Kyrene de la Mirada - Leadership Academy

MIRADA NEWS

January 2026

A Message from Mrs. Anderson

Happy New Year! I hope each of you enjoyed a restful winter break filled with family time, good books, and a little extra sleep. January always brings a fresh start, and as we welcome 2026, our hallways are once again buzzing with the energy and excitement that make our school such a special place.

This month we are jumping back into learning, setting new goals, and celebrating the progress our students have already made.

Many parents reach out to our teachers and to me with the same important question: ***"What can my child do to be at grade level or even move beyond it?"*** I truly appreciate these conversations because they show your commitment to your child's growth. Kyrene provides two excellent programs—Amplify Reading and iReady Mathematics—that are designed to reinforce classroom learning and give students individualized practice. **Using these tools at home is one of the most meaningful ways you can support your child's progress throughout the year.**

Amplify Reading is a digital reading program for students in grades K–8 that uses the power of engaging storytelling to involve students in targeted reading instruction and practice. In Kyrene, students in grades K–5 who regularly used Amplify Reading demonstrated stronger growth on DIBELS reading assessments than students who did not participate in the program. This

research confirms that consistent use of Amplify can make a meaningful difference in student reading progress.

i-Ready Personalized Instruction for Mathematics is designed to supplement classroom math instruction and strengthen skills for all learners, including those on grade level, advanced students, and students who need additional support. A comprehensive study conducted by Curriculum Associates found that, on average, students in grades K–8 who used i-Ready Personalized Instruction showed mathematics score gains that were 38% greater than students who did not use the program (Curriculum Associates, 2017). This program provides individualized lessons that help each child grow from their current level.

Mirada's School-Wide Goals

Our goal is for 80% of each class to meet the following expectations each week:

Amplify Reading: Complete 45 minutes per week (Monday through Sunday)

iReady Mathematics:

Grades K–2: Pass **two** or more lessons per week

Grades 3: Pass one or more lessons per week

Grades 4-5: Pass **two** or more lessons per week

Every Monday, I share feedback with students about their progress toward these goals. We track class success on our school-wide data wall: purple stars represent iReady achievement, and silver stars represent Amplify Reading success. The next time you are on campus, I encourage you to take a moment to view the data wall and celebrate the hard work our students are doing.

I am grateful for the continued partnership between home and school, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

Kindly,

Michelle Anderson

Kyrene Forward

Supporting our Community Through Transition

On Tuesday, December 16, the Kyrene Governing Board voted to approve a long-range plan for school consolidation. This difficult decision may be the most significant action in our district's history, in order to preserve the Kyrene experience now and for generations to come. Following months of study and public hearings, the board ultimately voted on a consolidation plan that will close four elementary schools and two middle schools over the next two years.

This page will expand to provide a central hub of information to support families and staff through this transition. Here, you will find maps, timelines, FAQs, background and updates to help you stay informed and engaged. Kyrene is committed to caring for all students, staff, and families as we navigate this transition and move Kyrene forward.

Read the December 17 message from Superintendent Toenjes

Kyrene Forward
Click here for FAQs & info

Upcoming Events

January 6	School resumes
January 13	Kindergarten Showcase 6-7pm
	Governing Board Meeting 6pm
January 15	PTO Meeting 2:45 in Media Center
	Monarch Night Out at BJs 11am-11pm (click on button to see flyer)
	District Spelling Bee-Good Luck DJ!
January 19	No School-Martin Luther King Day
January 26 and 1st Grades	Diving into Art Show 5-7pm MPR with Musical Performance by Kindergarten

January 27	Governing Board Meeting 6pm
January 30	MML Awards 7:40-8:20 Kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd Grades 8:30-9:10 1st, 4th and 5th Grades
February 2-6	Scholastic Book Fair
February 3	**Registration Opens-ALL current students in good standing will be automatically re-enrolled. There is no need for any current students who wish to remain at Mirada to re-register, even for Open Enrollment.**
February 4-6	Early Release-Spring Conferences
February 10	Governing Board Meeting 6pm
February 13	Special Person's Day
February 16	No School-President's Day
February 19	PTO Meeting 2:45-3:45pm in the Media Center
February 24	Governing Board Meeting 6pm
February 26	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 | January Calendar | PTO Calendar

EARLY RELEASE on all Wednesdays

Students will be released at 12:15pm.



Wednesday 1/7

Wednesday 1/14

Wednesday 1/28

Conference Early Release Dates

Wednesday 2/4

Thursday 2/5

Friday 2/6



Calling all future preschool and kindergarten students!

We invite you to bring your future preschool or kindergarten Monarch to join us for our upcoming Showcase Night on January 13th, from 6-7pm.

This special event is the perfect opportunity to meet our admin team, teachers, and to learn more about the programs we offer.

Future kindergarteners will enjoy a special activity in a classroom while their parents learn more about Mirada.

Come see why our school is the right fit for your family and discover how we create a welcoming and engaging learning environment

for all of our learners.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Middle of the year district assessment reports have been posted to ParentVUE. Families are able to access the results through ParentVue in the documents section. Need help accessing the reports? ... See the attachment for directions with screenshots. Need help understanding the reports or how to support your child? ... See the family guide for each assessment or reach out to your child's teacher.

