



December 12, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15-19: StuCo Spirit Week

December 17: PTSO Fundraiser- Cafe Zupas

December 19: 7th Grade Fieldtrip to Skateland

December 19: NO BACKPACK DAY - Assembly @ 2pm

December 22-January 5: Holiday Break- NO SCHOOL

****EVERY WEDNESDAY IS EARLY RELEASE @ 1:05pm****

[View Full Calendar](#)

Congratulations to Principal Kory

Kyrene Principal Receives Global Recognition for College and Career Readiness Program

TEMPE, Arizona (December 12, 2025) Kyrene School District is already home to one of the nation's premiere campuses for the college and career readiness program, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID). Now, it is also home to AVID's Secondary Principal of the Year. Kyrene Aprende Middle School Principal Renee Kory received the award during the AVID Global Achievement Award ceremony at a national conference in San Diego on December 11.

Principal Kory is the first-ever recipient of the Secondary Principal of the Year award, for her work implementing AVID on the Aprende Middle School campus. AVID aims to accelerate under-achieving students who demonstrate potential into more rigorous courses, supporting them with in-class tutors and strong student-teacher relationships. With these supports, students develop a sense of hope and personal achievement that prepares them for success in college and future careers. Under Principal Kory's leadership, Aprende was named an AVID National Demonstration School, the highest honor an AVID school can achieve.

"Receiving this award is an incredible honor, but it truly belongs to our entire Aprende community," Principal Kory said. "Our students, teachers and staff bring AVID to life every day with their hard work and belief in possibility. I'm proud to accept this recognition on their behalf and grateful for the opportunity to support teachers in helping our students grow into confident and empowered learners, leaders, and collaborators."

The Global Achievement Awards were established to spotlight exceptional individuals and teams whose work exemplifies AVID's core values: high expectations, rigorous instruction, and unwavering support for all students.

"AVID's core values reflect the very foundation of The Kyrene Promise to provide rigorous, responsive learning environments so that students develop knowledge, skills, confidence and a passion for learning," said Kyrene Superintendent Laura Toenjes. "Principal Kory has shown what it looks like when a school embraces those commitments and ensures every student feels valued, challenged, and empowered. Her leadership has elevated Aprende as a model of what is possible for students today and in the future."

Learn more about the [AVID program at Aprende](#).

About AVID: AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a national nonprofit that has been closing the opportunity gap in education for more than 45 years. AVID is implemented in more than 7,400 K-12 schools across the United States, plus schools in Washington, D.C., the

Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, and Australia, impacting millions of students annually. Learn more at www.avid.org.



StuCo Spirit Week

Winter StuCo Spirit Week

December 15-19

Monday

**Crazy Sweater
Day**

Tuesday

**Dress as your
favorite winter
character**

Wednesday

**Senior
Citizen Day**

Thursday

**Dress to
Impress**

Friday

**Holiday Color War
(6th: Blue, 7th:
White, 8th: Red)**



6th Grade Donations

6th grade - End of Quarter Celebration

Students will be building their own graham cracker gingerbread house. But first, they must design a blueprint of their gingerbread house using only 4 graham crackers. Then, they will calculate the surface area. Lastly, they will add the little details to their blueprint design using the candy that is donated. Each student will get the same amount of candy and supplies. They can trade supplies with each other to get the perfect amount for their gingerbread house design.

On Friday, December 19, students will get to build their creation! There will also be a contest with prizes for the students whose blueprint house matches their actual house the closest!

Parents have been so generous with donating supplies, but we are still in need of a few items to make these gingerbread houses a success. If you could mark these items with "6T" or "6 Traditional", that would help!

Please consider donating these items:

2 oz paper cups: holds the candy for each student

Jellybeans: we need more!



8th Grade Traditional - End of Quarter Celebration

It's almost time for our 8th Grade Traditional end-of-quarter celebration, and we'd love your help in making it extra fun and festive! We are collecting **candy, chips, and other tasty nut-free treats** to share with students.

✨ **If you're willing to donate, please drop off all items at the front office and label them "8th Grade Traditional."**

✨ **Donations are needed *before the end of the day on Thursday*** so we can distribute everything evenly to all 8th Grade Traditional advisory classrooms.

Your generosity helps make this celebration special, and we appreciate every contribution—big or small!

Thank you for supporting our students and helping us finish the Q2 on a positive note!

Volunteers Needed- Gift of Time

Volunteers Needed

GIFT OF TIME

FOR APRENDE TEACHERS & STAFF

This season we will give our Aprende staff the gift of time by wrapping some of their holiday presents. Join us on the mornings of **Thursday, December 18 and Friday, December 19** to volunteer for a shift or two!

