



NORTE NEWS

December 5, 2025



Principal's Imprint

Dear Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy Families,

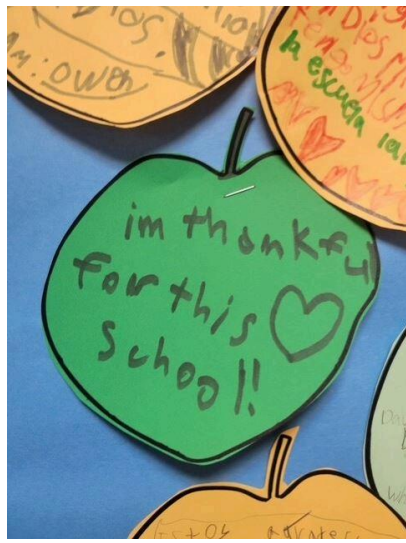
As we enter the joyful month of December, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for our incredible community. This time of year reminds us of the importance of connection, kindness, and celebration—values we see each day in our students, staff, and families.

In classrooms, our students continue to shine as they make progress academically, socially, and linguistically in our dual language program. We are especially proud of the perseverance and collaboration they demonstrate as they develop their bilingual skills. Thank you for all the ways you support learning at home through reading, conversation, and encouragement.

This month, we look forward to several exciting events that bring our community together:



- **Schoolwide acts of kindness**, where students and staff wrote special messages on giving, gratitude, and caring for our community in our **Tree of Thanks**. A big shout out to Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Dunn for their artistic creativity in setting this up in our hallway outside of rooms D5/D6.
- **Drama Club** students will be presenting *Mary Poppins* on Friday, December 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm.



- **Bienvenidos Winter Wonderland Program** on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 10:00 am.
- **2nd Grade Holiday Concert** on December 18th at 9:45 am - 10:45 am
- **Winter classroom activities** and grade-level celebrations.

As the semester draws to a close, please keep an eye out for communication from teachers regarding assessments, projects, and upcoming transitions. Your partnership ensures that our students end the year confidently and begin the new semester ready to thrive. Finally, I want to extend warm wishes to all our Norte families. Whether you spend the winter break traveling, celebrating traditions, or simply enjoying time with loved ones, I hope your days are restful, safe, and filled with joy.



Thank you for being part of the Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy family. We look forward to a bright and successful start to the new year.