Assessment Results in Parent Vue

Understanding i-Ready Results

Family Guide-DIBELS

Family Guide-NWEA MAP Growth

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.

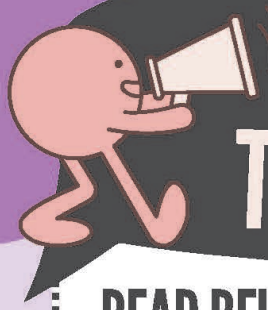
As we continue to partner with you regarding your child's attendance, we need to inform you of an important update regarding how "absences due to appointments" should be reported. In alignment with guidance from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), please be specific when reporting the reason for 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 5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD

READ BELOW FOR PARENT TIPS ABOUT HABIT 5!

WHAT IS HABIT 5?

HABIT 5 FOCUSES ON LISTENING FIRST , WITH EMPATHY, TO TRULY UNDERSTAND OTHERS PERSPECTIVES BEFORE TRYING TO GET YOUR OWN MESSAGE ACROSS.

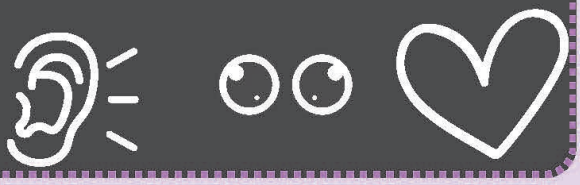
TIPS FOR SEEKING TO BE UNDERSTOOD

- CLARIFY OTHERS' NEEDS AND CONCERNS FIRST.
- USE "I" STATEMENTS, AVOIDING BLAME OR ACCUSATIONS.
- BE CLEAR ABOUT YOUR OWN MESSAGE.

KEY PRINCIPLES

EMPATHIC LISTENING:

LISTEN WITH EARS, EYES, AND HEART.



EMPATHETIC LISTENTING TIPS

- ENCOURAGE THE SPEAKER: "TAKE YOUR TIME... I'M LISTENING."
- FOCUS ON THEIR POINT OF VIEW
- ASK CLARIFYING QUESTIONS.
- ALLOW TIME FOR REFLECTION.
- BE GENUINE IN YOUR RESPONSES.

RESPECTFULLY SEEK TO BE UNDERSTOOD:

UNDERSTAND OTHERS BEFORE SHARING YOUR PERSPECTIVE.


Mirada
DIVE INTO ART
Show
Featuring Artwork by ALL K-5th grade students!
SAVE THE DATE!
Monday, January 26th 5-7PM in the MPR
Musical Performance by K and 1st at 5 PM under the MPR Ramada



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



Welcome Back!

We hope everyone had a happy and restful break! We're entering the second half of the school year and it's packed with family events as well as plans to spoil our amazing Mirada staff! We can't wait to make the second half of this year as fun and memorable as the first!

Save the Date- Special Person's Day

Special Person's Day is on February 13th! On this day the kids get to invite up to 2 special grown ups in their lives like grandparents, aunts and uncles to spend some time with them during the school day. Family members are invited to visit the classroom and eat lunch with their students. More specific information to come.

Before break Leo and our Monarchs had a blast dancing, skating and playing games at Skateland at our last Monarch Night Out. Join us for the next one at BJ's Brewery on 1/15!



Upcoming Events

- 1/13 Kinder Showcase
- 1/15 PTO Meeting in the library at 2:45pm, Monarch Night Out BJ's Brewery all day
- 1/19 No School
- 1/23 Milk and Cookies
- 1/26 Mirada Art Show, 5-7pm in the MPR
- 2/4-2/6 Half Days, Conferences and Book Fair in the Library

Kyrene Governing Board Update

The Kyrene Governing Board vote was last month and Mirada will officially stay open! We want to say thank you to this community for using your voice. Please join us at the next PTO Meeting on 1/15 at 2:45 if you'd like to continue to support our school and community. Can't make it in person? A zoom link will be distributed closer to the meeting date.

Interested in Helping Out?

There are a number of positions on the PTO Board that will be opening up for next year. We are always looking for new voices and ideas to help continue to make us one of the best PTOs in the district. Meetings are open to all, we'd love to see you there!

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

Yearbook Flyer

Yearbook Sales Link

Dining Out-BJ's

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.

Jan. 12 – Overview and Q&A with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and Encircle Families

Hosted by:
ESS Department

Date and Time:
January 12, 2026
6:00- 7:30pm

Location:
Kyrene District Office
8700 South Kyrene Road
Tempe, AZ 85284

Jan. 21- Coping with Teenager's Emotions
This course provides families with strategies to understand, navigate, and support their teenager's emotional development and manage challenging behaviors with empathy and confidence.

Presenter:
Janna McGuire

Date and Time:
January 21, 2026
6:00-7:00pm

Location:
Online

READY FOR THE FUTURE

Tempe Coalition
TO REDUCE UNDERAGE DRINKING AND DRUG USE

Coping with Teenager's Emotions
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 or in ParentVue.**

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

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

Quicklinks

Food Services and Menu
ParentVUE
StudentVUE
Technology Assistance
Family Handbook

A+ School of Excellence™