Kyrene de la Mirada - Leadership Academy

MIRADA NEWS

February 2026

A Message from Mrs. Anderson

As Kyrene looks toward the future, we know this season brings change—and with change can come uncertainty and mixed emotions. These decisions were not made lightly, and we recognize how deeply our schools, staff, students, and families are connected to one another. Throughout this process, our guiding focus has remained the same: supporting students and strengthening our community for years to come.

Mirada will continue to be a welcoming home for families, including those joining us from Manitas. We understand that transitions like this can be difficult, and we want to acknowledge the emotions that may come with leaving a familiar place. Please know that you are not simply moving buildings—you are joining a community that is ready to support you.

We welcome you with open hearts and open minds. Our staff and families are committed to building strong relationships, honoring your experiences, and ensuring every child feels safe, valued, and included. Together, we will move forward with compassion, collaboration, and hope for what lies ahead.

As you review the February newsletter, you will discover a variety of significant and exciting events scheduled for this month. We encourage you to explore the details regarding our upcoming BOOK FAIR, SPECIAL PERSON'S DAY, FEBRUARY RESTAURANT NIGHT-PETER PIPER, and STUDENT LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP SHOWCASE, SPRING PICTURE DAY.

Special Person's Day is Friday, February 13th. As a reminder, this is an adult only event. Your student's special person must plan to attend the classroom time as well as lunch/recess. If the special person is planning on purchasing a lunch, the deadline to order a lunch is Wednesday, February 4th. The QR code is in the information below or you may use this link https://miradapto.org/volunteer/special-persons-day/

Student-led Conferences have been scheduled for February 4th, 5th and 6th, all are Early Release Days - 12:15 dismissal. Our students are busy preparing their leadership notebooks. Just as students track their goals, so is Mirada Leadership Academy. We have two academic WIGS (Wildly Important Goals) we are tracking each week. ELA GOAL - Each student will complete 45 minutes or more each week on Amplify through May 23, 2025. MATH GOAL - An average of 80% of students in grades K-5 will pass two (2) lessons or more on iReady each week through May 22, 2026. Take a look at our WIG Data Wall on the west side of the library. Ask your child about their progress with their goals. I think about Habit #2 and #3, both help us achieve our goals if we first begin with the end in mind and then put first things first. It is important to make a plan to help meet our goal and then commit to work before we play.

ADVANCED NOTICE: The AASA (Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment) testing will be from March 30th through April 24th. **Please note the dates and do everything you can to assure your child is present and on time for testing.** Each third, fourth, and fifth grader will take the writing, reading, and math portion of AASA.

As we look ahead with hope and excitement, let's continue to lean on one another and lift each other up. Together, we can nurture a school community where everyone feels valued, included, and inspired to do their best each day. Thank you for walking this journey with us—your support and partnership truly make a difference. We're excited to share more highlights, celebrations, and good news with you in our next newsletter. Until then, take care, stay inspired, and stay connected. We look forward to all that's ahead!

Educationally yours,

Michelle Anderson

Upcoming Events

February 2-6 Scholastic Book Fair

Student Lighthouse Shampoo and Conditioner Drive

February 3 **Registration Opens-ALL current students in good standing will be automatically re-enrolled. There is no need for any current students who wish to remain at Mirada to re-register, even for Open Enrollment.**

February 4-6 Spring Conferences-**Early Release Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 12:15pm**

February 6 Application for Gifted Testing due

February 10 Governing Board Meeting 6pm

February 11 Monarch Night Out at Peter Piper Pizza 4940 E Ray Rd., 4-8pm

February 13 Special Person's Day

February 16 No School-President's Day

February 19 PTO Meeting 2:45-3:45pm in the Media Center

February 24 Governing Board Meeting 6pm

February 26 MML Awards

7:40-8:20 Kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd Grades
8:30-9:10 1st, 4th and 5th Grades

February 27 Spring Picture Day/5th Grade composite- More details to follow

4th Grade Invention Convention

March 3 Mirada Gifted Model Information Night 6pm

March 4 Monarch Night Out at McDonald's 5900 W. Chandler Blvd.