Con gratitud,

Jaime Soto

Principal

Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy



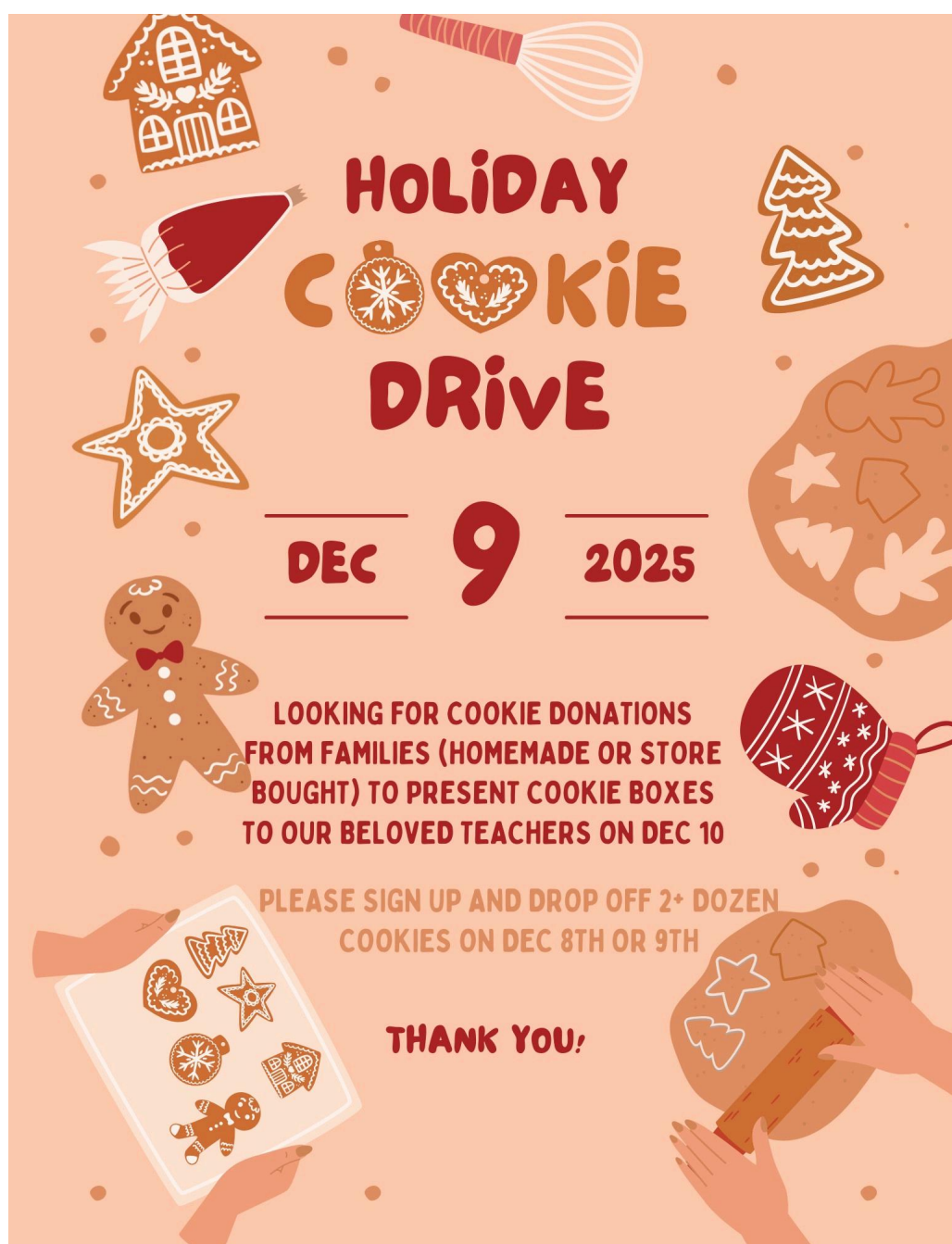


December is an important month for MOY testing
(middle of the year assessments)

There are quite a few of tests and assessments scheduled this month, so just a friendly reminder that ATTENDANCE is vital for your students this month.

Our amazing PTO has been do so many wonderful things for the students and staff at Norte! The PTO is requesting cookie donations for the upcoming **Holiday Cookie Exchange**.

[Please sign up to bring in a dozen cookies \(or more\) HERE](#) and drop off your donations on Dec. 8 or 9.



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](#).



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.



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](#)
[Sign up for Watch D.O.G.S.](#)





Kyrene Family Resource Center - *Serving our Community!*

The Kyrene Family Resource Center supports basic needs in order for all Kyrene students to achieve their maximum potential.

Kyrene families and employees are welcome to receive support with immediate needs, including: food, gently used school clothing, hygiene supplies, school supplies, and connections to outside agencies and resources.

The Kyrene Family Resource Center strives to support Kyrene students with basic needs to help students achieve their best in school!

For the most up-to-date information, please visit us on [Facebook](#)

School Tours happening now!

School tours have begun! These are held in the mornings on Fridays through January 2026. If you have friends, family, neighbors that are interested in learning more about our Dual Language program here at Kyrene del Norte, please refer them to the front office (480-541-4800) to schedule a time to tour our school, Or fill out the [online form](#).

KYRENE DEL NORTE - DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

**Fridays
9:30am
or
10:15am**

**Come See
Where Futures
Begin! School Tour**

1331 E. Redfield Rd., Tempe, AZ 85283

Call 480-541-4800 to reserve a date



There is a wonderful opportunity to nominate our amazing teachers, staff, volunteers and support team through the **Tempe Diablos Excellence in Education Awards**. The nomination process has started and [here's the link](#) for you to nominate someone for the following awards:

- Lifetime Achievement
- Leadership
- High Impact
- Class Act

Staff Spotlights

Sarah Drury | Art teacher

How long have you been in education?

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

What inspired you to work in education?

I became an art teacher so that I could share the world of art with others.

What do you love most about your job?

I love helping students master new materials so they can share their ideas.

Where are you from originally?

Arizona native

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I fill my time outside of work with books, painting, and ceramics.

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

I enjoy learning about and using fountain pens.

Favorite quote or motto?

"The secret to doing anything is believing you can do it" -Bob Ross



Shayla Esgro | Kindergarten Teacher

How long have you been in education?

This is my 14th year in education and 3rd year at Norte.

What inspired you to become an educator?

I became a teacher because I have a passion for working with young learners and a strong desire to make a positive difference in their lives. Make life lasting memories for them!

What do you love most about your job?

Helping my students grow, learn, and believe in themselves while overcoming challenges. Seeing my students excited and love coming to school.

Where are you from originally?

Pennsylvania

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Outside of work, I really enjoy making memories with my kids. I enjoy quality time together, having fun, and creating moments that they'll always remember.

