



# NORTE NEWS

October 1, 2025

## Principal's Imprint



Dear Kyrene del Norte Families,

We have completed the first quarter of the school year! Fall Break is a great time to take a break and reflect on your student's learning for this first quarter. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the progress our students have already made this school year. Thank you to all who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences in September. These meetings are such an important way to strengthen the partnership between home and school, ensuring that every child is supported in their learning journey. As a follow-up to conferences, families now have access to **beginning-of-the-year student data** such as **DIBELS student reports**. This information helps us understand where students are starting and guides our next steps for growth. 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. Please take time to review your child's results through the links provided. If you have any questions about the data, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.



A special shout out to our 1st Quarter **5th grade Norte Ambassadors** who worked tirelessly in supporting our Kindergarten and 1st grade students at the start of this school year. Their leadership and modeling for our younger Cougars was outstanding!

### Our Quarter 1 Ambassadors are:

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Korah Langhans      | Victor Zarate    |
| Dillon Rippel       | Joshua Dunn      |
| Lucia Padilla Lopez | Jasmine Santiago |
| Ella Hogan          | Elizabeth Downey |
| Benedict Barron     | Benjamin Lee     |

We also have several upcoming opportunities to connect as a school community:

🌱 **School Community Garden Meet-Up - Saturday, October 25th**  
Join us for a morning of planting, harvesting, and learning together in our community garden.

🌮 **Fall Fiesta - Save the Date: Friday, November 7th**  
An evening of fun, food, and cultural celebration for the whole family.

🦃 **Turkey Trot - Tuesday, November 25th**  
Our annual tradition of fun, fitness, and community spirit before the holiday break. Families welcome and we ask that students leave backpacks at home.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to our dual language learning community. Together, we are building a strong foundation for our children's success.

Enjoy the Fall Break and see you back on Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

With gratitude,

Warm regards,  
Jaime Soto  
Principal /Director



## Library Materials Review Process

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.

## School Tours begin 2nd quarter

School tours will begin this quarter starting on Friday, October 24. These will be held in the mornings and will be every Friday throughout the 2nd Quarter. If you have friends, family, neighbors that are interested in learning more about our amazing Dual Language program here at Kyrene del Norte, please refer them to our front office (480-541-4800) to schedule a time to tour our school.



The support that we have felt from the community this past quarter has been incredible. We all want to thank all of the parents, neighbors, friends of the community for sending supportive messages, sharing sweets with the staff and even drawing/writing on the sidewalks in a show of solidarity for supporting Norte.

Our amazing PTO hosted a very successful Book Fair, Story Time night, Pajama Spirit Day and the Read-a-thon Fundraiser! Thank you all that participated! We are over 2,540,000 minutes read so far and reached over 75% of our fundraising goal. This is a tremendous achievement and with 5 days left in October for the fundraiser, we will surely reach 100% of our goal.

[The PTO Fundraiser Read-a-thon!!](#)





**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

### Audrey Downey | Spanish Teacher - KDG

**How long have you been in education?**

This is my 18th year in education and 10th year at Norte.

**What inspired you to work in education?**

I had some inspiring teachers in my life!

**What do you love most about your job?**

Watching the children learn and grow!

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

I am working towards my leadership degree.

**Where are you from originally?**

Douglas, AZ

**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?**

LOVE hiking and paddle boarding.

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

While sky diving my parachute didn't open and it was a dramatic landing!

**Favorite quote or motto?**

"Life is what happens to you while your busy making other plans."



## Diana Dunn | Resource IA / Lunch Duty

**How long have you been in education?**

1 year and all at Norte

**What inspired you to work in a school setting?**

As a long-time volunteer, I really enjoyed being a part of the school community. After working from home for many years, I wanted to be around people more, contribute in a meaningful way, and continue helping out here at the school.

**What do you love most about your job?**

I love knowing I'm making a difference, feeling appreciated, and being surrounded by such a great group of people.

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

I recently was honored with the Key to Kyrene Collaboration award for my "all hands on deck attitude", and student first centered approach.

**Where are you from originally?**

Tempe, I'm a Kyrene Kid!

**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?**

I love watching my kids extracurriculars, cooking, doing puzzles, and entertaining family!

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

I can stick out my tongue and touch my nose!

**Favorite quote or motto?**

"Never attribute to malice what can be attributed to incompetence."



Key to Kyrene recipient for Qtr 1.  
"Diana is such an amazing team player. She **collaborates** with so many different areas here at Norte and is able to work well with everyone. She brings the perspective of a parent, the mindset of a teacher and the energy of a student every day."

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## Ash Hendrickson | Building Manager

**How long have you been at our school?**

This is my 1st year at Norte, been working at KSD for 3 years.

**What do you love most about your job?**

Being able to help the kids and the school. Norte is a really amazing place to work at. The community here is welcoming and the staff are wonderful.

**Where are you from originally?**

Arizona

**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?**

Building and fixing guitars. I love music!



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

I love Jurassic Park movies and books and play Magic the Gathering tournaments.

**Favorite quote or motto?**

"Don't forget to smile in any situation. As long as you are alive, there will be better things later, and there will be many" -Eiichiro Oda

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**Amanda Wirichaga | Library Media Assistant**

**How long have you been in education?**

5 years and 3 years at Norte

**What inspired you to work in education?**

I love working with children, I was a nanny all through college as well as a pre-school classroom aide. I love watching children learn and be excited about the world around them.

