



NORTE NEWS

January 6, 2026



Principal's Imprint

Dear Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy Families,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We are excited to begin a new year filled with learning, growth, and meaningful experiences for our students and families. January brings several important events and opportunities that highlight the uniqueness of our school community.

As we look ahead, we encourage you to share with family and friends the opportunity to enroll in our school and join a truly exceptional learning environment. Our dual language program stands above the rest in the Phoenix metropolitan area, and we are excited to welcome new families. **Registration begins in February**, and we would love your support in spreading the word. Also, families are welcomed to join Mr. Soto and the Norte Ambassadors on a school tour on Friday mornings. School Tours are scheduled by contacting Mrs. Walton in the school office or the [online form](#).

Families of incoming kindergarten students are invited to attend our **Kindergarten Showcase on Monday, January 26th, from 5:15-6:30 p.m.** This parents-only event will feature a presentation by our amazing Kindergarten team of teachers and Mr. Soto, who will share insights into our dual language program and what families can expect in Kindergarten. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more and ask questions.



We are also thrilled to share that our school will be welcoming a visit from the **Arizona Education Foundation** on **Thursday, January 22nd**, and **Friday, January 23rd**, as they consider our application for the prestigious **A+ School of Excellence® recognition**. This visit reflects the collective dedication and hard work of our staff, students, and families.

Additionally, please mark your calendars for **Spring Picture Day** on **Monday, January 26th** and **PTO Movie Night** at **Pollack Cinemas** on **Tuesday, January 27th**. More details will be shared as the date approaches.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to an exciting and successful start to the year together.

Finally, I want to express my deep pride and gratitude to the entire Norte school community for your thoughtful feedback, meaningful input, and active engagement throughout the long-range facilities planning process, which culminated in a formal decision by the Kyrene Governing Board on December 16, 2025. The Kyrene Governing Board's decision impacts Norte in the 2026-27 school year by moving our school to not having attendance boundaries. This means all current and future students will be categorized as open-enrollment students. As part of this change, bus transportation will not be provided next year, which does impact a small number of our students. Please know that transportation will continue through the remainder of the 2025-26 school year. Kyrene Governing Board's decision creates many changes for Kyrene. Superintendent Toenjes and the district teams are working to address the impact to enrollment, transportation and bell schedules. More information will be shared this month. I want to assure you that this change aims to make every school in our district stronger, as we consolidate our resources to better serve our students and to realize the Kyrene Promise. I will be working closely with our district team to ensure our students, staff and families feel supported during this transition.

Saludos,

Jaime Soto

Principal

Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy





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.

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 [Registration/ Zoom Link](#)

NORTE PTO
PRESENTS

NORTE NIGHT OUT

• WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14TH •

3PM-7PM

*electric
pickle*

8688 S EMERALD DR.
TEMPE, AZ 85284

20% of food and
beverage go back
to Norte

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



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](#)

Kindergarten Showcase Night

Families of incoming kindergarten students are invited to attend our **Kindergarten Showcase on Monday, January 26th, from 5:15-6:30 p.m.** This parents-only event will feature a presentation by our amazing Kindergarten team of teachers and Mr. Soto, who will share insights into our dual language program and what families can expect in Kindergarten