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

I was named athlete of the week, all-regions all star team 4 consecutive years, competed at the state level, and inducted into my high school's "Hall of Fame" for some of my achievements as a softball player during high school. I enjoy all sports and being active.

Favorite quote or motto?

"Stay strong, stay grounded, stay grateful ." - Bob Marley



Gisell De La Cruz | Kindergarten Spanish Dual Language Teacher

How long have you been in education?

27 years total and 8 years at Norte (11 years total in KSD)!

What inspired you to become an educator?

What inspired me to become an educator is the love I have for learning and the belief that every child has the ability to succeed no matter their situation. I like to instill in others the same love I have for learning.



What do you love most about your job?

I love the Norte community; the staff is very friendly and helpful.

Any special achievements, certifications?

BS degree in Elementary Education, MS degree in Bilingual Education, Tempe Diablo Excellence in Education Award-February 2005, Mentor Teacher 2005-2006 (Tempe School District), Keys to Kyrene Certificate of Recognition 2022-2023, Suntec Concrete Extraordinary Teacher Award (family nominated)-March 2025, Elementary Math Cadre Representative, Lego League Club Coach 2024-2025



Where are you from originally?

Originally from Dominican Republic but grew up in New York.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Traveling, cooking, dancing and going for long walks.

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

I really enjoy playing board games with family & friends. I love dancing and music. I can speak some French.

Favorite quote or motto?

Motto: "Always believe that something wonderful is about to happen" - Dr. Sukhraj S. Dhillon





CONGRATULATIONS to the Student of the Month nominees for November!

Kindergarten: Elayna Martinez, Arabelle Smith, Oliver Romo, Daniel Lujan

1st Grade: Olin Shillinger, Tysen McLaughlin, Oscar Anderle, Cayson Pederson

2nd Grade: Joshua Bueno, Isabella Martinez, Frankie Korte, Hazel Rios

3rd Grade: Juniper Price-Ehrlich, Kyden Royder, Alan Torres Canchola, Layla Stephens,

4th Grade: Savannah Landauer, Noah Cardenas, Emma Degler, Joshua Lopez Tena, Gianna Nicol

5th Grade: Andrea Rosales-Cons, Jordyn Oliver



NOVEMBER Perfect Attendance Challenge

For the month of November, we had 193 Perfect Attendance winners (no absences and no tardies). Those students earned a Popcorn Party with Mr. Soto!!

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

February

April

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



Congratulations to these Norte students whose works of art will be featured in the [Tempe Festival of the Arts December 5-7, 2025](#)

- 5th - Mace W.
- 4th - Aria F.
- 3rd - Grace G.
- 2nd - Kai R., Gemma K.
- 1st - Falco A.
- KDG - Evelyn S.

Health Corner

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
5. Exercise regularly (screen-free)



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.

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

ATTENDANCE LINE: 480.541.4801
The attendance line is open 24/7

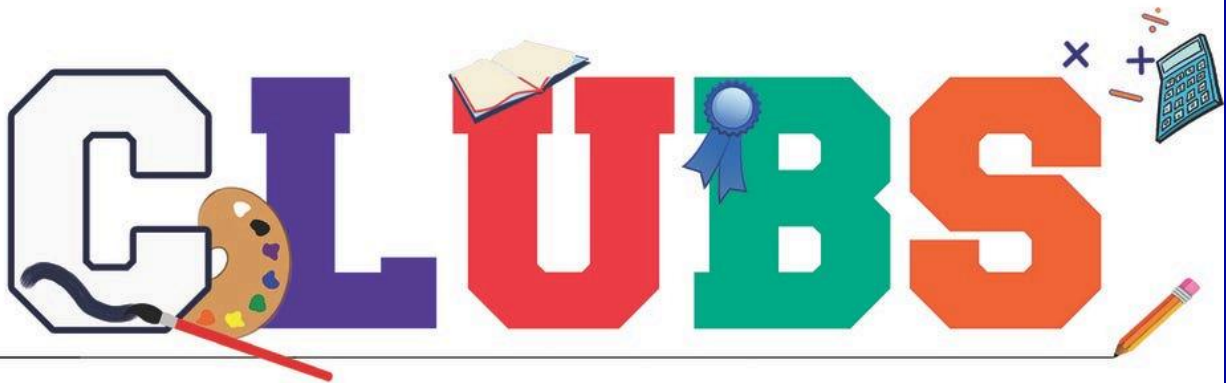
Parents/guardians are required to call the attendance line day their child is absent, indicating the student's name, grade, and there must be a reason for the absence.

Please call before 8:30 AM to ensure the student is accounted for.

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.*



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](#)



First Lego League has begun and is open to 4th & 5th graders only. Meeting on Mondays through November.

