
Kyrene Traditional Academy



January 16, 2026

Message from the Principal

Hello KTA Friends and Families:

I trust that you received and read the message from our Superintendent Laura Toenjes about the leadership announcement for KTA for next year.

As many of you already knew, I will be retiring at the end of June, 2026. I have been in the Kyrene District for 30 years, 26 of those as the very proud principal of Kyrene Traditional Academy and Kyrene de la Mariposa. These opportunities have been the highlight of my professional career, and where I have found my calling to serve students and families. **All in all, I have been a proud public educator, teacher and administrator, for 43 years!** That is a big number and I am ready to see what is next on my horizon!

Mr. Brian Gibson, currently principal of Kyrene de la Sierra will be taking over as Principal at KTA for the 2026-27 school year alongside Ms. Andrea Vester, our amazing and wonderful Assistant Principal who will be continuing here next year. I have known and worked with Mr. Gibson for over 25 years and I am excited to welcome him to the KTA community. Together we will all be engaged in meaningful transition planning over the next months and we will be scheduling a 'meet and greet' for both staff and families in the very near future. Please watch this newsletter for dates and times and other critical information.

Last week we celebrated two KTA Super Students at the Kyrene Governing Board meeting: Cruz Gonzalez, first grade and Connor Estes, eighth grade. They both received special awards and prizes at the Tuesday night Board Meeting.

THURSDAY NIGHT JANUARY 22 we will presenting a SHOWCASE for incoming families who want t attend KTA for the 2026-2027 school year. Realizing this will be a unique year, as our last year in session...we look forward to having an **INCREDIBLE** and **AMAZING** year with students and families. We want to celebrate the many accomplishments of our school and our legacy. We want students and staff to make fantastic memories they can take with them forever! **The SHOWCASE will start in the MULTIPURPOSE ROOM at 5:00 ending at 6:30 pm. We will have a brief presentation and then school tours. Please call our office with any questions.**

Thank you to our amazing KTA Community - these last few months have been challenging and I so appreciate your continued support for our school, our students, our staff and the entire KTA community!!! **KTA TIGERS ROCK!!!**

Marianne L. Lescher, Ph.D.



YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

Due: Friday, January 23

All grades can participate.
Must follow theme and have all the required components.

[See flyer for details!!!](#)



Career Day is coming to KTA on Friday, March 6! We are very excited about this event and are currently looking for members of the KTA family and community to volunteer their time to share their career experiences. The purpose of Career Day is to inform and inspire students and to broaden their horizons by exposing them to a variety of possible career paths. If you are interested, please complete the [Google Form](#); one of our Career Day planners will reach out to you with more information.



CAPTURE THE FLAG AT KTA

January 15 - February 26

Cost: \$100

Coaches: Mr. Kory Smith

Mr. Luke Shepherd

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER

Registration Opens Monday, Dec 14

<https://kyrene.arux.app/course/2997/kyrene-athletics-25-26/kyrene-elementary-intramural-capture-the-flag>



3375 W. Galveston St.
Chandler, AZ 85226
480-541-5400

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2026
TIME: 5:00 – 6:30

**SHOWCASE
NIGHT**



Open to incoming
students of all grades.

Meet with Administration
and Teachers!

Visit Classrooms!

Kyrene Traditional Academy is a K-8 traditional model school that uses specialized approaches to teaching and learning and provides highly individual attention to students across grade levels. Take a peek into KTA's tight-knit and diverse campus to see how they are preparing their students for academic success and developing self-disciplined, conscientious members of society.



SPRING BOOK FAIR

February 2nd thru 6th

Our biggest Book Fair of the year is just around the corner! Students will have time to shop during the day and the Fair will be open during Conferences!

Set Up an [eWallet](#) today:



S.L.U.G. Garden - After School Class (Students Learning Urban Gardening)

The next session starts January 21st. Join us for 6 classes of fun and growing in our S.L.U.G garden.

\$48 for 6 classes (only \$8 per session)

Sign Up Today!!!! <https://kyrene.arux.app/>



Save the date For our Middle School Musical Singin' in the Rain Jr

Auditions: Tuesday February 17th 2:15-3:30pm
pick up on Metro Side

No-Cut for ensemble, solo role placement determined by solo audition

Performances: Friday April 24th at 6:30pm
Saturday April 25th at 2pm

Tickets- \$10 premium, \$5 adult, \$3 student

Rehearsals: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15- 3:30pm
School days from February 19th-April 22nd

Participation fee: \$45.00 dollars includes script and t-shirt

Hello Parents,



I want to personally thank all the families who have already participated in our SchoolStore program! We are on our way to reaching our goal, but we need everyone's help to make sure our teachers get the essential tools they need to help our students succeed.

If your family has not participated, there's still time!

This safe and easy program is 100% online so there is no face-to-face selling, collecting money, or delivering products. Your child will receive a prize just for participating, and more prizes will be awarded when goals are reached.