SIGN UP HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/4pny2rxd>



Collection Drive - December 1-15



Dr W's Science class will be supporting UMOM and the Arizona Humane Society this year through a supply drive. UMOM is a unique program that helps provide emergency shelter for families while working to provide them with employment and permanent housing. The Arizona Humane Society provides shelter and adoption services for animals. We will be collecting personal hygiene products, detergent children socks and hoodies for UMOM. We will also accept pet supplies. More information can be found at <https://www.umom.org/> and <https://www.azhumane.org/>

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Winners!

Ava Royse-1st

Eliana Hurmiz-2nd

Madhumitha Madhu-3rd



Tissue Donations



Cold & Flu Season is among us!

We are looking for tissue box donations!

Please drop them off in the front office.



Thanks in advance!

Yearbooks



8th Grade ONLY! Baby Ads

A central image of a baby tiger wearing black-rimmed glasses and a blue backpack with orange straps. The background is light blue with horizontal lines and colorful heart and flower graphics.

8th grade Baby Ads*

\$15-\$25

Scan the QR code or visit ybpay.com.
Wait for an email from Lifetouch inviting you to create your ad

BUY YOURS TODAY!

Code:14349326

*Ads are for 8th grade only and cannot be refunded.



Quarter 3 Sports

Registration Deadlines for Quarter 3 Sports:

Q3 Cut Sports closes Noon on Friday, December 19!

[Register Here!](#)

Grab a coach's letter from the front office or visit the Q3 sport Aprende website to view and sign.

Boys Flag Football

<https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/athletics/boys-flag-football-25-26>

Boys Volleyball

<https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/athletics/boys-volleyball-25-26>

Girls Soccer

<https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/athletics/girls-soccer-25-26>

Softball

<https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/athletics/softball-25-26>



APRENDE

QUARTER 3 SPORTS

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

BOYS FLAG FOOTBALL

GIRLS SOCCER

SOFTBALL

**REGISTER ONLINE AT
az-Kyrene.intouchrecepting.com**

I'm a new Text block ready for your content.

Quarter 2 Sports

Cross Country

Cross Country competed against Altadena Friday December 5 and Everyone was a winner setting huge PR's (personal records). The girl's team was led by Andi Cowley finishing with a personal best running under 9 minutes for 1.5 miles, followed by teammate Viviana Gonzales, Rowan Westemeir, 6th graders Isabel Olmedo and Emerson Ake. They scored 35 points to Altadena's 24 points.

Our boy's team all PR'd and was lead by 7th grader Naymar Abreu-Ryan, 6th grader James Roder, Adrian Harrison, Logan Peterson and coming off injured reserve Leo Fasci pushing through to help score. The biggest surprise with a 2-minute PR was Lucas Aprile and 6th grader Robert Whitesides staying in the top 7 again for the team.

This weeks meet Tuesday December 9 at Akimel showed some real toughness for girls and boys. Their first real test on a hilly course and they survived the 1.7 mile course. The girls competed first, lead runner Andi drove her arms up every hill to secure the Win. Viviana was our #2 girl for the team followed by Rowan, 6th grader Isabel.O and Isbella. R scoring 38 points to Akimel's 23 points.

The boys watched closely and patiently for their hill challenge. Our #1 runner was 6th grader James Roder (3rd overall) tackling the hill up and passing people on the way down. Naymar Abreu-Ryan was our #2 runner placing 7th over all followed by Keilson Whitehair, Adrian Harrison and Logan Peterson helped score the 43 points to Akimel's 18 points.

CROSS COUNTRY DISTRICT MEET @ APRENDE SATURDAY DECEMBER 13, STARTING AT 8AM ... LET'S GO JAGUARS

<https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/athletics/cross-country-25-26>

Upcoming Cross Country Conference Meet:

Saturday, Dec. 13 at Home Conference Meet at 8:00am



Cheer

Bull & Livy: OMG some great catches and some "near misses"... you 2 were SO awesome yesterday.

Cam: Congratulations on the TOUCHDOWN and your amazing running. You had your opponent BEAT!

Ava: Amazing job offensively and defensively. You are so quick down the field. You had some amazing catches too!

Brooklyn: WOW... wonderful work on the rushing last night! You had some great pulls and kept the pressure hot on them. GREAT RUN for the TOUCHDOWN too!! You were amazing!

Addy: You had some critical pulls at the goal line and did fabulous on defense!

Big O: you were INCREDIBLE on defense! YOU had them scared of you on every play! Way to play aggressively!

Gibbs & Betsy: Wonderful work on your snaps and way to always be open to get the short passes when we need you.

Rios & Nunez: Fantastic work pulling flags on the defense yesterday. You are always in the right spot!

Amarie: We missed you and hope you are feeling better!