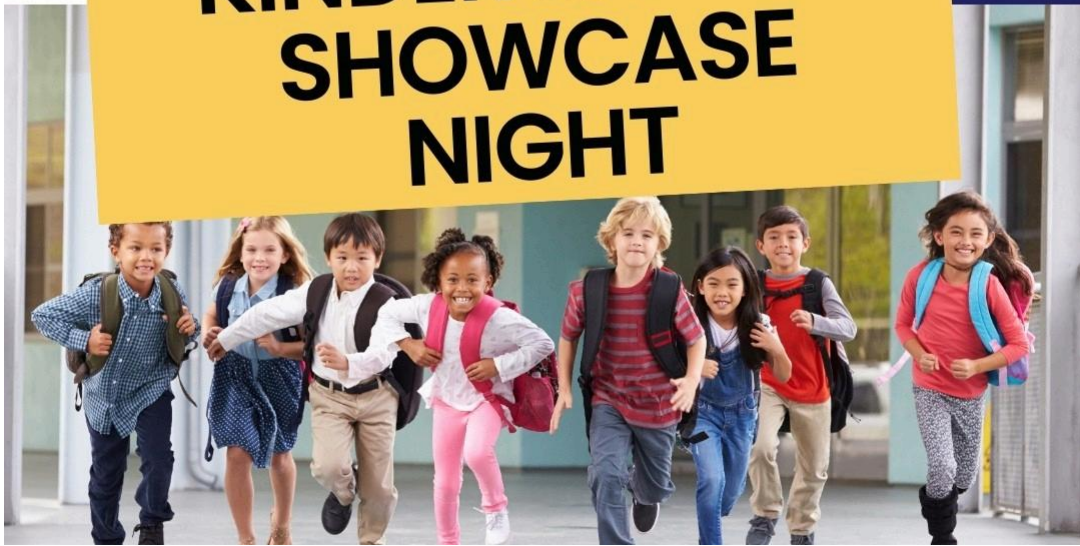


**MONDAY
JAN. 26TH, 2026**

TIME: 5:15–6:00 PM

NORTE

KINDERGARTEN SHOWCASE NIGHT



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](#).



**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

5th Graders: Mark your calendars for the KMS Showcase night

Norte's 5th grade families are welcome to attend the Kyrene Middle School Showcase night on **Wednesday, January 21st from 5-6:30 p.m.** Meet the KMS faculty and learn more about the unique programs offered for your students in middle school.



KYRENE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcomes All Future Scorpions to

SHOWCASE NIGHT

Meet our 6th, 7th, & 8th grade faculty • Meet our coaches

Presentation by Principal Maxwell

Learn About The Kms

International Baccalaureate Programme • Course Selections

Dual Language & World Language

Visual & Performing Arts

ART • BAND • CHOIR • MARIACHI • ORCHESTRA • THEATRE

Design

AUDIO ENGINEERING • STEM • MULTIMEDIA • TV BROADCASTING • YEARBOOK

Physical Education • Student Clubs • Student Athletics • Community Events

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 • 5-6:30 PM



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
- Inspiration

Staff Spotlights

Jennifer Rivas | 5th Grade teacher



How long have you been in education?

This is my 20th year in education and 12th year at Norte.

What inspired you to work in education?

I have wanted to be a teacher since my first day of kindergarten! I still remember the feeling I had when I walked into school that day, and I still get that feeling when I come to Norte each day. My teachers were so loving and kind, and I became a teacher because I wanted to be a part of bringing that same joy to others!

What do you love most about your job?

I love being with the students and seeing them learn and grow.

Where are you from originally?

South Dakota

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I love running, reading, and meeting up with friends. I also enjoy traveling and researching new things to see and places to go!

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

I love helping friends train for races, and I wake up extra early on Saturday mornings to meet with friends for long runs.

Favorite quote or motto?

"Winning is great, sure, but if you are really going to do something in life, the secret is learning how to lose. Nobody goes undefeated all the time. If you can pick up after a crushing defeat, and go on to win again, you are going to be a champion someday." - Wilma Rudolph

Judith Covarrubias | 4th grade Dual Language Teacher

How long have you been in education?

I have been working in education since 2005, but a full-time teacher since 2018 and this is my 7th year at Norte.

What inspired you to become an educator?

I realized I wanted to become a teacher when I was in first grade!

I knew I wanted to help children learn and feel happy and confident at school, just like my own teachers did for me. I also come from a family of educators so I guess it's in the blood!

What do you love most about your job?

I love helping children! I love it when I can see students having an aha moment or when I can make them realize that they can do more than they think. I also love partnering up with families and helping them by answering questions or equipping them to best help their kids.

Any special achievements, certifications, or roles you'd like highlighted?

The most valuable recognitions are the ones I get from my students when they tell me that they've had an amazing school year. I'm also very proud to have had an article published on the digital NABE Global Perspectives magazine, and most recently I earned my endorsement on k-5 foundations of literacy.

Where are you from originally?

I'm originally from Juarez, Chihuahua! I moved here at the age of 10 and stayed here ever since. I love Arizona!

