



NORTE NEWS

November

Principal's Imprint



Dear Kyrene del Norte Families,

As we welcome the month of November, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for our incredible school community. This time of year reminds us to reflect on the many things we are thankful for – our dedicated teachers and staff, our supportive families, and, most importantly, our amazing students who continue to grow academically, socially, and linguistically each day.

Our school building hallways at the end of October have been filled with amazing ofrendas for Dia de los Muertos celebrations. Thank you teachers and students for your creative work!

Thank you to all who participated in our recent school events and for the strong family turnout at our **PTO Norte Night Out fundraisers** in October. Your involvement makes a lasting difference in building connections and supporting our students' learning environment.

We're excited for several **upcoming November events** that continue to bring our community together:

🍌 **Fall Fiesta - Friday, November 7, 4:30-7:30 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of music, food, student performances,



and fun family activities celebrating our bilingual and bicultural community.

☀️ **Community Garden Day - Saturday, November 15, 10am - 11:30 am.** Join families here at Norte to prepare the gardens and enjoy some fun crafts.

🦃 **Turkey Trot - Tuesday, November 25, 9:30 - 11:30am**
A beloved Norte tradition! Students will participate in a fun run/walk before the Thanksgiving break. Families are encouraged to cheer on our Cougars and enjoy the morning festivities.

🍁 **Thanksgiving Break - November 26-28**

School will be closed as we take time to rest and spend quality moments with family and friends.

As we move deeper into the school year, our teachers continue to use student data and classroom observations to guide instruction and ensure that all learners are thriving in both English and Spanish. We encourage families to review student progress together through **ParentVUE** and stay connected with classroom updates via **Schoology**.

Finally, November is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate gratitude and kindness. Let's continue modeling empathy, respect, and collaboration for our students – qualities that strengthen our school community and our dual language mission.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for making Kyrene del Norte such a special place to learn and grow.

Con gratitud,

Jaime Soto

Principal

Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy



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 have begun! 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.

November ESS Parent Training

Join us for 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. [CALM BODIES, READY MINDS Registration](#), Nov 20, 2025, 6-7:30 pm at the District Office.



Lost and Found is FULL already!

Parents, please remind students to check lost and found for jackets, sweaters, lunch boxes, water bottles and more! It is already full.

Also Parents - please put NAMES on ALL water bottles, jackets, sweatshirts, sweaters and lunch boxes. This will help us get the items returned to the rightful owners.



Our amazing PTO has been do so many wonderful things for the students and staff at Norte! From treats and thank you's to helping with workroom projects and classroom volunteering! We are so very grateful for such a supportive community.

- Next up is our annual *Fall Fiesta* coming up on *Friday, November 7th from 4:30 - 7:30pm!* See flyer below for details on how to order your wristbands and tickets.
OR use [THIS LINK for wristbands and tickets.](#)
- Also please use [THIS LINK to Volunteer](#) and help this event be a safe and memorable experience for our Norte community!



Kyrene Del Norte's Fall Fiesta

A night to celebrate the diversity and bilingual culture of Kyrene del Norte

Mariachi Pasion * The Norte Mercado * Inflatables * Food Trucks
Games * Raffle Prizes * Ballet Folklórico La Llorona * Pan Dulce Walk

November 7th

4:30pm-7:30pm

Purchase entry
wristbands and
tickets here;



*Tickets cover food and raffles

Join the fun and lend
a hand:



Thank you Fall Fiesta Sponsors



Financial concerns?
info@nortepfo.org



Norte's Community Gardening Day!

On Saturday, November 15th from **10am - 11:30am** all families are welcome to come be part of a unique event to get the Norte gardens prepped for planting during class time. There will be some gardening projects and fun crafts too.



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

Derrick Laux | 2nd grade ELA teacher

How long have you been in education?

This is my 8th year in education and 2nd year at Norte.

What inspired you to work in education?

The ability to do work that I find important and meaningful every day.

What do you love most about your job?

The kids; watching them become confident in their abilities, better citizens, and overcome adversity, both at school and otherwise.

Where are you from originally?