March 6 Field Day-Stay tuned for details

March 9-20 Spring Break

March 23 Teacher Work Day--No students

March 24 4th Quarter Begins-Students return to school

March 26 PTO Meeting 2:45pm in the Media Center

March 27	Movie Night
March 30	AASA Testing begins

View Full Calendar

Click Below for Important School Calendars

District Calendar February Calendar PTO Calendar

EARLY RELEASE on all Wednesdays

Students will be released at 12:15pm.



Conference Early Release Dates

Wednesday 2/4

Thursday 2/5

Friday 2/6

2/11, 2/18, 2/25



Gifted Child Assessment Notice

All public school districts have an ongoing "Child Find" obligation. This means that the Kyrene School District will identify, locate and evaluate all children who are in need of special education and related services. Kyrene makes gifted testing available for students at school sites three times per year by application. Applications are due for the final testing for 2025-26 on February 6, 2026. If you think your child may be gifted, please visit the website at www.kyrene.org/gifted for information about gifted education, services, and testing in Kyrene.



Check Lost and Found during Conferences

Please take a few moments to check out our Lost and Found items while you are here for Conferences. We are accumulating many, many items that will be donated to the Kyrene Resource Center if they remain unclaimed. Please also take a few moments to LABEL ALL sweaters, jackets, lunchboxes, water bottles, etc. We have a very diligent Tidy Team that does their best to reunite lost items if they are labeled.

SPRING 2026 MIRADA

BOOK FAIR

FEB 2-DURING REGULAR CLASS LIBRARY TIME
FEB 3-DURING REGULAR CLASS LIBRARY TIME
FEB 4-DURING SCHOOL HOURS AND 12:30-5PM**
FEB 5-DURING REGULAR CLASS LIBRARY TIME AND 12:30-7PM
FEB 6-DURING REGULAR CLASS LIBRARY TIME

****CLASSES WHOSE LIBRARY TIMES ARE MISSED DUE TO EARLY RELEASE WILL VISIT THE BOOK FAIR ON WEDNESDAY, FEB 4 DURING SCHOOL HOURS****



Enrollment 2026-2027

New Enrollments and Change School Requests

Please be sure you are enrolling for the next school year. We are still enrolling students for the current school year.

Be prepared to **submit required documents to the school within 10 days** of notification of acceptance.

You will need to present:

1. Child's original or certified birth certificate
2. Immunization records
3. Proof of residency
4. Photo ID of parent/guardian
5. Court documents (as necessary)
6. IEP/504/other school records (as necessary)

February 3rd

Current Fifth Graders

All Mirada fifth graders will automatically enroll at Pueblo MS. No action is required for enrollment to Pueblo even if you are an Open Enrollment Family here at Mirada.

You must do a School Change Request in Parent Vue to request enrollment at a Kyrene middle school *other than Pueblo*. This is true even if that school is your home school.

Priority will be given to current Kyrene families that apply during the first enrollment window February 3-9.

Current Open Enrollment Students

All current Open Enrollment students in good standing will remain enrolled at Mirada. No action is necessary if you wish to remain at Mirada.

Important to Know

- **Please check your Parent Vue accounts. If you have any pending registrations/updates OR you have not completed your Health and Emergency card or Acknowledgements you will not be able to move forward.**
- Enroll as soon as possible.
- **Priority will be given to current Kyrene families that apply during the first enrollment window February 3-9.**
- Be sure you are enrolling for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Once your application is approved, the registrar will contact you via email or phone within 48 hours to request your documents and finalize enrollment.
- You will have 10 days to present necessary document to complete your enrollment.
- See Kyrene district website for more info www.kyrene.org/about-kyrene/enrollmentregistration



Kyrene School District is committed to working with families to improve student attendance and academic success. Our school will send email notices when a student misses four or more days of school, whether excused or unexcused. Additional notices are sent when a student reaches 8 and 13 absences. If a student exceeds 18 absences, a more formal letter will be sent, but it is our goal to partner with families before that happens. Kyrene has a webpage with resources to maintain good attendance habits, including our "Too Sick for school" guide to help determine when to keep children home.

As we continue to partner with you regarding your child's attendance, we need to inform you of an important update regarding how "absences due to appointments" should be reported. In alignment with guidance from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), please be specific when reporting the reason for your child's appointment. Only appointments for medical, dental or behavioral health will be marked as excused. All other appointments will be considered unexcused. If you have any questions about this update or your child's attendance, please contact your school's attendance clerk.