<https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/athletics/girls-flag-football-25-26>

Upcoming Girls Flag Football Games:

Friday, Dec. 12 at Bendict Park Field #2 vs. Akimel A-al	JV Semi-Finals @ 5:00pm
Monday, Dec. 15 at Bendict Park Field #1 vs. Centennial	Varsity Semi-Finals @ 5:00pm
Tuesday, Dec. 16 at Bendict Park Field #2 vs. Altadena	JV Semi-Finals @ 5:00pm (Pending 12/12 Game)
Thursday, Dec. 18 at Bendict Park FINALS- Varsity on Field #1 @ 5:00pm	JV on Field #2 @ 5:00pm (Pending 12/15-16 Games)

Boys Soccer

Congratulations varsity boys soccer! This squad of boys won our scrimmage against Centennial 8-0 on Monday! Our season has been filled with class and finesse and we took on challenge after challenge. Our defense, midfield, and strikers have been unparalleled and we look forward to playing the winner of KMS and Pueblo in the semi-finals! Come support your varsity boys at Tempe Sports Complex on Monday, 12.15, at 4:30 pm. Go, Jags!

A special thank you to Kari Ward for the picture of the team after our scrimmage!

JV Boys soccer closed out their season by beating Centennial 6-0 and maintained a perfect undefeated season. We had two new goal scores with Harry and Xavier scoring 1 goal each, bringing the total to 12 of 16 players that have scored this season for our team. Come and support the JV boys on Monday 12/15 at 4:30pm in Tempe Sports Complex during our semifinal match to see if we can get into the final and bring home the Championship!



<https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/athletics/boys-soccer-25-26>

Upcoming Boys Soccer Games:

Monday, Dec. 15 Semi-Finals at Tempe Sports Complex Varsity vs KMS Field #5 @4:30pm JV vs Akimel Field #3 @4:30pm

Thursday, Dec. 18 FINALS at Tempe Sports Complex Varsity Field #6 @4:30pm JV Field #5 @4:30pm (Pending 12/15 Games)

Boys Basketball

JV Basketball

On December 8th, the JV Basketball team took on Centennial. We got off to a great start and took the early lead. In the second half, we stayed in control of the game and went on to win 29–20.

Go Jags!

On December 11th, in the first round of the playoffs, the JV team faced Akimel. It was a back-and-forth battle, with JV leading by two at halftime. The second half continued the same way. In the final two minutes, Akimel hit a big three-pointer to take the lead and went on to win by six.

Good season, JV, and Happy Holidays!

Varsity Basketball

On December 8th, the Varsity Basketball team took on Centennial.

We got off to a fast start and maintained the lead for the rest of the game, going on to claim the victory. The Varsity finished the regular season with an impressive 7–1 record — Great season!

Our next game will be on December 15th in the playoffs. Opponent: Altadena at Akimel A-al.

<https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/athletics/boys-basketball-25-26>

Upcoming Boys Basketball Games:

Monday, Dec. 15 Semi-Finals at Akimel A-al Varsity @ 5:30pm vs Altadena

Thursday, Dec. 18 FINALS at Akimel A-al Varsity @5:30pm (Pending 12/15 Game)

Schedules/ Playoff Brackets:

<https://www.kyrene.org/educational-opportunities/athletics/game-schedules>

Athletics Information can be found on our website:

<https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/athletics>

Financial Aid Information and Form for Athletic Fees:

<https://www.kyrene.org/educational-opportunities/community-education-services/forms-registrationfinancial-assistance>

If you have any questions, please contact Athletic Director, Amy Violette,
aviolette@kyrene.org or Loreth Vergara lvergara@kyrene.org 480-541-6203

Office hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 7:30am-4pm Wed 7:30am-2pm

Address: 777 N. Desert Breeze Blvd., East #2, Chandler, AZ 85226

Intramural Wrestling

KYRENE SCHOOL DISTRICT
**INTRAMURAL
WRESTLING CLUB**

EAST & WEST TEAMS AVAILABLE



Register Here

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS!

EAST - \$40 WEST - \$65

PRACTICES HELD AT ALTADENA OR KYRENE MIDDLE SCHOOL

TEAM WILL MEET FROM 3:30PM-5:30PM, DATES VARY BY SITE

[HTTPS://KYRENE.ARUX.APP/COURSE/2905/KYRENE-ATHLETICS-25-26/INTRAMURAL-BOYS-BASKETBALL-2025-26](https://kyrene.arux.app/course/2905/kyrene-athletics-25-26/intramural-boys-basketball-2025-26)

COLLECT PULL * TABS *

Aprende AVID Club Needs Your Help!



