
Kyrene Traditional Academy



January 9, 2026

Message from the Principal

Happy New Year to KTA Friends and Families:

I hope you had a wonderful and restful break. It is truly hard to believe it is January and we are half way through the school year. Boy time really does move fast.

This time of year, particularly in schools, presents us with many opportunities to REFLECT and REFRESH. For middle school students, their electives changed in many cases and they have some new and exiting classes starting. Our younger students, in grades K and 1 and 2 really seem to show a huge learning boost this time of year...as if things are really clicking for them in reading, writing and math. And for our students in grades 3-4-5...we see the growth in their level of maturity and independence, where they are taking more control of their own learning and being advocates for their learning needs, setting personal goals for their success. It is an exciting time for all grades and ages.

As we look at what is ahead this month for activities and events...there is no shortage of things happening at KTA! This week we had another round of Elementary Principal Lunch, recognizing students for their hard work, kindness and models of being SAFE, RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and KIND. That is always a fun opportunity for the students!

Our monthly PTO meeting is on Monday Jan 12, 5:30 in the MPR - all are invited! Remember that every parent and guardian is a member of our PTO...no dues or anything needed. **We welcome and value all participation and attendance.** There are MANY events that happen in the second half of the year (Variety Show, Celebration of Learning, Family Game Night, MS Drama Presentation, World Fair, Parent Conferences, Band and Musical Performances, and we need YOU to make it all happen successfully!!! Please come on down to the meeting for more info!

National Elementary Honor Society is starting up again, thanks to Mrs. Dearing as the NEHS Chairperson. Applications are open to ALL Fourth and Fifth graders....and those applications are going out next week!! Students must submit an essay, have passing grades, get letters of recommendation to apply. We want to get this wonderful recognition and service organization up and going again at KTA! **If you have a fourth or fifth grader...ask them about this or ask their teachers....applications due soon!**

K - 5 Class Picture Day is Jan 26...all students will be photographed as a group with their class in their school uniform. We will also take pictures of any new students for the yearbook.

PLEASE read each edition of the TIGER TIMES for all important info about key dates, events and activities!!! GO TIGERS!!!

Many thanks for your continued support and collaboration.

Marianne L. Lescher, Ph.D.

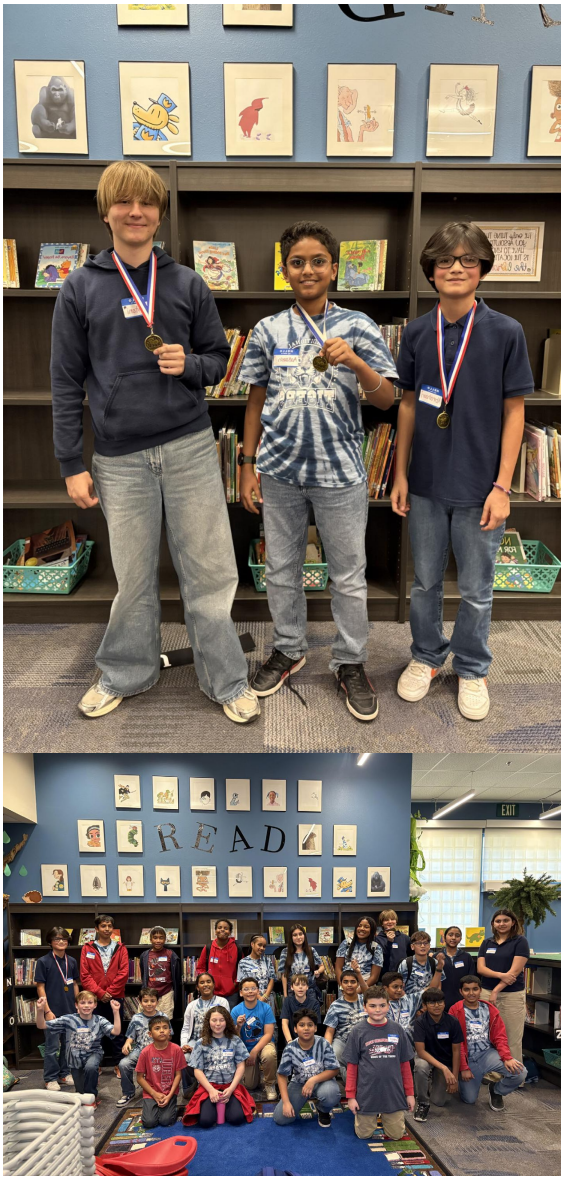


SPRING BOOK FAIR

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:



SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to the following students who were winners in the KTA Spelling Bee:

- 1st Place: Aakaash Nirmal
- 2nd Place: Abraham Jauregui
- 3rd Place: Antoni Nicpon

Aakaash will participate in the Kyrene Spelling Bee.

Also congratulations to the following students who participated in the Spelling Bee and did an amazing job.

Ashraf Mir, Andrew Miranda, Aayan Khurana, Arielle Bonner, Adelina Mendoza, Shryia Balaji, Mahit Pandela, Julian Fierro, John Holowinski, Molham Mohamed, Kahlei Minniweather, Kayla Armsterd, Isabella Hernandez-Romero, Abrar Ali Mir, Colin Lamb.



STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

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? Contact the school office for help.

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.



KTA Cheer

Elementary/Middle School Cheer

Grades 4 - 8

Starts January 13

Cost: \$35

Coach: Ms. Golleher

[CLICK HERE](#) For more information!

Group Meets Tuesdays & Thursdays

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Dine For KTA - Raising Canes

Wednesday, January 14

2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location on Warner Rd and McClintock Dr - 1781 E
Warner Rd, Tempe, AZ

Show the flyer or use the code RCFUND96 for online and app orders!

[CLICK HERE FOR THE Flyer:](#)



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



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.



NEWS FROM PTO

KTA Favorite Lists!

If you are looking for ideas to show your teachers and staff appreciation this holiday season, check out their Favorite list!

See our Google Drive to find the person you are looking for here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fIXAIY8L42pTkFErnEpR0ALUxQ6ZRs4h?usp=sharing>



YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

Due: Friday, January 23

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

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

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>

Classes for Students in Grades K - 5!

ALL NEW LESSONS EVERY SESSION!

Drawing

Classes for Kids



DRAWING CLASSES FOR Grades K - 5

Wednesdays

February 11 - May 13

12:20 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register

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!!

SERIOUSLY, DON'T MISS OUT!

ORDER THE YEARBOOK

YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE NOW
LIKE, RIGHT NOW

DEADLINE: 03.27.26
YEARBOOK COST: \$25 UNTIL 12/26
[HTTPS://YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM/JOB/26599](https://yearbookordercenter.com/job/26599)

© VARSITY YEARBOOK



PTO Meeting

KTA PTO Meeting

Monday, January 12

5:30 p.m.

Cafeteria

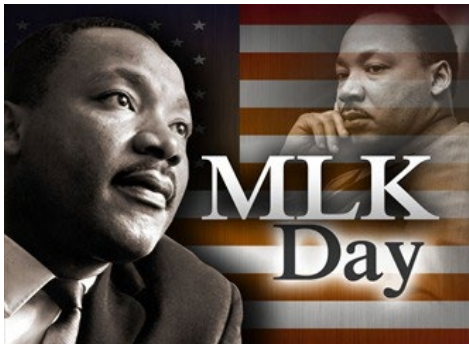
(Enter through the Garden Gates)

MIDDLE SCHOOL \$1 DRESS DAY

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 12	PTO Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
January 12	Positive Parenting Series
January 13	Cheer Begins
January 14	Raising Canes - Dine In Night 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
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 26	K - 5 Class Pictures
January 29	KTA Showcase (details coming soon)
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](#).



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



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 2025-26
SCHOOL YEAR
PARENT TRAININGS**

ESS Parent Trainings

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

January 12, 2026: Overview/Q & A with the Division of Developmental Disabilities
and Encircle Families
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™



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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.