Kyrene de la Mirada - Leadership Academy

MIRADA NEWS

December 2025

A Message from Mrs. Anderson

Dear Families,

As we head into December, I can't believe we have **just three weeks left** in this calendar year of doing our best, growing as learners, and supporting one another as a school community. These weeks are full of meaningful learning and positive routines, and they are also filled with excitement—there are **so many fun activities and special events happening**, all of which you'll find listed on our **calendar below**. We encourage you to take a look so you don't miss a thing.

2025 State Letter Grade - Kyrene de la Mirada Leadership Academy = A

A heartfelt congratulations to our students, staff, and families for your outstanding efforts and perseverance. Your shared commitment empowers our students to succeed and become their very best selves.

In Arizona, a state letter grade of A means a school has demonstrated excellent, distinguished performance. This rating signifies an overall performance significantly higher than the state average based on a comprehensive accountability system.

Earning an "A" grade indicates that a school is achieving strong academic results, students are meeting or exceeding grade-level standards, and many are progressing faster than expected.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Letter grades do not provide information about your individual child's performance or classroom experience.
- Parents/guardians will find more useful information in your individual student's assessment scores, such as AASA, DIBELS, i-Ready, or NWEA. Your child's teacher is your best resource.
- Only a small portion of these grades represent student proficiency levels. Grades are also influenced by measures that are not based on student achievement but how students compare to others across the state, regardless of meeting grade-level expectations.

As the holiday season approaches and schedules get busy, I want to share a gentle reminder to **put first things first**: *presence over presents, connection over perfection, and the people you love over everything on your to-do list*. These moments together matter most, especially for our children.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. I wish you and your family a joyful holiday season and **a healthy new year**.

Warmly,

Michelle Anderson

Principal

Kyrene Long Range Planning Committee

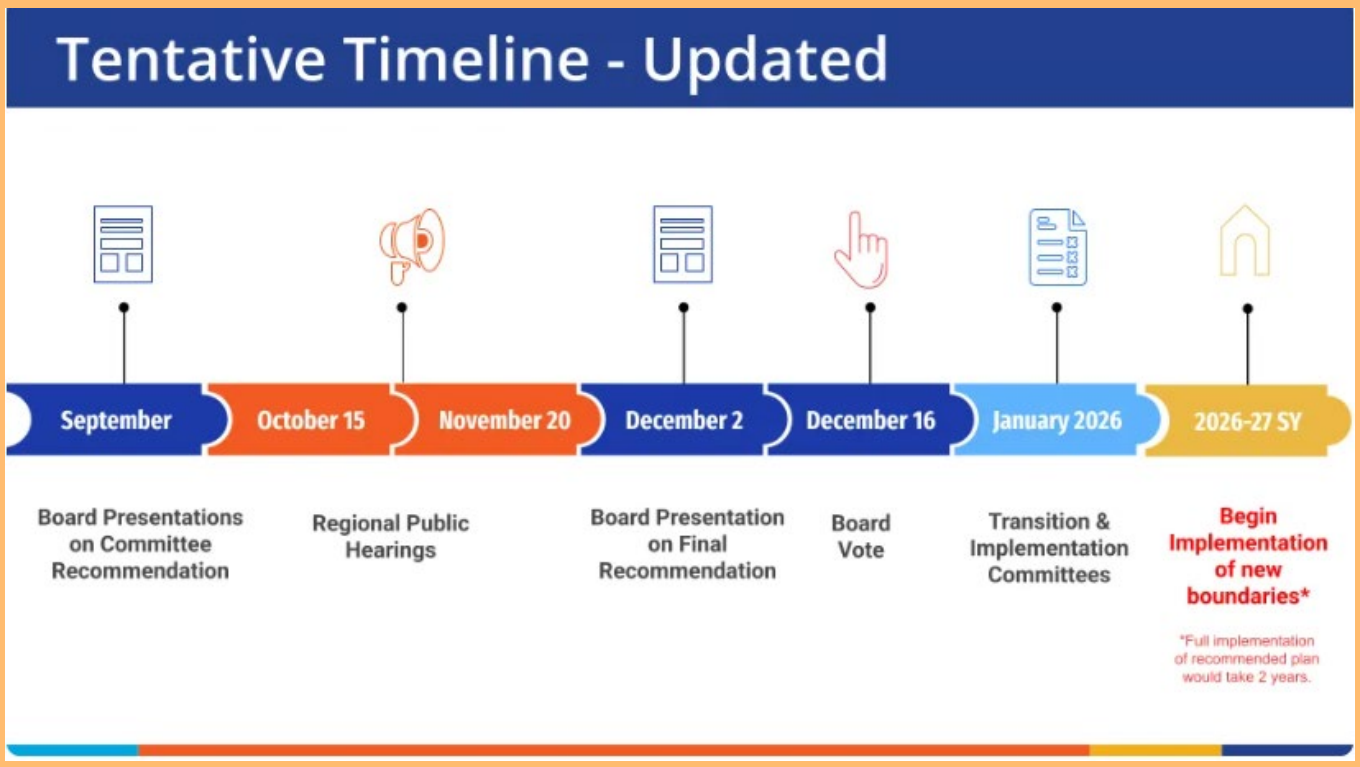
The Kyrene Governing Board established a Long-Range Planning Committee to address enrollment trends and maximize the use of facilities. After months of study, the committee reached consensus on a recommendation, which will be presented to the board in September. The recommendation is not a reflection 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 February. At this time, no decisions have been finalized, and there is nothing families need to do.