Auburn, Washington

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Running, workout out, hiking/backpacking, baseball, cooking, reading, watching sports, traveling, music, movies, food/drinks

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

I thought about quitting teaching almost every single day during my first year. Now, I can't imagine not teaching.

Favorite quote or motto?

"Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." - John Wooden



R. Scott Harnisch | Music Educator

How long have you been in education?

This is my 38th year in education and 13th year at Norte.

What inspired you to become an educator?

My Mom and my love of the arts. My want to make sure people understand why music is a discipline and essential in learning. I also know that this is the area where even the most introverted, shy or just plain different person can find a home. I wanted to provide that for my students.

What do you love most about your job?

My kids and my staff. I like how they help me stay relevant, current and aware.

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

Arizona Teacher of the Year Ambassador of Excellence, Christa McAuliffe I Teach I Touch the Future Arizona Education Association Recipient and National Finalist. Top Five Music Educators you need to know in Arizona Award.

Where are you from originally?

Parkland, Washington

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Working inside and outside of my home, Swimming, Cooking and Activism

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

I was on the National US Masters swim team and was 9th in the world.

Favorite quote or motto?

"People don't need to like you, they don't need to love you, they don't even need to respect you but when you look in the mirror you better like, love and respect what you see." - Sheryl Lee Ralph



Matthew McArdle | P.E. Teacher

How long have you been in education?

3 years and all 3 at Norte!

What inspired you to become an educator?

I went into education because I wanted to make a lasting impact on students through mentorship, Knowledge and personal growth.

What do you love most about your job?

The people I get to work with and see everyday make coming to school enjoyable.

Where are you from originally?

New York

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Watching and playing sports, eating good food and traveling over breaks.

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

I've never been to California.

I won two Homerun Derbys in my baseball career.

One of my favorite movies is Star Wars.

Favorite quote or motto?

“Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical.” —Yogi Berra



Matt and his dad and brother at their favorite team's game.





CONGRATULATIONS to the Student of the Month nominees for October!

Kindergarten: Andre (Keivon) Santoro, Mesiah Thompson, Amelia Griego, Sofia Wahls

1st Grade: Evie Castro, Jack Hoxie, Kip Walker, Maggie Popish, Jackson Grothman

2nd Grade: Gemma Kohl, Maddie O'Neill, Jayden Korir, Ronny Romo, Saphira Yazzie

3rd Grade: Cassius Luckey, Kaylee Beerling, Brielle Thomas Becerra

4th Grade: Afton Geare, Everett Spirlong, Kolton Walker, Bowen Anderson

5th Grade: Jasmine Santiago, Henry McGeorge



NOVEMBER Perfect Attendance Challenge

For the month of November, all Perfect Attendance winners (no absences and no tardies) will earn a Popcorn Party with Mr. Soto!!

Month of September had 199 recipients.

Let's beat that number!

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

February

April

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



It is that time of the year again.... Cold/Flu season.

Help protect your family by sticking to these healthy habits:

1. Wash hands constantly
2. Get plenty of sleep
3. Have good nutrition
4. Keep up the hydration!



Too sick for school?

Regular attendance is important for your child's well-being and learning. This guide can help you determine when to keep your child home and when to send them to school.



Send me to school if...

- I have a runny nose or mild cough, but **no** other symptoms.
- I have a mild rash but no other symptoms.
- I have only a mild stomachache.
- I have eye drainage but no fever, eye pain or redness.
- I haven't had a fever or taken any fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours.
- I haven't thrown up or had diarrhea for 24 hours.



Keep me at home if...

- I have a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees.
- I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.
- My eyes are pink and crusty.



Call the doctor if...

- I've had a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees for 2+ days or a fever combined with: **ear pain, sore throat, rash, cough, stomachache or headache.**
- I've been throwing up or have had diarrhea for more than two days.
- I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and they aren't getting better.
- I have any uncommon symptoms such as eye swelling or a rash with blisters.



If you have specific concerns regarding your child's health or are worried your child will spread illness, contact your health care provider. This guide does not take the place of county or school district health guidance regarding respiratory viruses or other contagious illnesses.

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.

NOTE: Due to the busy end-of-day activity in the office, we request that all students being checked out early, be done so at least 20 minutes before the end of the school day.