Go to <https://www.schoolstore.net/sid.t?0000138789> to show our valued teachers your support.

Thanks - Kyrene Traditional Academy



AZ529 Art Fest

The Arizona State Treasurer's Office and AZ529 have launched the 5th annual AZ529 Future Career Art Contest for Arizona students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Students are invited to create artwork that represents their future career and the education needed to achieve it. Fifteen students statewide will be selected, one from each county, with winners receiving \$529 toward a new or existing AZ529 Education Savings Plan and being recognized by Treasurer Kimberly Yee at a ceremony at the State Capitol in February. Entries may be submitted online or by mail beginning January 5 and must be received by February 8, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. MST. Contest details and submission information are available at <http://www.AZ529.gov/2026artcontest>.

Mondays

STEMazing Explorers
Slime Design Lab

Tuesdays

B.O.L.T.S.
(Building Our Leaders Through Science)

Wednesdays

Cartoon Drawing



**Spring
2026
Youth
Enrichment**

KYRENE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLASSES AVAILABLE MONDAY - FRIDAY ON YOUR SCHOOL CAMPUS!

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, SPORTS, ART, MUSIC, DANCE, LANGUAGE, AND MORE!

VISIT US ONLINE TO EXPLORE CLASSES AT YOUR SCHOOL!

KYRENE.ARUX.APP/ENRICHMENT
480-541-1500

**ENROLLING
NOW**

S.L.U.G.

Thursday

Chess

Fridays

Piano

<https://kyrene.arux.app/>



LOST AND FOUND

Look at all these amazing jackets and coats!!!!

They don't have names written in them. They are on display in the school Health Office. Please stop by and take a look.

All lost and found will be donated on March 6.

It's Time to Start Thinking about the 2026 KTA Variety Show!

Show Date: Wednesday, April 15

Audition Date: Tuesday, February 19

Who may audition: Any student at KTA!



What kinds of acts are we looking for:

- Singing
- Dancing
- Playing an instrument
- Gymnastics
- Funny skits
- Magic acts
- Emcees

Permission slips available here ([link to PDF](#)).
Please direct any questions you may have to
Becky Bull (bbull@kyrene.org)

CAFÉ ZUPAS

Dine for KTA - Cafe Zupas
Wednesday, February 18
4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

3305 W Chandler Blvd
Chandler, AZ 85226

**YEARBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE FOR
PREORDER!!!!**

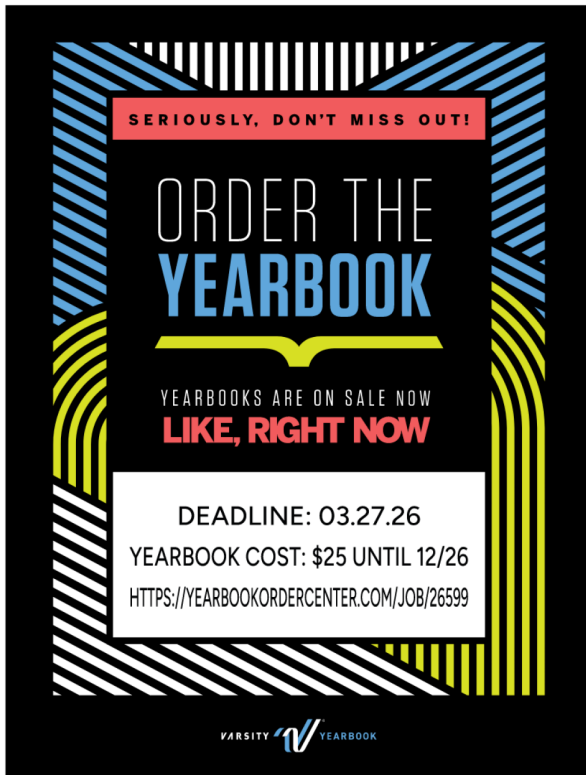
<https://yearbookordercenter.com/job/26599>

\$25

Orders are being processed directly through the yearbook company this year. Please use the above link or QR code.

Orders accepted through March 27? No preorders will be accepted after this date. A small qty of extra yearbooks will be ordered and will be sold on a first come/first served basis.

Yearbooks don't come in until the last weeks of school, but don't miss out....Order your yearbook in advance!!



Enrollment Opens in February!

Mark your calendars and set your alarms—enrollment for the upcoming school year will open at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3!

Enrollment will be available for new students, change school requests, preschool programs, and before- and after-school programming at www.kyrene.org/enroll.

