
Kyrene Forward Transition Update

From Kyrene School District <kco@kyrene.org>

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September 23, 2026

Dear Kyrene Community,

As Kyrene looks ahead to the 2027-28 school year, planning is underway for the next phase of school transitions. We remain committed to moving Kyrene Forward, together, as one community. As we prepare for next year, we are applying what we learned from this year's successful transitions and continuing to work closely with students, staff and families to plan for the changes ahead.

We also know families are eager for information, particularly about the future middle school experience. Details are still being developed, but we are committed to sharing updates at regular intervals as decisions are made. Our next Kyrene Forward update will be sent before winter break, providing additional information ahead of enrollment opening in January.

Happening This Week

Governing Board update: At the September 22 Governing Board meeting, district leaders provided an update on Kyrene Forward implementation and the work underway for the next phase of school mergers. [View the Governing Board presentation](#). Additionally, during the study session ahead of last night's board meeting, the leadership teams of Kyrene de la Paloma and Kyrene Traditional Academy presented a vision for the blending of those two campuses (additional information below).

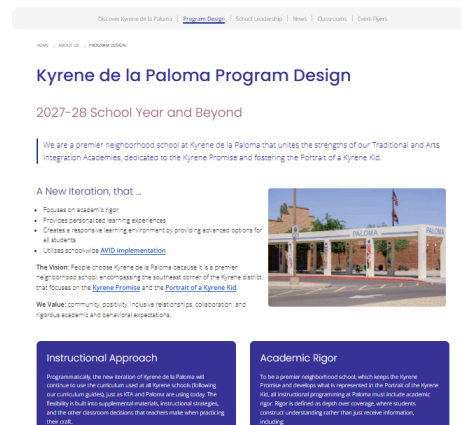
Staff meetings: Also this week, the district has been holding all-staff meetings at campuses that will close next year, to answer questions and provide an overview of internal merger logistics. Information will also be shared in the coming months with staff at receiving schools.

Middle school survey: Today is the final day to complete the Middle School Design Survey. Students, families, staff and community members are invited to share what Kyrene should preserve, strengthen and add to the middle school experience. [Take the Middle School Design Survey](#).

Designing Kyrene de la Paloma

The Kyrene Traditional Academy and Kyrene de la Paloma school communities are already weighing in on the future of their blended Paloma campus. Leaders at both schools used community feedback collected through surveys to help inform a new vision for Paloma. That vision is outlined on a new web page with information about the transition, important dates, FAQs and updates for both school communities.

Explore the Paloma-KTA merger plan



Shaping the Future of Middle School

Planning is also underway for the 2027-28 middle school transition, and community feedback is an important part of that work. The input collected through the Middle School Design Survey will be shared with the Superintendent's Advisory Council and Student Senate. Both groups will be helping to imagine the future of middle school in Kyrene, and those conversations began with visioning sessions at their first meetings earlier this month. They will meet throughout the year, and depending on the ideas that emerge, some recommendations would likely not be implemented until the 2028-29 school year.



For the 2027-28 school year, Kyrene is following its standard annual planning process. While some details are still being developed, several elements of the future middle school experience have already been established:

Advanced Courses at Every School: All Kyrene middle schools will continue to offer advanced coursework ([G.A.T.E.](#)), and students will have access to in-person teachers on every campus for advanced courses. Kyrene is also convening the Gifted and Talented Community Planning Council this fall, to help plan the future of gifted programming and opportunities across the district, at all grade levels.

Electives: Students at all Kyrene middle schools will have access to two elective periods. As in previous years, specific elective course offerings will be finalized and shared in the spring as schools develop their master schedules.

Dual Language: Spanish Dual Language programming will be offered at **Kyrene Middle School** and **Centennial Middle School**, providing pathways for students continuing from Kyrene's two elementary Dual Language Academies.

Athletics: Athletics will continue to be offered at all Kyrene middle schools. We recognize that families have specific questions about athletic offerings, and additional information about middle school athletics will be included in a December Kyrene Forward update, if not sooner.

School Leadership

Each year, Kyrene reviews school leadership assignments through a thoughtful and rigorous process that considers leadership competencies and the unique needs of each school. With school consolidations bringing together students, staff and families from multiple campuses, that planning takes on added importance to ensure strong leadership across all Kyrene schools.

While school consolidations create additional considerations, Kyrene will continue to follow its established process, which includes gathering input from families and staff about the needs of individual school communities. While there are no current leadership vacancies, Kyrene will be gathering that input as part of the middle school design process. Later this fall, **families of current and incoming middle school students will be invited to complete a brief leadership survey** describing the qualities they believe will be most important for their middle school. The results of the survey will help our middle school leaders understand the needs of both their current community as well as families and staff who will join them next year.

Consistent with our annual practice, should there be any changes, we anticipate announcing school leadership placements in January or February. When possible, we will share decisions earlier to give school communities additional time to prepare for the transition.

Stay Informed

The Kyrene Forward website remains the central source for information about school mergers and the 2027-28 transition. Frequently Asked Questions have been updated for this year and include information about staffing, programs, enrollment and other transition topics.

[Visit the Kyrene Forward web page](#)

New this year, the Kyrene Forward web page includes a timeline of estimated transition activities and decisions for the 2027-28 school year.

Families and staff can also continue to submit questions through the Kyrene Forward portal on the web page. Your questions help us identify what information is most important to our community and should be prioritized and shared as soon as possible.

Thank you for continuing to engage in this process as we plan for the next phase of Kyrene Forward. We look forward to sharing another update before winter break.

Sincerely,
Kyrene School District



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