The final meeting is December 8th with a Family Showcase at 4:45pm.

[First Lego League 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. 12th at 6:30pm.

Be sure to pick up your raffle tickets for the Holiday Tree!

[Drama Club Page](#)

NORTE DRAMA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE RAFFLE



Support the Norte Drama Club with our Christmas Tree Raffle! Join the festive fun and purchase a chance to win this fabulous Mary Poppins inspired tree that will make your holiday season even brighter!

Drawing will be held on December 12th at 6:30pm show

\$5 for 6 tickets or \$1/ticket
Purchase tickets in the front office

Tempe Arts in Schools Program

Six teachers in Kyrene School District will partner with professional artists this year through the City of Tempe's **Arts in Schools** residency program, and students will reap the rewards. Kyrene del Norte is fortunate to be on of those schools. Music teacher Scott Harnisch will work with guest artist Pat McCleve to support 70 students in Norte's theater program.



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. *Need volunteers each morning on Tuesdays and Thursdays.*

[Join the 5K fundraiser run on Dec. 7th at Desert Breeze Park!](#)

[Running Club Page](#)



100 % of FUNDS RAISED SUPPORT THE NORTE RUNNING CLUB



NORTE 5K

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH

8:15 WARM UPS 8:30 START TIME

@DESERT BREEZE BY THE FIRESTATION

REGSITER BELOW



\$30 for the first student \$20 for siblings
Registration includes medal for each student
Parents are FREE
Finish line snacks included
Coffee provided by COFFEE BEAN



Voice of a Norte Student Running Club

How long have you been in Running Club?

"I started in Kindergarten".

Why do you like being in Running Club?

"If I'm tired, I get lots of energy pumped back in me."

Anything else you would like to share about your experiences in Running Club?

"I like Running Club because I get to run with my brother."



Cora Hill, 3rd grade



Voice of a Norte Student Running Club

How long have you been in Running Club?

"I have been in Running Club since the 1st grade".

Why do you like being in Running Club?

"The first year I did it for fun. Then my parents set goals for me and I like working towards achieving them."

Anything else you would like to share about your experiences in Running Club?

"In third grade, I placed first for my grade level. Now I like to run to be with my friends."



Theo Hill, 5th grade



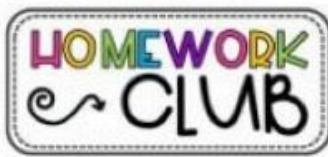
Student Council is a leadership club where students work together to make a positive impact on our school and community.

Student Council hosted a **FOOD DRIVE** and did such an amazing job gathering the generous donations from our Norte community. All food was donated to the Family Resource Center here at KSD for our Kyrene Community's needs.

Congratulations to the winning classrooms for the most food donated: Izawa, Bienvenidos and Quintanilla's classes all earned popsicles!

[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.

Upcoming Dates

DEC 5: PTO - Parent Night Out (PNO) Holiday
Errands - All Star Kids 6-9pm

Dec 5: Perfect Attendance (NOV.) popcorn party
with Mr. Soto

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

DEC 9: 5th grade - KMS Mariachi band at 9:30am

DEC 12: Drama Production - Mary Poppins
community show at 6:30pm

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

DEC 16: PTO - Norte Night Out (NNO) at
Someburros

DEC 17: Bienvenidos Holiday Concert 10am

DEC 18: 2nd grade Holiday Concert 9:45am

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*

JAN 14: NNO at Electric Pickle 3-7pm

JAN 19: MLK Day - No School

JAN 22: PTO Meeting 4:30pm - Library

JAN 27: PTO - Pollack Movie Night

[View Full Calendar](#)



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

Food Services

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

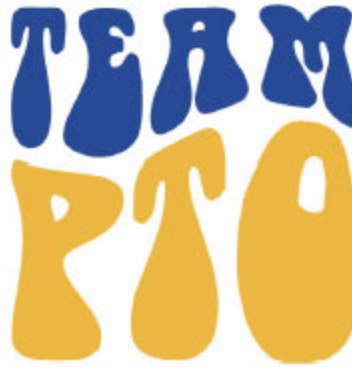
Each year, families are asked to review and acknowledge important information, including contact/emergency details, district policies, and survey preferences.

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

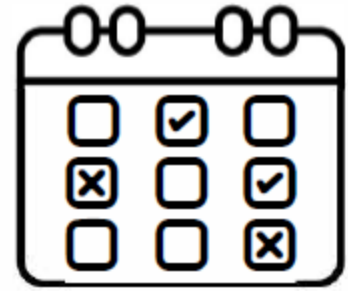
[Parent Resource Link](#)

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



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



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.