How to Submit Absences in ParentVue

Report Absences in ParentVue

Parents, you are now welcome to report absences in ParentVue in addition to calling the 24 hour Attendance Line at 480-541-4201. Remember, you must inform the front office of any absences even if you let the teacher know. Absences cannot be reported via email; only via ParentVue or the Attendance Line.

The Leader in Me™

great happens here

HABIT 6: SYNERGIZE

Kyrene de la Mirada

What is Habit 6: Synergize?

Synergize is the habit of creative cooperation. Synergizing is about teamwork, open-mindedness, and collaborating to find new solutions. Together, people can produce far better results than they could individually!

When people begin to interact together genuinely, and they are open to each other's influence, they begin to gain new insight.

Benefits of Synergy

- It helps us see things from different perspectives.
- It leads to more creative and effective results.
- It makes teamwork feel exciting and positive.

Signs of Synergy

- Feeling energized and excited about the outcome.
- Coming up with new ideas together.
- Finding solutions that are better than we originally thought.

Family Activity

- Use yellow food coloring in one cup of water and blue food coloring in another.
- Wet a paper towel and connect the two cups with it, creating a "bridge."
- Have your child predict what will happen when the two colors meet on the paper towel.
- After a few minutes, the colors mix in the middle of the towel and create a new color—green.
- Explain this is an example of a "third alternative" – individually, yellow and blue are nice, but together they form something new and better.


SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER
SUPER BOWL
DONATIONS NEEDED
FEBRUARY 2ND - 6TH
HELP MIRADA COLLECT DONATIONS FOR THE KYRENE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
DONATION BINS ARE LOCACTED BY THE LIGHTHOUSE IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY
PLEASE DONATE SHAMPOO OR CONDITIONER
PLACE YOUR DONATIONS ON THE SIDE OF THE TEAM THAT YOU THINK WILL WIN THE 2026 SUPER BOWL!



Opt in to Receive Text Messages from Mrs. Anderson

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 Mirada and the district.

PTO Corner



Milk and Cookies!

The kids had a blast watching some of the staff perform Kenn Nesbitt's book More Bears! Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped distribute milk and cookies to all of the kids after the show. We are so lucky to have staff members who are so willing to dress up and make fun events like this memorable for the kids.

Book Fair is Next Week!

The Book Fair is next week. The kids will be able to shop during their library time. We will also be open on Wednesday during conferences until 5pm and Thursday until 7pm. We need a few volunteers to help the kids shop and get checked out. Please use the following link if you're interested: Book Fair Volunteer Sign Up

The Art Show was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came out in support of Mrs. Newbury and our Monarch Artists!



Upcoming Events

- 2/4-2/6 Conferences, Early Release Days
- 2/2-2/5 Book Fair during school hours, and during conferences W, Th
- 2/12 Monarch Night Out at Peter Piper Pizza 4940 E. Ray Rd from 4-8pm
- 2/13 Special Person's Day
- 2/16 No School, President's Day
- 2/26 PTO Meeting, 2:45pm in the library

Special Person's Day

Special Person's Day is Friday February 13th! We can't wait to welcome grandparents, family members or other special people into our school to see a day in the life of their Mirada Monarch. A few quick reminders: Please bring your ID, they will be checked at the door. Due to classroom space, students get to invite up to 2 special grownups. Lunches can be purchased at the following link: Special Person's Day Lunch Orders. The deadline to pre-order lunch is Wednesday February 4th.

This event is impossible to do without parent volunteer support. If you're interested please follow this link: Special Person's Day Volunteer Sign Up

Email: hello@ptomirada.org Web: miradapto.org IG: @miradapto

[Book Fair Volunteer]

[Special Person's Day Lunch Order Form]

[Special Person's Day Volunteer Sign Up]

[Yearbook Flyer]

[Yearbook Sales Link]

[Dining Out-Peter Piper Pizza]

[Join the PTO Contact List]

Special Person's Day

This event has been designed specifically for grandparents and other special people.

Due to space limitations iin classrooms, students are only able to invite 2 special grown ups like grandparents, aunts or uncles.

Parents may join their child for lunch.

