Kyrene Akimel A-al



November 25,2025

Principal's Message

Good evening Rattler families,

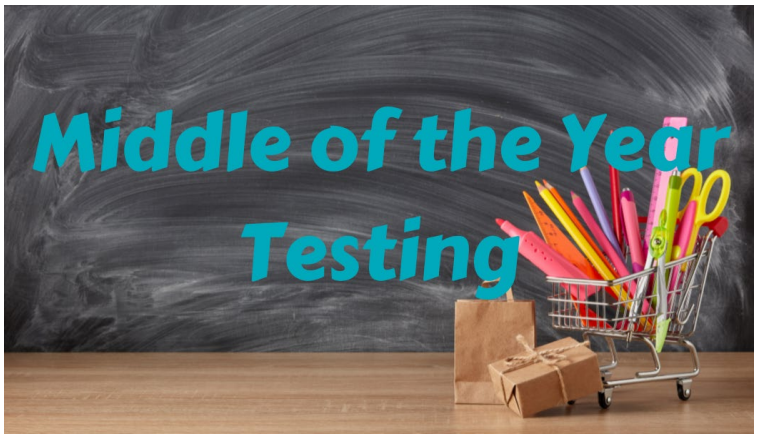
With only two days on campus this week, the days truly flew by. It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is already within reach and that we are fully in the season of gratitude and giving thanks. Although the start of our school year was not what any of us expected, I remain deeply certain of one thing: the strength, connectivity, and commitment that our AKI community continues to cultivate each day.

In moments when uncertainty surrounds us, our community has responded with unity, grace, and an unwavering dedication to our students. The momentum we began this year with has not only continued, it has grown. I am inspired by the way our families show up, collaborate with us, and remain steadfast partners in supporting our students through both the challenges and the celebrations.

As we head into the Thanksgiving break, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to each of you. Thank you for your trust, your support, and your continued partnership. Our work is meaningful because we do it together, and our students thrive because of the collective strength that exists in our Rattler community.

I hope that the upcoming break brings rest, reflection, and time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming your Rattler back to campus after the holiday.

With deep gratitude and appreciation,
Shalini McCarthy
Principal, Akimel A-al Middle School



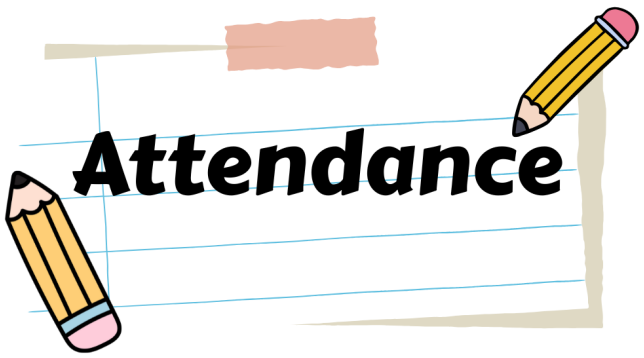
Next week, we will begin our Kyrene middle of the year assessments in both Math and ELA. Students will be taking their NWEA MAP assessments on the mornings of Tuesday, December 2nd and Thursday, December 4th in Advisory classes. NWEA MAP Growth is a nationally normed, standardized test which measures what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next by using a computer adaptive test that adjusts to the ability and knowledge of the student. Our teachers will be utilizing this data to plan for instructional next steps within our classrooms. This is the next step in assessing our students' knowledge and ensuring that we are providing a rigorous learning environment and experiences for our Rattler students.

8TH GRADE

8th graders will be taking the Arizona Civics test on Tuesday, December 9th. The test will be administered in Social Studies classes. There will be a make up window for testing. If you have any questions regarding the test please contact your student's social studies teacher via email.

Upcoming Events

NOV 26 - NOV 28: Thanksgiving Holiday- No School
DEC 2 & DEC 4: NWEA Testing
DEC 2: Governing Board Meeting- District Office
DEC 5: Celebration of Student Learners - 1st Quarter
DEC 9: 8th Grade Civics Testing
DEC 12: School Spelling Bee
DEC 16: Governing Board Meeting - District Office
DEC 22- JAN 2: Winter Break - NO SCHOOL
JAN 5: Teacher Plan Day - NO SCHOOL
JAN 6: First day of 3rd Quarter



As we move into the busy holiday season, morning traffic has become increasingly heavy. Please plan accordingly to ensure that your child arrives on time each day. Consistent attendance and timely arrival have a direct impact on your child's academic success, and every minute of instructional time matters. Thank you for supporting your child's learning by helping them start each day on time and ready to learn. Your partnership truly makes a difference.



Register for Quarter 3 Sports!

Online registration for Quarter 3 athletics is now open!

Sports available this quarter include **Girls Soccer, Softball, Boys Flag Football, and Boys Volleyball**. **Tryouts** will begin the day we return from Winter Break: **Tuesday, January 6th, 2026**.

The registration deadline is Friday, December 19th at noon. If you have any questions, please reach out to our athletic secretary, Stacy Huerta at 480-541-5805 or via email at shuerta@kyrene.org.

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.