

Keeping up with Kyrene's reputation

By David Schauer
Special to AFN

Kyrene is an educational community where high expectations, excellent performance and strong community support are the norm. Realtors consistently share that Kyrene School District's excellent schools are a major factor in home sales for prospective residents. In fact, families often talk about the fact that they researched area school districts and made a conscious decision to move to this community because of the reputation and performance of the Kyrene School District.

One of the attributes contributing to the success of Kyrene School District is the belief in continuous progress. This applies directly to each individual child as well as each school and the district as a whole. Kyrene believes that looking at the progress and growth of every child is a priority. The mission advocates "continuous academic achievement and personal growth for every student."

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—Kyrene Superintendent David Schauer

This is not to say that Kyrene does not have challenges when it comes to meeting community and student needs. Budget limitations and declining enrollment are issues that have been raised and addressed by district administrators and the governing board. Enrollment is directly tied into funding and community demographics play an important role. Recently, a consultant provided information about the build out in the community. This is a phenomenon where a community has little remaining land for new construction and families have matured, which results

in fewer school-aged children. Another challenge is the competitive educational market that offers a wide array of school choices to our community. The governing board and Kyrene staff is committed to strategically analyzing and developing Kyrene's programs as they relate to the desires and needs of our community because families have many possibilities to choose from in the area.

Everyone in Kyrene is ready to face these challenges and a number of plans are in progress. I want to ensure that Kyrene continually improves and grows so we meet the diverse needs of our students. All students will continue to achieve greater success and personal growth if the community continues to support the work of the district to guarantee that Kyrene continues to be an excellent district.

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