**What do you love most about your job?**

I love reading aloud! Sharing books with fun stories, important morals, beautiful artwork or interesting facts. I think books are such a fun and flexible way to learn.



**Where are you from originally?**

Born in Long Island, New York and raised in Rio Rico, Arizona.

**What do you enjoy doing outside of work?**

Spending time with my family, eating out and attending events around the valley.

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

I played the Tuba/Sousaphone for 7 years (5th-12th grade) in orchestra and marching band and I played the trombone for 3 years in jazz band.

**Favorite quote or motto?**

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."



## CONGRATULATIONS to the Student of the Month nominees for September!

**Kindergarten:** Valentina Sandoval, Tobias Lee, Nicolas Sandoval, Evelyn Sepulveda

**1st Grade:** Levi Kistler, Mia Sanchez, Arya Crowder, Israel Hernandez, Isaiah Alvizo

**2nd Grade:** Julian Peralta-Kole, Noa Adams, Hanna Gifford, Ahri Candler

**3rd Grade:** Mia Morris, Diego Campa, Taylor Sibberson

**4th Grade:** Chrislyn Jean Villaseñor, Katalayah R. Duarte Rodriquez, Olivia R. Schimke

**5th Grade:** Benjamin Lee, Ilina Faller, Levi Bard, Taylor Minnihan, Wesley Vossberg



## September Perfect Attendance Challenge

Congratulations to all 199 students that received perfect attendance awards with ZERO absences and ZERO tardies in the month of September!  
*Way to go Cougars!!*

**By grade, number of winners are:**

|               |    |      |    |
|---------------|----|------|----|
| Kindergarten: | 36 | 3rd: | 36 |
| 1st:          | 35 | 4th: | 34 |
| 2nd:          | 36 | 5th: | 22 |

**Month of September (win a popsicle party with Mr. Soto)**

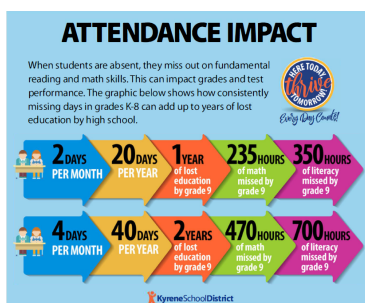
Other months for Perfect Attendance Awards will be (one per quarter):

**November**

**February**

**April**

*Prizes for those months will be announced at a later time.*



## 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

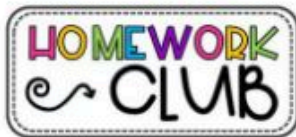
**Secretary:** Makai Morabe

**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.



Thanks to our weekly chess club at Norte we had great representation at the Pirate Pawns chess tournament. Jayden Amundson took 1st place in the tournament for kids K-3, on the individual side.

Also, Jayden and Noa Adams combined to take 2nd place in the team (school) competition. They both represented Kyrene Del Norte well! Congratulations!



## Upcoming Dates

**SEPT 29 - OCT 13:** FALL BREAK - No School

**OCT 14:** Start of Q2 - Students return

**OCT 14:** Governing Board Meeting @ 6pm

**OCT 16:** Running Club Kick Off @ 8:40am

**OCT 16:** *Public Hearing at Kyrene M.S. -6pm*

**OCT 18:** Diwali Festival at Norte @ 11am

**OCT 24:** PNO at Bogey's  
Childcare available at TBD

**OCT 27:** Student of the Month Celebration

**OCT 28:** Governing Board Meeting (6:00 pm)

**NOV 3-7:** National School Psychologist Week

**NOV 6:** PTO meeting at Norte Library @ 4:30pm

**NOV 7: PTO Fall Fiesta (4:30-7:30pm)**

**NOV 11:** NO School - Veterans Day

**NOV 15:** Community Garden Day @ Norte  
8:30am - 11am

**NOV 18:** Governing Board Meeting (6pm)

**NOV 19:** NNO @ Freely's

**NOV 25:** Turkey Trot (Family event)

**NOV 26-28 :** NO School -Thanksgiving Break

[View Full Calendar](#)



Show your school spirit  
on FRIDAYS! Wear your  
Cougar shirt or Blue  
and Yellow colors!

## Food Services

**NEW:** In addition to InTouch Receipting and cash/check payments, families may now use **LINQ Connect**—a website and mobile app that allows instant deposits, spending limits, alerts, sibling transfers, and more. Learn more at the [Food Services webpage](#).

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.

**NEW:** 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.

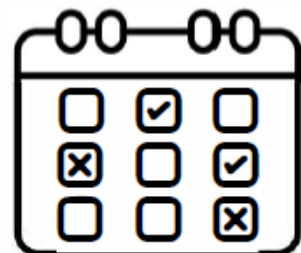
[Parent Resource Link](#)

## 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



## Transportation

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](http://www.kyrene.org/asktransportation).



The Kyrene Governing Board established a Long-Range Planning Committee to address enrollment trends and maximize the use of facilities. In September, the committee reached consensus on a recommendation, which was presented at the School Board Meeting. 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. The **Public Hearing** for our area will be held on **October 16** at **Kyrene Middle School**.

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.

## 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*



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

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.