YOUR FAVORITE PEOPLE ARE INVITED TO

SPECIAL PERSON'S DAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

Grade	Check-In	Class Time	Lunch Time	Recess
Kinder	9:30	9:45-10:15	10:20-10:40	10:40-11:00
1st	9:50	10:05-10:35	10:40-11:00	11:00-11:20
3rd	10:10	10:25-10:55	11:00-11:20	11:20-11:40
2nd	10:30	10:45-11:15	11:20-11:40	11:40-12:00
5th	10:50	11:05-11:35	11:40-12:00	12:00-12:20
4th	11:10	11:25-11:55	12:00-12:20	12:20-12:40

Grandparents and other 'Special people' are invited to join their student in the classroom for a fun activity, followed by lunch and recess at school! Special guests are required to check in and leave a photo ID upon arrival and must enter with their student's group for classroom time. Guests are not required to stay for lunch and/or recess but must enter with their student's grade level for classroom time.

Special guests may bring lunch or may pre-order lunch through the school. Lunch orders must be placed by Wednesday 2/4.

Scan the QR code or visit www. miradapto.org/volunteer/special-persons-day to preorder lunch for your special guest.

THIS EVENT IS FOR ADULT GUESTS ONLY



Tax Credits - It's a Win-Win!

Our learning is enhanced thanks to you!

Tax credit donations provide countless opportunities for students to discover new passions. Your tax credit donations can help preserve robust arts and music programs, increase field trip opportunities, fund guest speakers, and so much more!

All of these programs help Mirada Leadership Academy develop well-rounded students, who in turn, build strong communities. Arizona statute allows individuals/couples to donate $200/$400 for a dollar-to-dollar tax credit. The deadline for tax credit donations is April 15, 2026. You can donate online through our Payment Portal. Thank you for your continued support!

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL WITH A TAX CREDIT DONATION!

STEP 1

Visit kyrene.org/taxcredit and click Donate Now

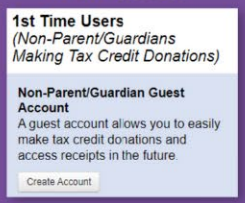
STEP 2

Sign In

Returning Users

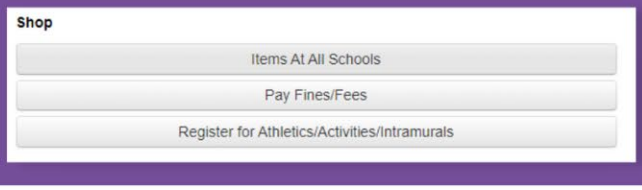


New Users



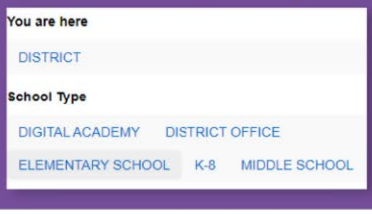
STEP 3

Select *Items at All Schools*



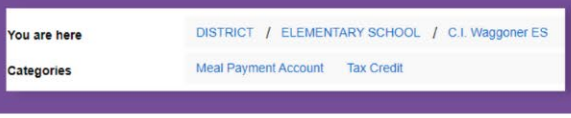
STEP 4

Select Campus Type



STEP 5

Select *School* and *Tax Credit*



Positive Parenting Series

KYRENE SCHOOL DISTRICT



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.

