



December 04, 2020

December's Message from Ms. Branch

As the month of December closes out a year like no other, I know many of us are looking forward to 2021 being a year that allows for more encouragement, optimism, and hope. Twenty-twenty has been a difficult year filled with much anguish, anxiety, and stress. And yet, in the midst of the despair, we have also witnessed courage, strength, joy, and kindness in ourselves and in others. While we know that 2021 will not bring immediate changes to our current health crisis, it is my hope that we all approach the new year with much optimism, peace, and love in our hearts. May we continue to be examples of a community that leads with both courage and heart - no matter what we are faced with.

For me, the end of the 2020-2021 school year will be the start of a new path for me. After 30 years in Kyrene, with 11 of those wonderful years being spent at Mirada Leadership Academy, the time has come for me to leave my wonderful Kyrene and Mirada family in order to dedicate more time to my own beautiful family. As I have mentioned in the past, none of my family lives in Arizona. My four daughters, four son-in-laws, and 14 grandchildren are spread throughout the country and world and as a result, my time with them has been so limited. While I absolutely love being a principal - and especially being the principal of Mirada Leadership Academy - I have missed being able to spend more time with my family. While this decision to retire brings many mixed emotions, I am looking forward to the new journey that awaits me!

A new journey also awaits our Mirada Leadership Academy community! Together, we have built an extraordinary school. We have established a culture of excellence, acceptance, love, and understanding. I am confident and overjoyed that the greatness that happens each day at Mirada Leadership Academy will continue to occur under the leadership of the new principal. I am delighted to announce that the Kyrene Governing Board has appointed our current assistant principal, Mrs. Michelle Anderson, as the next principal of Mirada Leadership Academy. Mrs. Anderson, who is very knowledgeable and passionate about everyone and everything associated with Mirada Leadership Academy, will begin her new role at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Her appointment is a win-win for our school community! Please take the time to read the special message from Mrs. Anderson which is included below.

Please also take the time to read about:

- The Flexible Learning Hour which will occur on December 11th and December 17th
- Restaurant Night at Someburros
- Tax Credit Donations
- ParentVUE Updates

Wishing you all much joy, love, and peace this holiday season.

Warmly,

Ms. Branch

Message from Mrs. Anderson

I am truly honored to be selected as the next Principal of Mirada Leadership Academy. In serving as your assistant principal, I have been able to experience the school culture while developing some incredible relationships with the staff, students and the community. I look forward to cultivating even more relationships and am humbled to be chosen to continue the legacy that the incomparable Ms. Nancy Branch and her staff have worked 11 years to build. As Jon Gordon states, “A culture of greatness doesn’t happen by accident. It happens when a leader expects greatness and each person in the organization builds it, lives it, values it, reinforces it and fights for it!”

I know that Mirada Leadership Academy is like no other elementary school on this Earth! I feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to lead a school that inspires academic excellence while celebrating strengths, developing leaders and honoring diversity.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Anderson

Upcoming Events

DEC 8: Kyrene Governing Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 PM

DEC 10: Someburros Restaurant Fundraiser

DEC 18: Teacher Day - No School

DEC 21-JAN 1: Winter Break - No School

JAN 4: School Resumes

Important New Information! Flexible Learning Hour - Dec. 11 and Dec. 17

- Flexible Learning Hour: Dec. 11 and Dec. 17. The transition to online instruction means students are spending more time in front of the computer, and we are seeking ways to reduce screen time while keeping students engaged in learning. On Friday, Dec. 11 and Thursday, Dec. 17, the last hour of the school day will be a flexible hour for students to unplug. Students can use this time to catch up on school work, engage in social-emotional activities or take time for reflection.
- On-site supervision program: The students who are participating in our on-site supervision program will spend the Flexible Learning Hour using the time to catch up or engage in other activities. Parents may choose to pick them up at 12:30 on those two days, but are not required to.
- CCD and preschool classrooms will not engage in the Flexible Learning Hours. Their routines and procedures will remain the same.



No School Days

Friday, December 18th: No School

December 21st - January 1st: Winter Break

School Resumes Monday, January 4th

Please have a safe and wonderful break!

PTO Restaurant Fundraiser Thursday, December 10th All Day - Just mention Mirada!

Someburros
3461 W Frye Road

Please mark your calendars!
In order to support CDC guidelines, we encourage
our
families to take advantage of the "to go" option.
Just remember to mention "MIRADA."



Counselor's CORNER



WITH MS. CHAVEZ

Welcome back to Counselor's Corner! December's Tip: Helping your Child to be Flexible

Being flexible is one of ten Executive Functioning Skills and it means your child is able to switch their thinking and adapt their emotions and responses when they're faced with unexpected situations and change or when something occurs that they didn't want to happen. (A)

When does your child need to be flexible?