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

Upcoming Events

December 2	Governing Board Meeting at DO 6-8pm
December 3	School Spelling Bee
	Monarch Night Out at MOD Pizza
December 5	Melody Makers Caroling and Concert 6pm in the MPR
December 7	Melody Makers at the Enclave Holiday Fair-See flyer below
December 8-12	Computer Science Week
December 12	MML Awards
	7:40-8:20 Kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd Grades 8:30-9:10 1st, 4th and 5th Grades
	Lunch on the Lawn
December 18	Ugly Sweater/Family Night at Skateland
December 19	Jingle Jump at Drop Off (7:10-7:25am)
December 20-Jan 5	Winter Break

January 6	School resumes
January 13	Kindergarten Showcase 6-7pm
January 15	PTO Meeting 2:45 in Media Center
January 19	No School-Martin Luther King Day
January 23	Milk and Cookies
January 26	Diving into Art Show 5-7pm MPR
January 30	MML Awards

7:40-8:20 Kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd Grades
8:30-9:10 1st, 4th and 5th Grades

View Full Calendar

Click Below for Important School Calendars

District Calendar | December Calendar | PTO Calendar

EARLY RELEASE on all Wednesdays

Students will be released at 12:15pm.



Wednesday 12/3

Wednesday 12/10

Wednesday 12/17

ATTENDANCE MATTERS. ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

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.

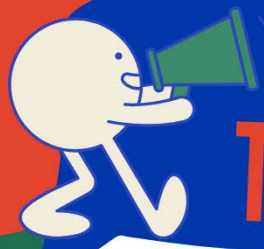
As we continue to partner with you regarding your child's attendance, we need to inform you of an important update regarding how "absences due to appointments" should be reported. In alignment with guidance from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), please be specific when reporting the reason for 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]

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. Absences cannot be reported via email; only via ParentVue or the Attendance Line.

The Leader in Me™
great happens here



HABIT OF THE MONTH

HABIT 4: THINK WIN-WIN!

READ BELOW FOR PARENT TIPS ABOUT HABIT 4!

WHAT IS HABIT 4?

HABIT 4: THINK WIN-WIN FOCUSES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT, NOT EQUAL OUTCOMES. EVERYBODY CAN WIN!

KEY PRINCIPLES:

- ABUNDANCE MENTALITY:
  - STOP COMPARING; CELEBRATE UNIQUE STRENGTHS.
  - SHARE COMPLIMENTS AND PRAISE.
- BALANCE COURAGE AND CONSIDERATION:
  - COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY YET RESPECTFULLY.
  - ENCOURAGE OPEN FEEDBACK AND ENSURE EVERYONE IS HEARD.
- CONSIDER OTHERS' WINS:
  - ASK WHAT CONSTITUTES A WIN FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS.
- CREATE WIN-WIN AGREEMENTS:
  - ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION, ESPECIALLY IN FAMILIES.
  - LEADS TO HAPPINESS, LESS CONFLICT, AND BETTER PROBLEM-SOLVING.

HELPING YOUR CHILD

- HAVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW NOT EVERYTHING ALWAYS NEEDS TO BE EQUAL TO BE WIN-WIN.
- MODEL HOW TO COOPERATE TO FIND WIN-WIN SOLUTIONS
- HELP CHILDREN TO FOCUS ON WHAT THEY GET INSTEAD OF WHAT OTHERS GET.
- "JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE IS REALLY GOOD AT SOMETHING, DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU ARE BAD AT IT."

