

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 8, 2009

Parents of High-achieving, Gifted or Talented Students invited to Informational Meeting on Kyrene Prep Program for Middle School

The Kyrene Prep Program provides opportunities for high-achieving or gifted or talented sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Founded on academic rigor, students receive personalized education from dedicated, Highly Qualified Teachers who specialize in the subject area they teach. In a small academic setting the core curriculum, mandated by State of Arizona, is compacted and modified to accommodate the needs of students.

- Kyrene Prep is holding an informational meeting for parents on **Monday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m.** at Kyrene Middle School Media Center,
- Testing for the 2009-2010 school year will be held on **Wednesday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m.** at Kyrene Middle School.

The Kyrene Prep Program curriculum focuses on:

- » Content (acceleration and enrichment)
- » Critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills and processes
- » Research skills and science investigations
- » Products/projects that will summarize and share learning with others
- » Advanced Math (6th - Pre-Algebra, 7th - Algebra, 8th - Geometry)
- » Advanced Language Arts (Critical Reading, Expanding Classic Novels)

Here's what's happening at Kyrene Prep now:

Kyrene Prep is hosting the AATM Eastern Maricopa County 6th-Grade Math Challenge on Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. – approximately 2 p.m., in the Kyrene Middle School multipurpose room. Teams consist of 5 sixth-grade students. Website: www.aatm.org/six_challenge.htm

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One example of the specialized activities for Prep students includes participating in the state AATM Algebra Contest on Tuesday, May 5. It's a 90-minute exam that is administered in one session. The students participating are called "Mathletes" and they are lead by teacher Pam Wendt, KMS Prep Program Math Teacher and Mathletes sponsor.

For more info go to: http://oak.ucc.nau.edu/ald4/AATM_Algebra_Contest.htm

Another example is special class visitors like renowned scientist, Dr. Phil Christensen visiting science classes. An ASU professor, Dr. Christensen, who is a Mars expert, has been instrumental in working with the Mars Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity.

Teacher Mike Bramlett is just finishing a unit on the Great Depression, which followed an Economics Unit. They'll examine similarities and differences as well as the implications on current policy.

Students are exposed to a rigorous curriculum with an emphasis on Greek and Latin roots and stems, classic literature, poetry, writing in several fiction and nonfiction genres, and structural grammar. Requirements include independent reading of classic and contemporary literature, writing and analyzing poetry in a student's own "poetry notebook," the chance to write a children's book, several literature analyses, a comprehensive vocabulary enrichment program, and a four-tiered approach to grammar instruction beginning with parts of speech, moving through sentence parts (subject-verb-objects and complements), analyzing phrases and their functions in sentences, and, finally, analyzing clauses and sentence types and patterns. Several different teaching strategies and modalities are used to maximize each student's learning potential. Students learn to become master readers, writers, critical thinkers, and grammarians—while having fun and learning to appreciate the magic of language in the process.

-Mark Wenz, Team 7C Advanced Language Arts

Also, the KMS Prep Program had six students attend the Arizona Science and Engineering Fair. Five of the students were winners at the Junior Division

Omar Afra 7th grade Gold Medal Environmental Science + Air force Special Award

Haney Afra – 8th grade Gold Medal - Engineering

Rebecca Smouse 8th grade Silver Medal - Behavior Science

Somya Batnagar 7th grade Silver medal - Medicine and Health Science

Gamal Eltohamy 7th grade Bronze medal - Computer Science

- Linda Smith, Science Teacher