**Ronald
McDonald
House**
Central and
Northern Arizona





Give aluminum pull tabs to your advisory!



AVID

Winter Wonderland



Support Our Families This Season

More Kyrene families are counting on community support this holiday season. The Kyrene Foundation's Winter Wonderland Donation Drive provides gift cards so families can purchase holiday meals and gifts for their children. **With a 35% increase in need, the Foundation aims to raise \$50,000 to support more than 1,300 students.** Currently, just over \$13,000 has been raised. Every contribution brings warmth and hope. Monetary donations can be made through the [Kyrene](#)

Exceptional Student Services

KYRENE 2025-26
SCHOOL YEAR
PARENT TRAININGS



ESS Parent Trainings

Plan to attend the following ESS parent training

OVERVIEW AND Q&A WITH THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND ENCIRCLE FAMILIES

JANUARY 12, 2026

Join us for an information session with representatives from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Encircle Families. They will provide an introduction to the supports and services their organizations provide to children with disabilities and their families and be available for questions after the presentation.

January 12, 2026 | 6-7:30 pm

Kyrene District Office

Scan the QR code to register or go to:
<https://forms.gle/5N5fbhW39Ehj6e1N9>

Contact Amy Dill, adill@kyrene.org
for more information.



SCAN ME





Parent Information Nights

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](#)



JOIN A CLUB!!!

Some clubs have started and more will be starting soon!

Below are a few fun opportunities that are available!

They are all listed on the website <https://apr.kyrene.org/programs/activities>

Where Ya Wanna Go Wednesdays!

Where ya wanna go Wednesdays!

**Wear your college or career gear
EVERY Wednesday!
Show your spirit!**



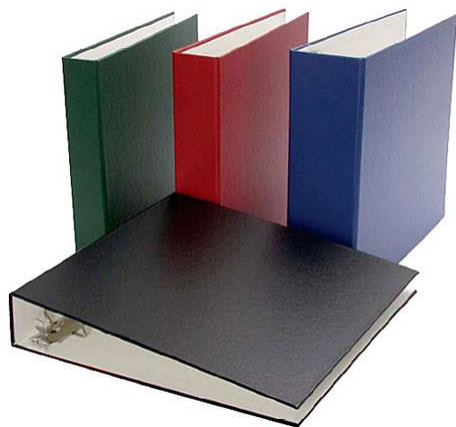
**GRAB
YOUR
HOODIE**

**Donate a bag
of Dum Dum
suckers!**

Students who
demonstrate their
college spirit get a
sucker at lunch!



Donations are Appreciated!



We are looking for donations of **NEW or GENTLY USED 2 1/2 or 3 inch binders.**
Nothing smaller please.

Also, we would appreciate donations of **Jolly Ranchers** for our PBIS system!



Parents/students can drop them off in the front office.

Thank you in advance!

Stay in the know... follow us on social media for current & upcoming events!

APRENDE MIDDLE SCHOOL



Facebook.com/KyreneAprende

Instagram
@kyreneaprende

APRENDE PTSO



Facebook.com/AprendePTSO

Instagram
@aprendepto

AprendePTSO.org

WHERE TO GO FOR ALL THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW





PTSO is seeking volunteers for various events throughout the year, fill out our volunteer interest form to receive notifications of upcoming volunteer opportunities!

<https://aprendeptso.org/volunteer>

Student Sign-Out



We understand students will need to be signed out for appointments, etc. Please try to avoid signing out your student after 2:55pm. The last 10 minutes of school tend to be hectic and we appreciate your understanding.

Also, please try to limit the amount of items being dropped off in the front office (water bottles, lunches, sweatshirts). Every time we need to call a classroom, it is disruptive to the class.

Wag Wednesdays & Furry Friends Fridays!

Bring your pup to Aprende student drop-off on Wednesdays & Fridays from 7:50am to 8:15am for a little treat!

Just roll down your window and Staudohar will pop a Bubba Bite into your pup's mouth!



Tax Credit Donations



Please consider making a tax credit donation to help support some of the following at Aprende: Performing Arts, Athletics, Clubs, AVID, Field Trips, etc.

You can donate online through our [Payment Portal](#).

Click [here](#) for instructions on the payment portal.

Thank you for your continued support!



Quicklinks

- [School Website](#)
- [Breakfast/Lunch Menu](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [ParentVue and StudentVue](#)
- [PTSO Information](#)

Contact Us

Kyrene Aprende Middle School

777 N. Desert Breeze Blvd. E. #2

Chandler, AZ 85226

School Hours: 8:20am-3:05pm

Office Hours: 7:30am-4:00pm

Phone: 480-541-6200

Fax: 480-541-6210

Attendance: 480-541-6201

*A+ School of
Excellence™*

