



October 01, 2021

Message from the Principal

Happy Fall Break!

I hope this week you and your families are able to relax and find time to enjoy this beautiful Arizona weather. I can't wait to hear all about your adventures!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

When we return from break we begin entering into a very busy time of year. Please be on the lookout for detailed conference information from your child's teacher. The conference window begins Wednesday, October 20th. We will be offering in-person conferences as well as Zoom conferences for our families. If you have questions please contact our front office at 480-541-6000.

PTSO Thanks

I would like to express my gratitude to our amazing PTSO who helped wrap up our "Ride the Wave" fundraiser with grade level celebrations this week. I know it took many hours of planning and preparation to create and host the event. Students were thrilled to have social time and a sweet treat. Thank you for making this time possible for our Panthers!

NJHS

Once we return from break our current 8th graders that have met the Altadena NJHS eligibility requirements will be invited to apply for official NJHS membership. Students will receive their NJHS invitations in their Advisory class on Wednesday, October 13th. The invitations will include information regarding the office application process. Our current 7th graders will not receive their invitations until the spring. If your child was inducted into NJHS at another school, they are eligible to transfer their membership to Altadena. Please contact myself or Ms. Lucas for information

Erica Modzelewski, M. Ed. | Principal

Learning Lab will resume after Fall Break

Learning Lab provides students with a quiet place to work on homework or get help from Altadena teachers. Sessions are held in the Altadena library.

Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 7:30 - 8:10 am

Tuesday & Thursday afternoons from 3:05 - 4:00 pm

All students must be picked up promptly at 4:00 pm.



REMINDER: There is no school for students on Monday, October 11, Staff Development Day.

KYRENE STEM TEACHER HONORED BY THE ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

September 2021

Tucked away in the foothills of Ahwatukee is [Kyrene Altadena Middle School](#). Altadena serves students in grades sixth, seventh, and eighth, is home to the Panthers, and has one of the most popular elective classes in Kyrene. That elective is STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). STEM is the real-world application of the skills and understanding that students are learning in their other classes. Students work together to build projects while their teacher Mr. Daniel Jordan guides them through the problem-solving process. You can feel Mr. Jordan's passion for STEM education from the moment you walk into his classroom. He makes class fun and engaging. STEM toys and tools like 3D printers and model rockets fill his room to show students how STEM impacts their everyday lives.

"There is no roadmap to STEM education," said Daniel. "In my class, students are encouraged to let curiosity drive the lesson." This school year marks Mr. Jordan's 4th year in teaching. In his first year, he taught social studies and a few sections of STEM. When Daniel saw interest in STEM dwindle, he advocated for growing and improving the program across all grade levels. In just three years, Mr. Jordan turned the Altadena STEM program around. Currently, the school offers eight sections of STEM. When Mr. Jordan took over, the school offered only three sections.

Before becoming a teacher, Mr. Jordan worked for Honeywell and consulted on engineering projects for NASA and the military. Daniel's passion for STEM has taken him around the world, but none of those adventures compare to seeing the spark of curiosity light up in the eyes of his students. Recently, a student nominated Mr. Jordan for a special STEM grant through the Arizona Diamondbacks in partnership with Honeywell.

Altadena student Addison H. wrote the following nomination about Mr. Jordan for the D-backs Most Valuable Teachers (MVT) in STEM grant. “Mr. Jordan is an awesome STEM teacher. He took a program at school that was not the best and made it one of the most wanted electives at our school. He puts a lot of work into making it as fun as possible while still learning a lot. He lets us work with technology that real engineers are working with like 3D printers. He also shows us things that he has worked on for NASA and other organizations. He also encourages girls to become more involved in STEM.”

The Diamondbacks selected Mr. Jordan and nine other Arizona teachers for their D-backs Most Valuable Teachers in the STEM recognition program. The MLB team gave each educator recognized a \$1,000 grant and honored the teachers on the field at the September 24 baseball game. According to the D-backs [website](#), celebrating outstanding STEM educators provides a perfect opportunity to recognize the best-of-the-best and acknowledge their commitment to providing students with the foundation for STEM careers.

“STEM education is about providing students with more project-based, hands-on learning opportunities,” said Mr. Jordan. “This grant will go towards purchasing more STEM tools and toys for my classroom.”



#KyreneSafe
#KyreneStrong

From the District Office

Please visit <https://www.kyrene.org/safestrong> for updates regarding continued mask mandates.



This Week in Fall Sports

Scores for this week:

Varsity Boys Soccer beat Pueblo 5-0 on Monday and beat KMS 6-0 on Wednesday.

JV Boys Soccer beat Pueblo 5-3 on Monday and tied with Aprende 2-2 on Wednesday.

Varsity Girls Volleyball won in 3 against KMS, 22-25 L, 25-15 W, and 16-14 W on Monday.

Panthers lost to Aprende on Wednesday, 24-26 L and 18-25 L.

JV Girls Volleyball won in 3 against KMS, 22-25 L, 25-15 W, 16-14 W on Monday and lost to Aprende 17-25 L and 17-25 L on Wednesday.

Boys & Girls Cross Country teams beat KMS on Tuesday and out scored both Pueblo and KTA in a tri-meet on Thursday.

Winter Sports are coming!

Fall season sports are in full swing, but Winter Sports will be firing up before we know it. Here are some dates and deadlines for the winter to start preparing and mark those calendars.

Winter Sport Offerings:

Boys Basketball

Girls Softball

Girls Soccer

Wrestling (non-cut)

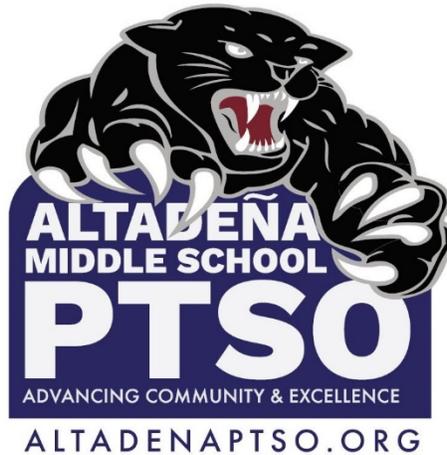
Cheer

Registration

Winter Registration Opens: 10/12 ALL SPORTS

Winter Registration Closes: 11/4 CUT SPORTS ONLY

Winter Registration Closes: 11/22 WRESTLING ONLY



Thank you to all who participated on Thursday, September 30th in Altadena's first Family Dinner Night at Mod Pizza. Stay tuned for future family dinner nights updates. They are a great way to skip the stove and support Altadena at the same time!

If your student earned a "Ride the Wave" fundraising hoodie and did not pick it up during class celebrations, please email: president@altadenapts.org to arrange delivery.

Keep up to date with "Everything PTSO"
by joining our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/altadenaPTSO/>

Contact Us

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Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri: 7:45am-4:15pm

Wed: 7:45am-2:15pm

School Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri: 8:15am-3:05pm

Wed: 8:15am-1:05pm

A+ School of Excellence™