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. Rehearsals are Mon., Tues., Thurs. @ 7:30am. We perform "Mary Poppins" for the community on Dec. 12 at 6:00pm.

[Drama Club Page](#)



First Lego League has begun and is open to 4th & 5th graders only. Meeting on Mondays through November. Future dates are dependent on Regional Qualifying Tournaments in late Nov. and early Dec.

[First Lego League page](#)



The Norte Running Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday @ 8:40m before the start of the school day in the 2nd and 3rd Quarters. Open to ALL students. Kick off is Oct. 16 @ 8:40am

[Running Club Page](#)



Giving Thanks FOOD DRIVE

Giving for hope, Giving for life

Kyrene del Norte Student Council is partnering with the Family Resource Center to stock up their shelves with Thanksgiving food items!

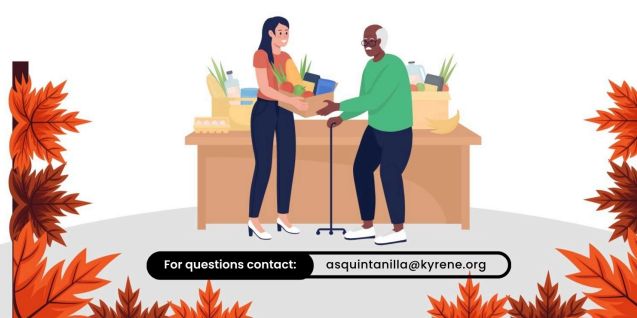
We accept food donations in the form of:

- Canned food
- Boxes of Jello or pudding mixes
- Assorted canned vegetables
- Peanut Butter, jelly (plastic container)
- Stuffing Mix
- Boxed Rice, Pasta, or Cereals

Winning homeroom will get a popsicle party!

17-21
November, 2025

Food delivery locations:
Bring to your child's homeroom



For questions contact: asquintanilla@kyrene.org

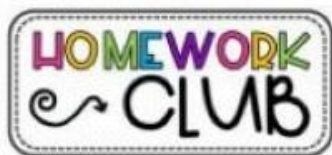


Student Council is a leadership club where students work together to make a positive impact on our school and community.

Student Council is hosting a FOOD DRIVE from Nov. 17 - 21. Please bring in non-perishable, non-expired food to your Homeroom for a little friendly competition and to help fill the shelves for families that need some assistance. All food will be donated to the Family Resource Center here at KSD.

[Student Council Page](#)

NEW ANNOUNCEMENT!! Homework Club will NOT meet on Wednesdays going forward. It is available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings only.



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.



Spanish Lessons

For parents

“ ¡Hola! aprendamos español
Hello! Let's learn Spanish ”



Wednesdays 8:40-9:30am
with Ms. Vicky
Starting November 5th



NEW ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

Starting **Wednesday, Nov. 5th** parents that would like to learn Spanish can now attend our Wednesday morning **Parent Spanish Class from 8:40am - 9:30am!**

All Parents welcome! Simply check in and show your ID at the front office for a visitor badge.

No registration necessary. Open every Wednesday that school is in session, unless otherwise noted.

A partir del miércoles 5 de noviembre, todos los padres que deseen aprender español podrán asistir a nuestra clase de español, sera todos los miércoles por la mañana de 8:40 a 9:30am

No es necesario registrarse. Solo tienen que venir a la oficina de Norte y recibir una etiqueta de visitante. La clase sera todos los miércoles hasta fin del año.



COMING THIS SPRING

Girls on the Run!

We inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.



Online registration will open
November 1st at www.gotrmc.org
Registration Fee \$225 - Scholarships Available!



Season begins:

January 15th, 2025
Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:15a.m. - 8:45a.m.



For more information on the program, please visit

www.gotrmc.org

602-795-6572

Registration opens November 1st.



ANNUAL TURKEY TROT!

Norte's Turkey Trot is on Tuesday, November 25th.

This is a full day of school. Families are welcomed to join the fun. Remember if you want to check your student out after the trot, you must sign them out at the gate. We hope to see everyone there!

