

From: [Kyrene School District](#)
To:
Subject: Kyrene Forward Update: 2026-27 Principals
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 5:00:44 PM



January 14, 2026

Dear Kyrene Community,

Author Simon Sinek has said, *“Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge.”* Kyrene is committed to caring for our community throughout the upcoming changes, and that begins with strong school leadership.

As Kyrene prepares to consolidate, there are some changes that will impact schools beyond the campuses that are closing or receiving new students next year. We will do our best to communicate these changes as soon as information becomes available.

To give school principals as much time as possible to prepare for next year, we have identified the 2026-27 school principal team in advance. I am sharing this information with our entire community, so that families and staff will know who is leading each Kyrene campus next year. It is with great pride that I introduce your 2026-27 Kyrene principals:

School

Kyrene de las Brisas
Kyrene de los Cerritos
Kyrene del Cielo
Kyrene de la Esperanza
Kyrene de los Lagos Dual Language Academy
Kyrene de las Lomas
Kyrene de la Mariposa Computer Science Academy
Kyrene de la Mirada Leadership Academy

Principal

Christie Winkelmann
Matt Martin
Kristin Kingsland
Emily Pieper
Kyle Ross
Tika DeGraffenreid

Spencer Fallgatter
Michelle Anderson

Kyrene del Milenio
Kyrene Monte Vista
Kyrene de los Niños
Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy
Kyrene de la Paloma Arts Integration Academy
Kyrene de la Sierra
C.I. Waggoner
Kyrene Traditional Academy
Kyrene Akimel A-al
Kyrene Altadeña
Kyrene Aprende
Kyrene Centennial
Kyrene Middle School
Kyrene del Pueblo

Michael Lamp
Teresa Strickling
Olivia Parry
Jaime Soto
Mark Eley
Felicia Williams
Margaret Rodriguez
Brian Gibson
Shalini McCarthy
Rachel Chandler
Renee Kory
James Martin
Scott Maxwell
Ashley Schutkowski

Please keep in mind that this list can change, should a principal decide to retire or leave the district between now and next year.

I know families would love to have a list of teachers this far in advance as well. However, there are laws that dictate when and how districts offer contracts for teachers and other certified employees. Legally, this process cannot begin until mid-March and takes many weeks. This is why Kyrene schools do not share teacher information until Meet the Teacher in July.

Kyrene is fortunate to have an exceptional team of principals across the district, and I know our schools are in the best hands. These leaders bring experience, dedication, and a deep commitment to student success. I'm confident they will continue to support strong, connected school communities.

Sincerely,

Laura Toenjies
Superintendent

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