



NORTE NEWS

February 2, 2026



Principal's Imprint

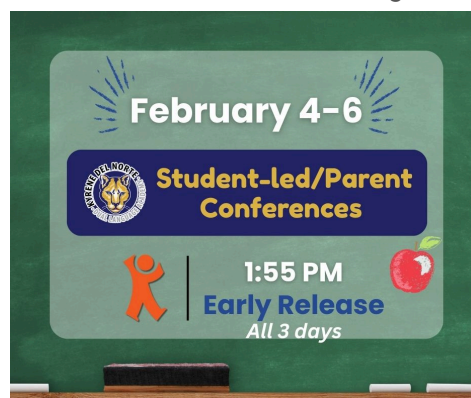
Dear Norte Families,

February is a meaningful and joyful month at Kyrene del Norte—one that highlights student voice, community connection, and the celebration of history and culture.

We are excited to welcome families to **Student-Led Conferences** during the **week of February 4th-6th, 2026**. These conferences are a powerful opportunity for our students to take ownership of their learning, reflect on their growth, and share their academic journey with you. We are proud of how confidently our Norte students use language to explain their thinking, set goals, and celebrate progress in both English and Spanish.

We also warmly invite you to join us for **Friendship Day Picnic on February 13th, 2026**, a special time for our Norte families to come together in the spirit of kindness, inclusion, and connection. Friendship Day reflects our belief that strong relationships are at the heart of a thriving school community.

Throughout the month, we will be **honoring and celebrating Black History Month**, recognizing the profound contributions, resilience, and voices of Black leaders, scholars, artists, and change-makers. As a dual language school, we are especially mindful of the role language plays in how we make connections to our communities. Frederick Douglass reminds us:





"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

This quote speaks to the power of gaining access to voice, confidence, and choice —values we strive to cultivate in our students every day.

Thank you for your continued partnership, presence, and commitment to our Norte community. We look forward to seeing you on campus and celebrating learning, friendship, and history together.

Con sincero agradecimiento,

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.

Feb. 18 - Reducing Family Conflict

Learn practical strategies to improve communication, strengthen relationships, and reduce conflict within your family.

Presenter: Janna McGuire

Date and Time: February 18, 2026 @6:00pm-7:00pm

[Registration/Zoom Link](#)

In Partnership with the Tempe Coalition

Feb. 19- IEP Training with Encircle Families

Learn about the special education process and the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Understand who is required to attend the IEP meeting and the roles of each team member (including parents). Review the required parts of an IEP, learn how parents can prepare for and be more effective during the IEP meeting and how they can track their child's progress. Discover the options available if the IEP team does not agree.

Hosted By: ESS Department

Date and Time: February 19, 2026 @ 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Location:

Kyrene District Office
8700 South Kyrene Road
Tempe, AZ 85284

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

Friendship Day Picnic

Bienvenidos: 11:45am - 12:30pm

Kindergarten: 11:35am - 12:05pm

3rd grade and 5th grade: 12:10pm - 12:40pm

2nd grade & 1st grade: 12:45pm - 1:15pm

4th Grade: 1:20pm - 1:50pm



Families are invited to come spend a lunch period with your student on the playground. You are welcomed to bring lunch and blankets to enjoy a "picnic style" lunch.

Tables will also be set up under our canopy in the intermediate basketball court. Families are asked to check in through the playground gate by the east-side Family Drive Up area.



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](#)

Kyrene Registration Opens Feb. 3rd

**REGISTRATION
OPENING SOON**

Registration opens Tuesday, Feb. 3rd for all New Student or current student school change requests. New to Kindergarten families and New to Norte families can [enroll HERE](#). Any school change requests can be done at this time as well.

Screenings for early entrance to kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year will take place on June 1, 2026 and June 2, 2026. Please review the [steps HERE for our entire Early Entrance Process](#).

School Tours happening now!

School tours have begun! These are held in the mornings on Fridays through F 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](#).

Dual Language Carnival: Mark your calendars!

Norte's families are welcome to attend the Marcos de Niza Dual Language Carnival on Tuesday, February 3rd from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Meet other dual language families in our community during this fun Carnival event.



Staff Spotlights

Sarah Halton | Academic Interventionist & English Language Development

How long have you been in education?

This is my 26th year in education and 9th year at Norte.

What inspired you to work in education?

I wanted to make a social impact.

What do you love most about your job?