- With the many changes happening at home, school, and the community, as a result of COVID-19.
- When learning and trying new activities or tasks.
- When receiving constructive criticism or feedback.
- Transitioning from playtime to dinner, bedtime, or other routines at home.
- Losing in a game or activity.
- Having a substitute teacher or a change in the schedule at school.
- Building new friendships.

How can you help your child to be flexible?

1. **Validate their feelings:** Sayings such as, "I know this is difficult" or "I know you love playing this video game" or "I know it's frustrating we are going back to school online" can help your child feel as though their feelings are valid. Remember, every child is different, and one child may struggle with a change while it's possible that your other child may not.
2. **Help them see the positive:** While this is not the case for every situation (like a death or illness) other times it is possible to help your child see the positive in a situation. For example, "I know it is hard to go back to school online, but isn't it great that you get to keep your same teacher."
3. **Ask them what they need to handle the situation:** Asking your child what they need to handle a change or situation can help your child adjust better. Depending on the situation, your child might need some time alone to cry or think things through, they may need to talk with you and ask questions, or you can remind them to use positive self-talk to help them

remember they are capable of handling tough feelings and situations. You can even remind them of tough situations they successfully handled in the past.

4. **Model flexibility at home:** Sometimes dinner plans are ruined because of missing ingredients or weekend plans can't happen because of the weather. Saying out loud, "Well I was really excited about lasagna, but we do have all of the ingredients for spaghetti, which is also tasty, so we'll just have to save lasagna for another day!" This helps your child to see how you can also be flexible, show positivity, and problem solve in unexpected situations.

Thanks for reading, see you next month!

Ms. Chavez Google Site

To learn more about my role and the support I can provide, please see my google site for more information!

Link: [School Counselor Google Site](#)

Contact Information

Cielo Phone: (480) 541-2424

Mirada Phone: (480) 541-4369

cduranchavez@kyrene.org

A: [Improve Flexibility Article](#)



Please **ACT NOW!** ParentVUE Updates

We still have over 360 families that have not updated their Emergency Contact information!

Please take the time to complete this request. As required by the state, it is imperative that we keep accurate and updated contact information in our records.

You can access your information and set up an account in ParentVUE [HERE](#). Note, an activation code is necessary for first time users. Please call the school office at 480-541-4200 and we can assist you.

Student Photo Release

We have so much to celebrate at Mirada Leadership Academy, and we love to document the success of our students. Your child's photo/video may be used by Kyrene School District in various media including, but not limited to: school/district websites, newsletters, news releases and social media. Families can choose to limit or restrict the use of your child's photo or video by signing the [Revocation of Consent Form](#) and submitting it to the front office. If we do not have a Revocation Form on file, it is assumed that you have given consent for photography. Thank you so much.

Tax Credit Donations ~ It's a Win, Win!

Your tax credit donation helps provide for some of the following at Mirada Leadership Academy: Leader in Me Program, guest speakers, student Leadership Day, MML Awards and field trips.

These programs 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 of the following year. You can donate online through our [Payment Portal](#) or fill out the [Tax Credit Contribution Form](#) and send it directly to Mirada Leadership Academy.

Thank you for your continued support!

Free Meal Service Update

Due to the upcoming winter break, the final day of curbside meal pickup this semester will be Thursday, December 17. Families can pick up a full week of meals (7 breakfasts and 7 lunches) at the Kyrene District Office on December 17. There will be no meal service the last two weeks in December, while the District Office is closed. The regular Monday/Thursday curbside pickup schedule will resume on Monday, January 4. Pickup times are 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m. Meals are free for any child age 18 or under. Children do not have to be present for pickup.

LEARN

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Kyrene sets the bar among peer districts for classroom spending and teacher salaries

LEAD

ACHIEVE

A+ Schools of Excellence with some of the highest rated in AZ
Enrollment Begins January 12

WE'RE HIRING



Instructional Assistants Bus Drivers/Monitors
Resource Teachers Electricians, HVAC Techs
School Psychologists Groundskeepers
Speech-Language Pathologists Club Leaders



#KyreneSafe
#KyreneStrong

From the District Office
Please visit [SafeStrong](#) for up to date information and news from Kyrene School District.

Contact Us

Kyrene de la Mirada
Leadership Academy
5500 W. Galveston Street
Chandler, AZ 85226

School Hours: 7:30 am - 1:45 pm
Office Hours: 7:10 am - 3:10 pm

Front Office: 480-541-4200
Fax Number: 480-541-4210
Attendance: 480-541-4201
Health Office: 480-541-4220
Cafeteria: 480-541-4226
Kids Club: 480-541-4230

Quick Links

[Food Services and Menu](#)

[ParentVUE](#)

[StudentVUE](#)

[Technology Assistance](#)

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