student's absence and provide an acceptable excuse* within 24 hours.
- The parent/guardian cannot be reached by the attendance office to obtain an acceptable excuse* for the absence.

*The District will report all student absences and tardiness to school in accordance with A.R.S.§ 15-901 (A)(1) and defined by the Arizona Department of Education.

Students and Electronic Devices

Many parents choose to have their child carry a cellular telephone or other electronic devices (such as an Apple watch or Fitbit) as a means of before and/or after school communication and for safety purposes. Electronic devices can be disruptive in an educational environment, but may also be used to enhance instruction. If parents have decided that it's necessary for a child to carry a cell phone or electronic device, parents and students must be aware of the following:

Kyrene School District Policy 3-401 states that the District does not assume responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, personal property. If your child has a cell phone on campus or on the bus and it is damaged or stolen, we will not be able to utilize administrative time to investigate the incident, nor will the District be able to take any financial responsibility for the cell phone or cell phone charges.

Cellular phones must be turned off and kept in backpacks at all times on campus, except for prior to the ringing of the first bell for the start of the instructional day and after the ringing of the last bell for the end of the instructional day.

This exception does not apply if the student is on the school bus. When appropriate, cell phones and other electronic devices may be used during the school day under the direct supervision of the teacher. If these rules are not followed, the cell phone may be confiscated and kept in the front office for pick up after school.

Please assist us in keeping our learning environment free from distractions. When it is necessary for a student to contact you during the day, we have telephones available in classrooms and in the office. If it is necessary for you to get an important message to your

child during the school day, you may contact the school office and our staff will relay the message to your child.



Food Services Webpage

Payment & Balance Info

Food Services FAQs

Mirada Menus

Apply for Free and Reduced Meals
Must reapply yearly

- **Please remember you must re-apply for Free and Reduced Meals each year.**
- Students may bring large bills to pay for their meal account – **please remember no change is provided back to the student, the entire amount is applied to the student's account.**
- If a student does not have enough funds on their account, after two (2) meals (breakfast or lunch) they are provided an alternate meal as per District policy. The student may still get side options and salad bar along with their milk.
- Please remember that dietary restrictions must be accompanied by a Dr's note and will be accommodated to the best of our ability. SFE is unable to honor preferences or requests.

- You may check your student's lunch balance by visiting **linqconnect.** Linq Connect is our self-service lunch account portal, which makes it possible for Kyrene families to easily manage their student(s) lunch account. **Families may check meal balances, transfer funds, apply for free or reduced-priced meals or create spending limits for their students by visiting linqconnect.** For any additional questions or assistance with your linqconnect account please call 1-844-467-4700 and follow the prompts. Payments are applied to your student's meal account at 6:50am, 9:35am, 11:05am, 12:05pm and 11:35pm daily to update the meal account balance.
- Kyrene and SFE want to assure you that when your child chooses to enjoy ala carte snacks from their cafeteria, they are selecting options that meet the strict nutritional standards outlined by the USDA's Smart Snack guidelines. These guidelines prioritize offering snacks that are lower in fat, sugar, and sodium, while also providing essential nutrients to support your child's overall health and well-being. The guidelines require that drinks be either unflavored water or 100% juice, and that snacks contain at least 50% whole grain or list the first ingredient as a fruit, vegetable, dairy food, or protein food.

It's also important to note that while some snack packaging may appear similar to those found in stores outside of school, each product has been carefully reformulated to comply with federal Smart Snack guidelines. Our foodservice management company, SFE, works diligently to ensure that all snacks offered to students are both delicious and nutritious, meeting or exceeding federal standards.

We encourage you to discuss with your child the importance of making mindful choices when it comes to snacking. By reinforcing healthy eating habits both at home and at school, we can collectively support our children in making nutritious choices that contribute to their overall growth and development. If you would like more resources and information about Smart Snack requirements, including activities that can be done at home, we recommend checking out the USDA's website here.

Thank you for partnering with us in promoting a culture of health and wellness for our students. If you have any questions or concerns about the smart snack options available in your child's cafeteria, please don't hesitate to reach out to the foodservice office at 480-541-1660.



Scan to follow us on Instagram!

Scan to follow us on Facebook!

Contact Us

Kyrene de la Mirada

Leadership Academy

5500 W. Galveston Street

Chandler, AZ 85226

Quicklinks

Food Services and Menu
ParentVUE
StudentVUE

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

Front Office: 480-541-4200

Fax Number: 480-541-4210

Attendance: 480-541-4201

Health Office: 480-541-4220

Cafeteria: 480-541-4226

Kids Club: 480-541-4230

Technology Assistance

Family Handbook

A+ School of Excellence™

A+ School of Excellence™

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.