Seeing students make connections with what they are learning

Where are you from originally?

Wisconsin

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I love spending time with my family, hiking, running, and reading.

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

I always have a book on hold at the Library.

Favorite quote or motto?

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams"

- Eleanor Roosevelt



Maria De la Peña Enriquez | 2nd Grade Spanish Teacher

How long have you been in education?

This is my 2nd year of teaching. I started as a certified teacher at Norte in 2024, student taught at Norte in the 22-23 school year, and interned at Norte during the 21-22 school year! :)

What inspired you to become an educator?

I had great teachers growing up who cared about me and made learning fun and that inspired me to want to do the same!

What do you love most about your job?

I love getting to watch my students make progress and grow throughout the year (and hear their silly conversations), and I also love the staff who make work enjoyable and have supported me as a new teacher!

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

I have endorsements in Bilingual Education and English as a Second Language and I graduated from ASU with the Moeur Award!

Where are you from originally?

I was born in Coatzacoalcas, Veracruz, Mexico, lived in Puebla for a little, but was raised in Phoenix, Arizona!

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I love doing Pilates, going for walks, cheering on the Phoenix Suns, and spending time with friends and family.

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

I love journaling & scrapbooking! I'm also currently trying to learn a third language (German)!.

Favorite quote or motto?

"Treat people with kindness" - Harry Styles



Briana Gutierrez | ELL IA & Lunch Monitor

How long have you been in education?

This is my first year working at Norte!

What inspired you to work in education?

I had such amazing teachers growing up and decided that I wanted to have a positive impact on future students and provide a safe space for them.

What do you love most about your job?

I love being able to be a safe space for the students and provide some guidance to them

Where are you from originally?

Arizona

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I love traveling and going to concerts!.

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

I sing and did musical theater in high school!!





CONGRATULATIONS to the Student of the Month nominees for January!

Kindergarten: Olivia Martinez, Stevie Sipka, Samuel Morales Castor, Deyani Febles

1st Grade: Pedro de los Reyes Carrillo, Ines Rios, Lola Echeverria, Ryan Robertson, Falco Abalos

2nd Grade: Mateo Barbosa, Hazel Herrick, Anthony Huitron, Amelia McDorman

3rd Grade: Virgina lerley, Zoey Wright, Madeleine Frie

4th Grade: Ariella Sabori, Elise Roque, Maxwell Morris, Ernesto Guevara Celaya

5th Grade: Zoey Lew, Olivia Singleton, Emma Martinson, Hudson Lineberger



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):
April

Prizes for those months will be announced at a later time.



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.*



NEW!! In addition to calling in an absence on the attendance line, you can now report your child's absence through ParentVue by following these steps:

1. Log int ParentVUE
2. Click the Report Absence button
3. Enter Absence Information
4. Click Save to submit to the attendance office.



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](#)



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](#)



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



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](#)



UNEARTHED

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](#)



Student Council is a leadership club where students work together to make a positive impact on our school and community.

February 2 - 6, Friendship Grams will be sold before and after school. Send a friendship gram for just \$1 each to friends, teachers or staff members. Delivery will be on Friday, Feb. 13th

[Student Council Page](#)

Student Council Presents The...

FRIENDSHIP GRAM FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 2ND - FEBRUARY 6TH

\$1 PER FRIENDSHIP GRAM

SEND A FRIENDSHIP GRAM TO YOUR FRIENDS, TEACHERS, STAFF MEMBERS, OR PRINCIPAL!

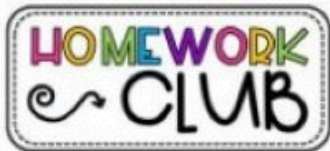
SAY THANKS AND SHOW YOU CARE!

Student Council will be hosting sales during morning recess and after school at walk-up.

Can't make either? Check out our order form on the back of this flyer!

ALL GRAMS WILL BE DELIVERED ON FEB.13TH

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.



Spanish Lessons

For parents

“ ¡Hola! aprendamos español
Hello! Let's learn Spanish ”



Wednesdays 8:40-9:30am
with Ms. Vicky
Starting November 5th



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.

You're invited to a

Portillo's®

FUNDRAISER



Come Join Us!

Eat Portillo's. Support a Cause. Receive 20% of the proceeds!