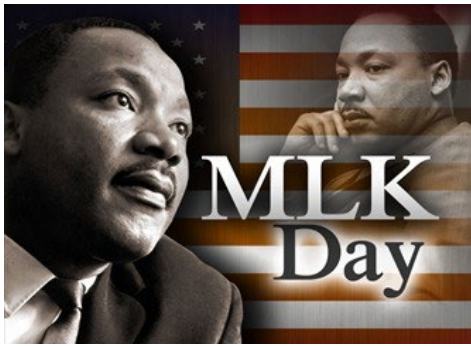
Current and prospective families are invited to learn more about Kyrene schools and take virtual tours of each of our campuses by visiting www.kyrene.org/kyrenekids.



Middle School \$1 Dress Day

Thursday, January 22nd

Monday, January 19
NO SCHOOL



Does anyone else find themselves needing a hard reset, a re-focusing on wellness? You are not alone! January is the time that gyms see the most enrollment and therapists get the most new clients scheduled. But let's talk about small things that you can do for yourself at home.

Taking care of ourselves, or SELF-CARE is *difficult*. Especially if we have other obligations: family, work, pets, bills, homes – the bare minimum can feel excruciatingly out of reach sometimes, and self-care just adds another thing to the list. But we can re-frame our perspective around taking good, true care of ourselves by remembering that self-care is as simple as self-respect. Going to bed early, saying “no” to that next episode, gazing upon something green and lush instead of a the next Tik Tok or Reel – these are all simple ways we can practice respecting ourselves.

Here are 10 things to help jump start your new year self-care routine:

1. Clear off every surface in your home and wipe it down. Consider this a practice in clearing away mental clutter.
2. Light a [candle](#), burn some incense, or turn on an [essential oil diffuser](#). Surround yourself with scents that evoke a memory or set an uplifting mood.
3. Make a blanket fort with your couch cushions and your kids. Read a book by flashlight under your covers. Remember what it's like to be a kid again.
4. Say no to “just one more episode” and swap in a gentle activity for twenty-five minutes—like stretching, reading, or just a prolonged bedtime routine.
5. Make one thing better about what you already do during the day. For example, if you commute, try switching to what you are listening to. Music if the news is bringing you down, an audiobook, or see what you feel in simple silence.
6. Bake yourself some fresh bread or a yummy dessert. Embrace the slowness of the process, indulge in the physical presence that is required, take in the smell of it while it is cooking. Then enjoy the reward of eating it and sharing it.
7. Plant something—gardening has immense mental and emotional benefits. If you don't have land, nurture a houseplant. If you don't have houseplants, go outside and gently touch the plants on a morning walk. Stop and smell the roses and enjoy the odd stares from passersby.
8. Pause whatever it is that you're doing and drink a glass of water. Keep a full water bottle or cup with you at all times.
9. Take three deep breaths. Breathing is the quickest and easiest way to introduce calmness into our bodies and minds. Try exploring ancient yogic breathing practices and [their many benefits](#).

10. Go for a walk, even if it's just around the block. You can even try a walking meditation online.

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Jen Woolf, MAS-MFT, LAMFT
Certified School Counselor/
Peer Mediation Coordinator
Kyrene Traditional Academy
P: (480) 541- 5549 | E: jwoolf@kyrene.org

[View Full Calendar](#)

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

January 15	Capture The Flag Begins
January 19	No School - Martin Luther King
January 23	Last Day To Submit Yearbook Cover Entries
January 22	MS \$1 Free Dress
January 22	KTA Showcase (details coming soon)
January 26	K - 5 Class Pictures
January 30	8th Grade Class Picture - Spirit Shirt Required
January 30	Club Pictures

Planning Ahead: Some Important February Dates:

February 2-6: PTO Book Fair & Conferences

February 5&6: Early Release

February 16: No School

February 18: Cafe Zupas Dine For KTA Night

February 19: Variety Show Auditions

February 27: World Fair

For a complete calendar for the Kyrene School District [click here](#).



Speak Up Kyrene!

Kyrene School District is proud to announce that later this month, we will officially launch Speak Up Kyrene, an anonymous reporting system available 24/7/365.

This tool is a partnership with Sandy Hook Promise and Navigate360, and will provide licensed crisis counselors and a safe way for students, families, and community members to share concerns such as bullying or threats. Be on the lookout for an email from the District with more information once the system goes live.



Kyrene School District offers ESS parent trainings. All trainings will be held at the District Office from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

February 19, 2026: IEP Training with Encircle Families
April 1, 2026: Early Childhood Literacy

And
April 22, 2026 ESS Family Resource Fair
Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School.
More Information to come!

[CLICK HERE FOR A MORE DETAILED FLYER!](#)

Contact Us

Kyrene Traditional Academy
3375 W. Galveston St.
Chandler, AZ 85226

Phone: 480-541-5400
Fax: 480-541-5410
Attendance: 480-541-5401

School Hours: 7:25 am – 2:15 pm
Wednesday 7:25 am - 12:15 pm

Office Hours: 7:00 am – 3:30 pm
Wednesday 7:00 am - 1:30 pm

A+ School of Excellence™



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.