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

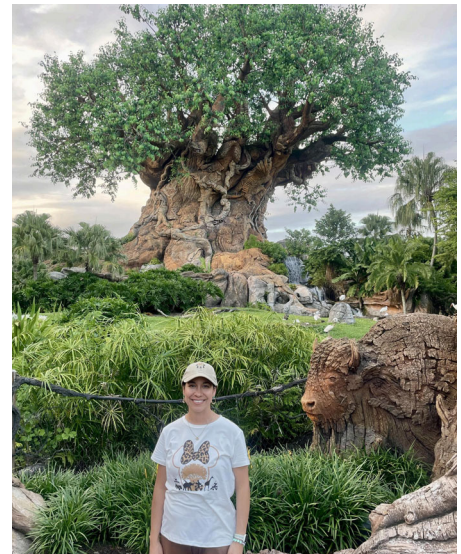
I really enjoy spending time with my family. We like going camping, traveling, watching movies and making music together!

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

I love learning about other cultures, their music, traditions and foods. I also like to volunteer my time at church.

Favorite quote or motto?

"Let all that you do be done in love"



Lisette Escalante | 2nd grade Teacher

How long have you been in education?

18 years total and 13 years at Norte!

What inspired you to become an educator?

I love working with kids and seeing their face light up when something we've been working on finally clicks.

What do you love most about your job?

I love listening to student's stories and hear about their families and out of school activities.

Any special roles you would like to highlight?

I worked in our Norte library for 13 years and LOVED it!

Where are you from originally?

Arizona native

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I like to read, drink coffee, travel and spend time with my dog and daughters.

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

I love hearts and anything Disney

Favorite quote or motto?

"Fall down seven times, stand up eight" - Japanese proverbs





CONGRATULATIONS to the Student of the Month nominees for December!

Kindergarten: Declan Lee, Jasper Price, Laila Bloom, Hendrix Osborn

1st Grade: Olive Caracciolo, Remi Tena-Lopez, Zeyla Lemelle, Donna Guevara Celaya

2nd Grade: Koa Morabe, Max Firehawk, Nella Trevino, Gail Hahn Galilea Berber

3rd Grade: Jones Harper, Abigail Lee, Abigail Vossberg, Ayden Wilson

4th Grade: Luca Daiutolo, Wesley Frie, Zion Rooney

5th Grade: Jack Olsen, Edward Guzman



February Perfect Attendance Challenge

For the month of February, we will have our Q3 perfect attendance challenge! Let's aim for over 200 perfect attendance awards (that mean's NO tardies as well!)

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 were 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.

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.

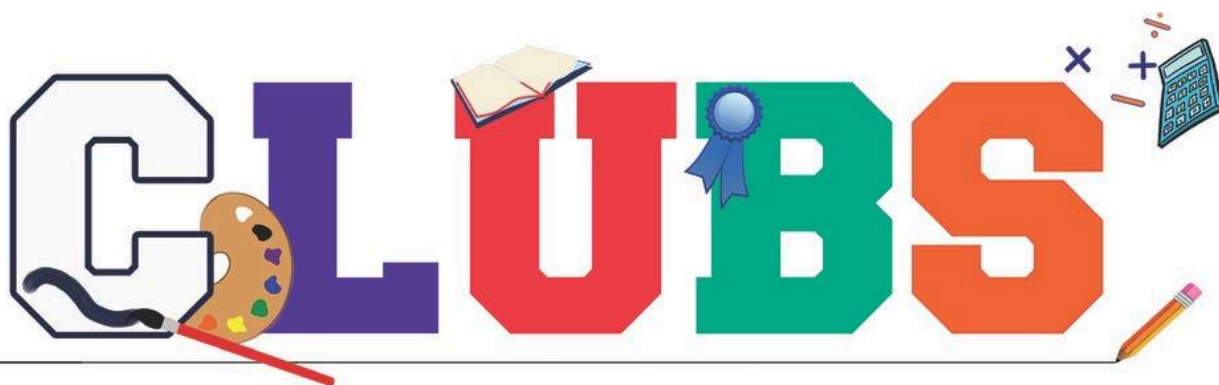
Please call before 8:30 AM to ensure the student is accounted for.

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 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 was December 8th with a Family Showcase.