Present this flyer in-restaurant or use the online code for online/app orders, and 20% of the proceeds will be donated to:

Kyrene Del Norte PTO

At the Portillo's located at: **When:**

7200 W. Ray Road

February 10, 2026

Chandler, AZ

11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

ONLINE CODE: PORTILLOS98

Learn more about Portillo's Fundraisers at portillos.com/good.

For online/app orders to qualify for the fundraiser, orders must be placed for pickup only, from the participating restaurant, on the fundraiser date and during the listed fundraiser hours. Gift card purchases, delivery orders, and orders placed on the third party websites are excluded from the fundraiser. Online ordering subject to availability. \$200 minimum fundraising sales required for the organization to receive donation. Cannot be combined with other offer codes.



Portillo's
FOR GOOD

SPIRIT NIGHT

AT
SLICK CITY ACTION PARK

ENJOY FUNDRAISING

HELP KYRENE DEL NORTE PTO
RAISE MONEY WITH A SPIRIT NIGHT!

Bring your friends & family to experience the THRILLS of Slick City and Kyrene del Norte PTO will earn up to 40% of all ticket sales! Advanced tickets are available for purchase to receive credit at the following link:
<https://tinyurl.com/ChandlerFundraiser>

ACTION TIME	
120 Min.	\$32.99
90 Min.	\$27.99
CitySocks (Required)	\$4.99

ACTION TICKETS ARE FOR AGES 4 AND UP ONLY. JUNIOR TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN PARK.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH • 4:00-8:00 P.M.

SLICK CITY ACTION PARK

SLICK CITY CHANDLER // 845 N 54th St. // Chandler, AZ 85226
602.641.3888 // www.slickcity.com/az-chandler

All individuals in-park are required to complete a liability waiver for the specific location. They are visiting. Participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their parent or legal guardian. CitySocks are required.



Raising Cane's
CHICKEN FINGERS

Valentine's Day Pop-Up

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13th | 9:00AM - 9:00PM

5201 S. MCCLINTOCK DR | TEMPE, AZ 85283

Join us for a SWEET Valentine's Day Fundraiser!
Come enjoy delicious Cane's Chicken Fingers while helping raise funds for

Kyrene Del Norte

Mention the fundraiser at the Restaurant or apply code RCFUND96 to online or app orders at checkout and Cane's will donate 15% of mentioned Net Sales.

There will be Raising Cane's giveaways, Valentine Day card making station and more!



KYRENE DEL NORTE PTO

PHX SUNS NNO

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21 @ 3PM

PHOENIX SUNS VS ORLANDO MAGIC

PURCHASE TICKETS NOW!
TICKETS FOR \$43 AND \$55
ALL TICKETS ARE IN EITHER SECTION 231 OR 232!

Upcoming Dates

FEBRUARY

- National Black History Month
- Bus Driver Appreciation Month

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 Picnic (see schedule)

FEB 13: Dine and Donate at Cane's

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

FEB 21: PHX Suns NNO @ 3pm

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

27: NNO at Bonfire Grill 6-9pm

School Spirit

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

Food Services

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

MAR 6: Field Day / End of Q3

MARCH 7 - 23: NO School - Spring Break

MAR 24: Start of Q4 - full day of learning

MAR 27: Running Club Awards Assembly

MAR 31: NNO @ Jeremiah's Italian Ice

[View Full Calendar](#)

ParentVue NEW - Must complete forms

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. *If your Emergency Contact form has not been submitted for the 25-26 school year, you will not be able to move on to register for the 26-27 school year.*

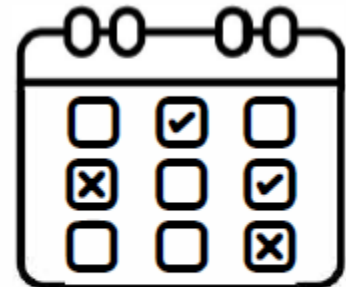
[Parent Resource Link](#)

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

YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

VALID ENTRIES MUST BE:

- On white paper, size 8.5"x11"
- Vertically/portrait oriented
- Art matches the Mission Possible, spy, detective theme

MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy
- 2025-2026
- Misión Posible Nunca Te Rindas, Mission Possible Never Give Up
- Artist's name and homeroom teacher written lightly in pencil on the back

Submit by Friday 2/6

email yearbook@nortepto.org or
drop off in the front office

WINNER RECEIVES A FREE YEARBOOK

WINNER ANNOUNCED 2/17



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



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:

- Complete the [Volunteer Information Form](#)
- 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.