February 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

February 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

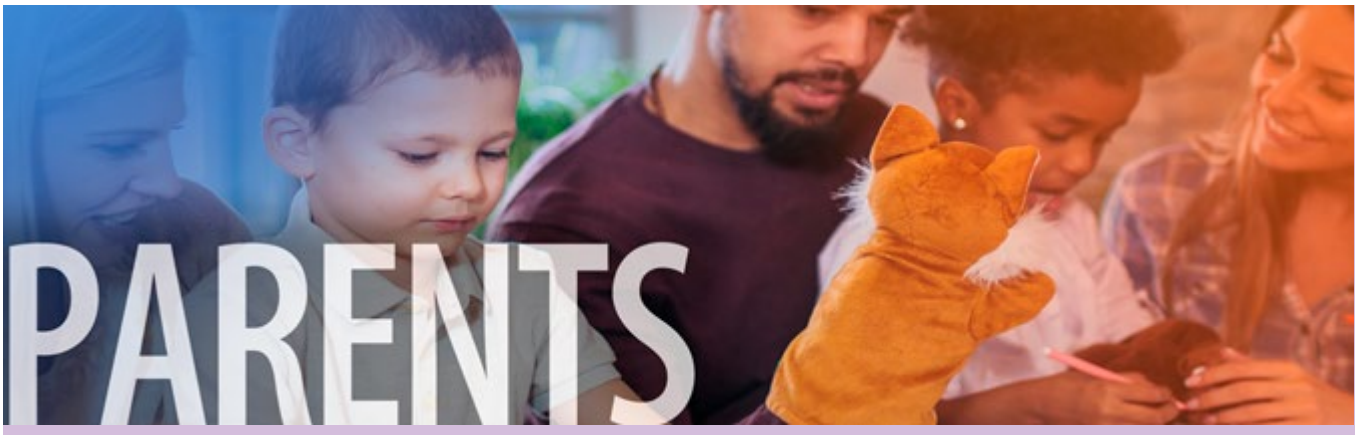
READY FOR THE FUTURE

Tempe Coalition
TO REDUCE UNDERAGE DRINKING AND DRUG USE

Reducing Family Conflict
Registration/Zoom Link

IEP Training with Encircle Families
Flyer

IEP Training with Encircle Families
Registration Link



Parent Reminders

Opt in for text communication

IMPORTANT: 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 both your child’s school and the Kyrene School District.

Birthday Celebrations

No celebrations of individual student birthdays are to be held in classrooms, on the school campus. We understand that parents and friends like to celebrate various occasions. However, cakes, cookies, cupcakes, candy, flowers, balloons, etc. cause many distractions and cannot be allowed on campus or on the bus. These items are disruptive in the classroom and are a safety concern on the bus. If they are delivered they will be kept in the office for parents/guardians to pick up. This policy helps to ensure that instructional time is protected and that all students are treated equally. **Party invitations may not be distributed at school.**

Need to Report an Absence?

Call our 24 Hour Attendance Line at 480-541-4201 to report a student absence.

Please leave a message on the attendance line indicating the student's name, grade, date(s) and reason for absence. When your student is absent and we have not received notification, we will contact the parents. If we do not receive a return phone call, the student will be marked truant.

Note Parents MUST call the attendance line within 24 hours of an absence, even if you spoke to the Health Office or communicated to the Teacher.

Tardy

If your child is tardy, you must park in the parking lot and walk your child to the office. Sign them in and provide the reason why they are tardy. A tardy is defined as arriving at school or class **after the scheduled start time**. Students should be in their seats and ready to learn when the bell rings at the scheduled start time. **Students are considered tardy if they are not in their seats at the scheduled start time. Mirada students need to arrive with enough time to make it to their classroom by 7:30am.** Students who are tardy must enter through the school’s front office and receive a Tardy pass.

Excused Absences

In cases involving prolonged illnesses, a written excuse from a physician may be requested to verify the absence. A student has an excused absence when one of the following conditions are met:

When a student is not in attendance for any portion of or an entire school day and,

- The parent/guardian called the school's attendance line to report the student's absence within 24 hours and provided an acceptable excuse* for the absence, OR
- The parent/guardian was reached by the attendance office and provided the attendance office with an acceptable excuse* for the absence.

***Please note: we cannot excuse an absence that is reported via email; all absences must be reported to the school's attendance office via a telephone call or in ParentVue.**

Unexcused Absences

A student has an unexcused absence under and of the following conditions

- When a student is not in attendance for any portion of or for an entire day and does not have an acceptable excuse*.
- The parent/guardian has not called the school's attendance office to report the student's absence and provide an acceptable excuse* within 24 hours.
- The parent/guardian cannot be reached by the attendance office to obtain an acceptable excuse* for the absence.

*The District will report all student absences and tardiness to school in accordance with A.R.S.§ 15-901 (A)(1) and defined by the Arizona Department of Education.