*Bienvenidos, KDG, 5th
1st & 4th grades
2nd & 3rd grades*

*9:30am - 10:00am
10:15am - 10:45am
11:00am - 11:30am*

Upcoming Dates

NOV 3-7: National School Psychologist Week

NOV 5: Parent Spanish Club begins
(Wed. @ 8:40am - 9:30am)

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

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

NOV 11: TUESDAY - NO School - Veterans Day

NOV 15: Community Garden Day @ Norte
10am -11:30am

NOV 18: Governing Board Meeting (6pm)

NOV 19: NNO @ Freely's

NOV 20: Thanksgiving LUNCH at Norte

NOV 24: Student of the Month Ceremony
@9:30am

NOV 25: Turkey Trot (Family event) 9:30am -
11:30am

NOV 26-28: NO School -Thanksgiving Break

DEC 5: PTO - Parent Night Out (PNO)

DEC 8: Norte Spelling Bee (4th & 5th grades)

DEC 12: Drama Production - Mary Poppins
community show at 6pm

DEC 15: Student of the Month Ceremony
@9:30am



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

Food Services



NEW: Thanksgiving Lunch is on November 20th. Families can join students during the lunch period. See InTouch for ticket options. 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

DEC 16: PTO - Norte Night Out (NNO)

DEC 19: End of Q2 (full day of learning)

DEC 22 - JAN 5: Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

JAN 6: *Start of Q3 - full day of learning*

ParentVue

Each year, families are asked to review and acknowledge important information, including contact/emergency details, district policies, and survey preferences.

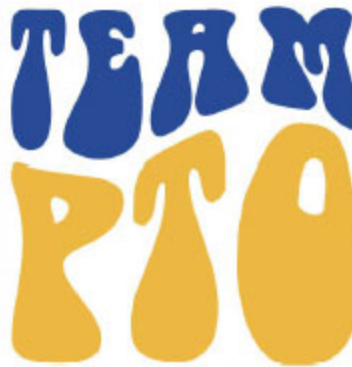
This information is now available in [ParentVUE](#) for your review. Please log into your account and complete this process.

[View Full Calendar](#)

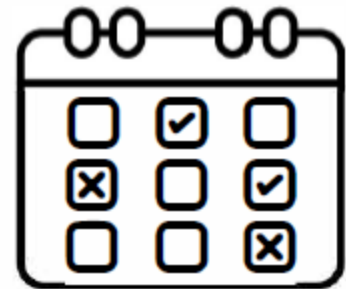
[Parent Resource Link](#)

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

KYRENE DEL NORTE

★ 25/26 ★

YEARBOOK
ON SALE NOW!



\$25

SCAN TO CREATE
YOUR ACCOUNT



• NEW YEARBOOK COMPANY -
TREERING

- DESIGN 2 CUSTOM PAGES
FOR FREE BY MARCH 18
- UPLOAD PICTURES
DIRECTLY TO SITE
- PURCHASE YEARBOOKS
DIRECTLY FROM SITE
- ORDER YEARBOOKS AFTER
APRIL 29TH DEADLINE -
JUST PAY SHIPPING

Important Election Information

This November, Kyrene voters will decide whether to continue the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Override. This critical source of funding is directed to classrooms and helps sustain core parts of the Kyrene experience. Override funds support 200 teaching positions (one in five Kyrene educators), maintain smaller class sizes, preserve electives such as art, music, and P.E., and provide essential student services, including speech, hearing, and physical/occupational therapies.

What's on the ballot?

M&O OVERRIDE CONT.

Ballots must be mailed by **Oct. 28** or dropped in a drop box by **Nov. 4.**



SMALLER CLASSES

Funds 200 teaching positions, or **1 in 5** Kyrene teachers.

CRITICAL SERVICES

Supports services like hearing, OT/PT therapies, speech and more.

ROBUST ELECTIVES

Maintains specials like art, music, culinary, STEM, P.E. and more.

EDUCATOR SALARIES

Maintains competitive pay to attract and retain high-quality educators.

LEARN MORE @ [KYRENE.ORG/ELECTION](https://www.kyrene.org/election)

The deadline to mail ballots is **October 28**, and ballots can be dropped at a drop box on or before **Election Day, November 4**. Learn more at [kyrene.org/election](https://www.kyrene.org/election).

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.



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.**

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



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.