[First Lego League page](#)



Drama Club is open to 4th and 5th grade students. Rehearsals are mornings before school.

We performed "Mary Poppins" this year and it was incredibly fun, challenging and rewarding. Join us again next year!

[Drama Club Page](#)



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.

[Running Club Page](#)



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





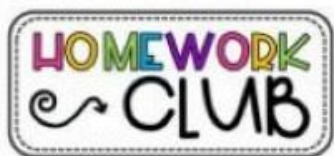
STUDENT COUNCIL

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. The Holiday grams were a big hit as well in December and next up is the Friendship Grams in February!

[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.





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.



Upcoming Dates

JAN 13: Governing Board Meeting

JAN 14: NNO - Electric Pickle 3-7pm

JAN 15: District Spelling Bee

JAN 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - **NO School**

JAN 22: PTO meeting

JAN 22 & 23: A+ Visit at Norte

JAN 26: Spring Picture Day

Jan 30th - New Spring Picture Date

School Spirit

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

Food Services

JAN 26: Student of the Month @ 9:30am

JAN 26: Kindergarten Showcase - 5:15pm

JAN 27: Governing Board Meeting

JAN 27: Pollack Movie Night - PTO

JAN 30: Heart Challenge Kick off

FEB 2-6: School Counselor Appreciation Week

FEB 4-6: Spring Conferences - EARLY RELEASE
ALL 3 DAYS

FEB 10: NNO - Slick City and Portillo's

FEB 13: Friendship Day

FEB 16: Presidents' Day - **NO SCHOOL**

~~**FEB 20:** Spring Fling @ 4:00pm~~

FEB 23: Student of the Month @ 9:30am

FEB 27: PNO

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](#)

[View Full Calendar](#)

Important: Sign up for Text Messages!

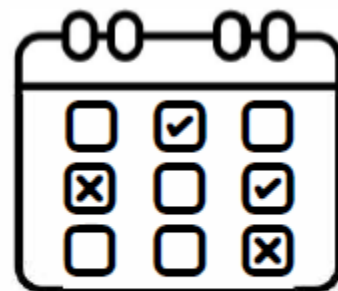
In the event of an emergency, text messages are the fastest and most effective way to communicate information to families. You must opt in to receive text communications! Text "Y" or "yes" to 67587 to

begin receiving text messages from our school and Kyrene School District.



Click for PTO

Membership page



Click for PTO
Calendar



Job Opening at Norte!

Lunch / Recess Duty: 10 hours per week

IA Position: 15 hours per week

Click [here](#) to go directly to the Kyrene Careers Page.



Volunteers

Process for Volunteer -- Parent or Guardian of Student in Class/Program:

Time: Once per year, prior to the start of the volunteer service

Process:

- A. Complete the [Volunteer Information Form](#)
- B. If you have children attending more than one school and plan to volunteer at each, inform the

school staff, who will assist in sharing the information contained on the form.
C. If you would like to volunteer for an overnight event, refer to the process below.

Kyrene School District recognizes the role of Step-Parents and, unless notified of the contrary, will afford them the same volunteer opportunities.

Process for Volunteer - Non Parent/Guardian or Parent/Guardian Attending Overnight Event

Time: Once per year, prior to the start of the volunteer service

Process:

A. Obtain an IVP Card

Volunteers without an IVP Card have two options:

1. Contact the Principal of the school or Sponsor of the overnight activity to determine if there are school or activity funds to cover the cost (\$75) of your IVP card. Schools have limited funds available for this purpose and may choose to approve the funds based on need of the site or program.
2. Obtain an IVP card as an individual.
 - This option is viable for volunteers who may need an IVP card for other purposes or who wish to volunteer at multiple sites and/or throughout their students' school attendance;
 - The card is valid for six years and is the property of the individual.



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. On December 16th the school board voted to close 6 schools over the next 2 years. Details can be found on the [Kyrene Website for "Kyrene Forward"](#)

We are focused on our mission, keeping our community strong and the education of all students in our dual language program. The Kyrene Governing Board's decision impacts Norte in the 2026-27 school year by moving our school to not having attendance boundaries. This means all current and future students will be categorized as open-enrollment

students. We will have more information in the coming months for those families that could be affected as bus transportation will not be provided.

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



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.