From: Superintendent Toenjes
To: Wood, Carolyn
Subject: Kyrene Board Vote on School Closures
Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:10:34 AM
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KyreneSchoolDistrict

December 17, 2025

Dear Kyrene Community,

On Tuesday, December 16, the Kyrene Governing Board took what may be the most significant action in our district's history, in order to preserve the Kyrene experience now and for generations to come.

After months of study, community engagement and difficult conversations, the board voted to take the following actions as part of Kyrene's long-range plan:

- Kyrene de la Colina will close in 2026-27
- Kyrene de la Estrella will close in 2026-27
- Kyrene de las Manitas will close in 2026-27
- Kyrene Traditional Academy will close in 2027-28
- Akimel A-al Middle School will close in 2027-28
- Pueblo Middle School will close in 2027-28

All boundary changes can be viewed online at www.kyrene.org/longrangeplan.
I want to express my deepest gratitude to our Governing Board and the Long-Range Planning Committee, as well as our staff, students, families and community members who engaged thoughtfully and passionately throughout this extensive process. The board's decision is the result of listening, learning and weighing the real human impact alongside the long-term sustainability of our district.

For many in our Kyrene community, this news will bring sadness, uncertainty and a deep sense of loss. Our schools are more than buildings. They hold memories, relationships and traditions that shape families and neighborhoods. It is okay to grieve what is changing, and we honor what these schools have meant to generations of Kyrene students.

Kyrene is the top-ranked K-8 elementary school district in the state of Arizona because of the Kyrene experience—including small classrooms, experienced teachers, targeted student supports, robust electives and extensive extracurricular activities. The governing board's vote will help to protect and preserve that experience. By restoring long-term financial stability and making responsible use of our resources, we are positioning Kyrene not just to endure, but to remain exceptional for years to come.

Supporting our Community Through the Transition

Clear, consistent communication will be essential as we move forward. We are developing a dedicated online portal where families and staff can find updates, ask questions and access resources related to the transition. Information will expand significantly in January.

Schools impacted by consolidation or boundary changes will also be communicating directly with their communities to provide personalized information and support.

We are equally committed to caring for our staff during this transition. Our intention is to keep teacher teams together as much as possible and to support employees with transparency, dignity and respect throughout this process.

What We Are Working on Immediately

Kyrene teams have been working over the last few months to plan for various outcomes. Now that a decision has been made, district teams will finalize plans in order to provide clear information about:

- **Enrollment pathways and school assignments**
- **Bell schedule updates**
- **Transportation information**

This information will be available in January to support families with planning before the enrollment portal opens in February.

Work in Progress

Important elements of this transition are already in development, including planning for:

- Welcome events at receiving schools to help students and families build connections
- Staff transitions and placements, which will be communicated to employees
- Opportunities for families and staff to stay involved through advisory groups, roundtables and transition planning teams
- Expanded middle school opportunities, from arts to athletics, designed to preserve Kyrene's small-school feel while creating more ways for students to thrive.

This work will be done in partnership with our families, staff and community. As I have said many times, it is your involvement that makes Kyrene so exceptional. You are part of Kyrene, and I hope you will *stay* in Kyrene. This district remains the number one choice for K-8 elementary education in the state of Arizona, and I truly believe this decision will ensure we continue that legacy of excellence for another century.

I look forward to navigating this transition alongside you and moving Kyrene forward, together.

Sincerely,
Laura Toenjes
Superintendent

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