Students and Electronic Devices

Many parents choose to have their child carry a cellular telephone or other electronic devices (such as an Apple watch or Fitbit) as a means of before and/or after school communication and for safety purposes. Electronic devices can be disruptive in an educational environment, but may also be used to enhance instruction. If parents have decided that it's necessary for a

child to carry a cell phone or electronic device, parents and students must be aware of the following:

Kyrene School District Policy 3-401 states that the District does not assume responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, personal property. If your child has a cell phone on campus or on the bus and it is damaged or stolen, we will not be able to utilize administrative time to investigate the incident, nor will the District be able to take any financial responsibility for the cell phone or cell phone charges.

Cellular phones must be turned off and kept in backpacks at all times on campus, except for prior to the ringing of the first bell for the start of the instructional day and after the ringing of the last bell for the end of the instructional day.

This exception does not apply if the student is on the school bus. When appropriate, cell phones and other electronic devices may be used during the school day under the direct supervision of the teacher. If these rules are not followed, the cell phone may be confiscated and kept in the front office for pick up after school.

Please assist us in keeping our learning environment free from distractions. When it is necessary for a student to contact you during the day, we have telephones available in classrooms and in the office. If it is necessary for you to get an important message to your child during the school day, you may contact the school office and our staff will relay the message to your child.



Food Services Webpage | Payment & Balance Info | Food Services FAQs | Mirada Menus

Apply for Free and Reduced Meals
Must reapply yearly

- **Please remember you must re-apply for Free and Reduced Meals each year.**
- Students may bring large bills to pay for their meal account – **please remember no change is provided back to the student, the entire amount is applied to the student's account.**
- If a student does not have enough funds on their account, after two (2) meals (breakfast or lunch) they are provided an alternate meal as per District policy. The student may still get side options and salad bar along with their milk.
- Please remember that dietary restrictions must be accompanied by a Dr's note and will be accommodated to the best of our ability. SFE is unable to honor preferences or requests.
- You may check your student's lunch balance by visiting **linqconnect**. Linq Connect is our self-service lunch account portal, which makes it possible for Kyrene families to easily manage their student(s) lunch account. **Families may check meal balances, transfer funds, apply for free or reduced-priced meals or create spending limits for their students by visiting linqconnect.** For any additional questions or assistance with your linqconnect account please call 1-844-467-4700 and follow the prompts. Payments are applied to your student's meal account at 6:50am, 9:35am, 11:05am, 12:05pm and 11:35pm daily to update the meal account balance.
- Kyrene and SFE want to assure you that when your child chooses to enjoy ala carte snacks from their cafeteria, they are selecting options that meet the strict nutritional

standards outlined by the USDA's Smart Snack guidelines. These guidelines prioritize offering snacks that are lower in fat, sugar, and sodium, while also providing essential nutrients to support your child's overall health and well-being. The guidelines require that drinks be either unflavored water or 100% juice, and that snacks contain at least 50% whole grain or list the first ingredient as a fruit, vegetable, dairy food, or protein food.

It's also important to note that while some snack packaging may appear similar to those found in stores outside of school, each product has been carefully reformulated to comply with federal Smart Snack guidelines. Our foodservice management company, SFE, works diligently to ensure that all snacks offered to students are both delicious and nutritious, meeting or exceeding federal standards.

We encourage you to discuss with your child the importance of making mindful choices when it comes to snacking. By reinforcing healthy eating habits both at home and at school, we can collectively support our children in making nutritious choices that contribute to their overall growth and development. If you would like more resources and information about Smart Snack requirements, including activities that can be done at home, we recommend checking out the USDA's website here.

Thank you for partnering with us in promoting a culture of health and wellness for our students. If you have any questions or concerns about the smart snack options available in your child's cafeteria, please don't hesitate to reach out to the foodservice office at 480-541-1660.



Scan to follow us on Instagram!

Scan to follow us on Facebook!

Contact Us

Kyrene de la Mirada

Leadership Academy

5500 W. Galveston Street

Chandler, AZ 85226

School Hours: 7:30 am - 2:15 pm

Early Release Wed: 12:15 pm

Office Hours: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm

Wednesday: 7:00 am - 1:30 pm

Front Office: 480-541-4200

Fax Number: 480-541-4210

Quicklinks

Food Services and Menu
ParentVUE
StudentVUE
Technology Assistance
Family Handbook

A+ School of Excellence™

Attendance: 480-541-4201

Health Office: 480-541-4220

Cafeteria: 480-541-4226

Kids Club: 480-541-4230

A+ School of Excellence™