STEPS TO FIND YOUR WIN-WIN



- BALANCE PERSONAL DESIRES WITH OTHERS' NEEDS.
- MAKE DEPOSITS IN OTHERS' EMOTIONAL BANK ACCOUNTS.
- CHOOSE COOPERATION OVER COMPETITION.

BOOKS TO READ WITH KIDS

- *THE RAINBOW FISH* BY MARCUS PFISTER
- *THE DOORBELL RANG* BY PAT HUTCHINS
- *LET'S BE ENEMIES* BY JANICE MAY UDRY
- *THE MIXED-UP CHAMELEON* BY ERIC CARLE

VIDEO LINKS:

HABIT 4 VIDEO LINK

Please join the Mirada Melody Makers for their 5:15pm performance at the Enclave on Sunday, 12/7. All Mirada family members are welcome to join for all the events and festivities at the Holiday Fair!



Lunch on the Lawn

Lunch on the Lawn will be on Friday, December 12th. Families are welcome to join their students for for the entire lunch recess time period. However, ONLY MIRADA STUDENTS are permitted to play in the recess areas including the play structures, courts and fields. Please enter through the gate. Bring your picture ID.

GRADE	LUNCH	RECESS
KINDER	10:20-10:40	10:40-11:00
1ST	10:40-11:00	11:00-11:20
2ND	11:20-11:40	11:40-12:00
3RD	11:00-11:20	11:20-11:40
4TH	12:00-12:20	12:20-12:40
5TH	11:40-12:00	12:00-12:20



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.

PTO Corner



THANK YOU

Due to your generosity, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Casillas were able to distribute your food donations to families in our community who needed it before the holiday. Your donations to the Read a Thon were used to purchase Fry's gift cards for each family as well. It is incredibly heart warming to see our community respond en masse for those amongst us who need it.

Monarch Family Night at Skateland

Please join us on Thursday, December 18th for a night of family fun at Skateland. Wear your holiday gear and get ready to sing and skate the night away with all of your friends!

Purchase your yearbook today! The price will increase to $25 after December 31st. Purchase yearbooks here, use school code 733683. Fifth grade parents don't forget tributes!



Upcoming Events

- 12/2 Kyrene School Board Meeting
- 12/3 Monarch Night Out at MOD Pizza on Chandler Blvd.
- 12/12 Lunch on the Lawn
- 12/18 Monarch Family Night at Skateland
- 12/22-1/5 Winter Break
- 1/6/26 First Day back to school

LUNCH ON THE LAWN

Lunch on the Lawn is an opportunity for parents and families to come enjoy lunch and recess with their Monarch. Bring your blankets, food and games and enjoy a little time in the sun before Winter Break. Younger siblings are welcome but ONLY Mirada students may play in the recess areas including play structures, courts and fields. Below are the times your Monarch will be outside.

Kinder: Lunch 10:20-10:40, Recess 10:40-11:00
1st: Lunch 10:40-11:00, Recess 11:00-11:20
2nd: Lunch 11:20-11:40, Recess 11:40-12:00
3rd: Lunch 11:00-11:20, Recess 11:20-11:40
4th: Lunch 12:00-12:20, Recess 12:20-12:40
5th: Lunch 11:40-12:00, Recess 12:00-12:20

Interested in volunteering that day? Please sign up here.

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

[Lunch on the Lawn Sign Up]

[Yearbook Flyer]

[Yearbook Sales Link]

[Dining Out-Mod Pizza]

[Join the PTO Contact List]





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.

Dec. 17 – Understanding the Impacts of ACES/TIC
This course helps families understand the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the principles of Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) to better support their children's emotional and behavioral well-being.

Presenter:
Sanghoon Yoo

Date and Time:
December 17, 2025
6:00 - 7:00pm

Location:
Registration/Zoom Link

READY FOR THE FUTURE

Tempe Coalition
TO REDUCE UNDERAGE DRINKING AND DRUG USE

Registration/Zoom Link



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

School Hours: 7:30 am - 2:15 pm

Early Release Wed: 12:15 pm

Quicklinks

Food Services and Menu
ParentVUE
StudentVUE
Technology Assistance
Family Handbook

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

A+ School of Excellence™